

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2008**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board of Directors of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on January 19, 2008. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Mike Burow and Dennis McCarthy. Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Gene Kapsner were absent, and Derek Hoffman had previously resigned due to moving outside the District. Also present were Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mary Shafer, Greg Shafer, and Cambridge Cable TV 12.

II. Public Comment

Greg Shafer spoke in regards to LRMD's effort to acquire public land adjacent to the Lake District Preserve. Shafer said that, if the land is acquired, he hoped to work out a deal with the Board to buy some of the land adjoining his property. He said he felt there was enough land to the west of his property to allow some kind of arrangement to be worked out. Molinaro thanked Shafer for his comment, but pointed out that no discussion or action was legally permitted under this agenda item. He said the Board would take his comment under advisement as the acquisition process continues.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were previously distributed to the Board for review. *Sabella moved to approve the minutes of the 11/17/07 meeting, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 4-0.*

IV. Board Appointment of Georgia Gomez-Ibanez to Serve Out Derek Hoffman's Term

Molinaro announced that Derek Hoffman had to step down from the Board due to a move to Lodi. He wished Hoffman and his family well, noting that his expertise and service on the Board would be missed. He then requested the Board's approval to appoint Georgia Gomez-Ibanez to serve out the remainder of Hoffman's term. He noted that Gomez-Ibanez has been involved with the LRMD for many years and on many different levels, including volunteering on projects associated with the Preserve, rain gardens and shoreline restorations. *Sabella moved to accept the Chair's appointment of Georgia Gomez-Ibanez to serve out the remainder of Hoffman's term on the Board, and was seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 4-0.* Gomez-Ibanez was welcomed and invited up to the table so she could participate in the rest of the meeting.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sabella provided detailed financial statements for the fourth-quarter period ending December 31, 2007, as well as a year-end adjusted report. Handouts included balance sheets, statements of operations, actual to budget/budget remaining report, general ledgers and transaction listings.

For the fourth-quarter period ending December 31, 2007, total current assets of \$172,859.69 consisted of \$200.00 in petty cash, \$75,056.81 in the general demand account, and \$97,602.88 in a bank certificate of deposit due to mature on 6/21/08. There were current liabilities of \$1,423.42 of accrued federal payroll taxes for December that were paid in early January. Fourth-quarter revenues of \$3,797.06 consisted of interest income and a \$100 donation. Direct costs of \$3,289.65 included \$1,957.00 for a cost-share project, and \$1,332.65 for DNR Lake Planning Grant expenses. Total operating expenses for the quarter were \$19,734.49, including \$1,355.16 for weed harvesting, and \$18,379.33 for general operations (i.e., staff wages, board stipends, office expenses, professional dues, legal fees, etc.). There was an operating loss of \$19,227.08. Sabella explained that the operating loss was anticipated, and was due to budgeting low to accommodate the prior year's large carryover. Other income of \$700.00 consisted of a \$50.00 trapping fee and a \$650.00 reimbursement from Cambridge High School for an uncompleted video-production project. Total other expenses were \$1,474.04 for special programs and Lake District Preserve activities. There was a net loss of \$20,001.12 for the quarter, but a \$565.09 profit (income over expenses) for the 12 months ended December 31, 2007. Sabella pointed out that revenues for the 12-month period included a \$15,000.00 advance from a DNR Lake Planning Grant that had not been budgeted. He then reviewed revenues received and expenses incurred during the entire 12-month period. He concluded the quarterly report by presenting the actual-to-budget/budget-remaining analysis.

For the year end adjusted December 31, 2007, total current assets and liabilities were the same as reported above. Equity consisted of four categories of restricted funds totaling \$118,650.00. Sabella indicated that a supplemental schedule was maintained for each restricted fund. The largest was the capital reserve and land acquisition fund with a year-end balance

of \$104,315 (including interest). There was also \$197 in the F.K. Elson Memorial Fund, \$1,740 in the Friends of the Preserve Fund, and \$12,398 in unspent monies from the DNR grant advance. Total revenues were \$75,053.76, which included \$67,570.00 from property taxes, \$9,455.76 in interest income, \$1,330.00 in restricted-fund donations, a \$15,000.00 DNR Lake Planning Grant advance, and a *transfer* of \$18,302.00 to restricted funds. Total direct costs were \$13,963.93, consisting of \$11,362.01 for cost-share projects, and \$2,601.92 in DNR Lake Planning Grant expenses. Total operating expenses for the year were \$92,668.81, including \$3,853.00 for insurance, \$3,473.91 for weed harvesting, and \$71,377.97 for general operations (i.e., staff wages, board stipends, legal fees, office expenses, conferences, etc.). There was an operating loss of \$17,615.05 as a result of budgeting in anticipation of carryover from the prior year. Total other income was \$2,941.00. Total other expenses were \$13,062.86, including \$10,000.00 for capital reserve/land acquisition, \$1,149.04 for special programs, \$660.00 for the Lake District Preserve, and \$1,253.82 for information and education. There was a net loss (expenses over revenues) of \$27,736.91 due to a \$39,000 carryover from the prior year.

Sabella was thanked for all his time, competence and diligence in tracking and maintaining the LRMD's finances. ***McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as written and presented, and was seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 5-0.***

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last meeting. Handouts included a Lake Manager Report, office phone logs, summary of public survey results, and other materials associated with ongoing programs and projects. He began by presenting the results of the property owner opinion survey. Results would be posted on the website, and then briefly summarized in the next Ripples newsletter. In regards to the newsletter, Dearlove said an expanded eight-page format was piloted in the most recent edition. He said the change allowed for more news and information to be disseminated with only a minor increase in cost. Initial feedback has so far been very positive. The status of ongoing projects was then briefly summarized, including a pre-construction meeting for the Rank's shoreline riprap project. An additional shoreline restoration effort was recently proposed and will be evaluated by the scoring committee. It was also mentioned that Kent Brown had successfully installed the first of five approved treefalls. With respect to the Preserve, Dearlove reported on the prior season's trapping harvest, provided an update on brush-clearing work, and thanked Gomez-Ibanez for her prairie seeding efforts. Other activities included the purchase and installation of a new office computer system, and ongoing work associated with acquiring additional public lands next to the Preserve. In addition, he noted that progress continues on the design and implementation of a rain garden social-marketing program with help from our UW partners and intern. This includes planning workshops, plant sales and other events. It was then announced that the Senate voted to approve a bill (SB 197) banning the sale and use of phosphorus lawn fertilizers. The bill now goes to the Assembly and was the subject of a recent Lake Ripley E-Bulletin. Dearlove concluded by announcing the dates of the upcoming litter cleanup (5/10), an aquatic invasive species workshop in Milwaukee (2/16), and the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay (4/17-4/19) for which he will be participating as a speaker.

VII. Old Business

A. Request by Hernandez/Wood to add rock to cost-shared shoreline restoration impacted by high water

Dearlove had previously distributed materials from the project file for the Board's review. The file included all relevant phone logs, dated photographs, background information, and his current recommendations for how to proceed. It was noted that Eleanor Wood and her grandson, Jason Hernandez, had each been invited to the meeting but were not in attendance. Molinaro started by reviewing the history of the cost-share project, including a synopsis of the landowner's concerns about the present condition of the shoreline. He explained that last summer's record high lake levels had submerged portions of the shoreline. He said the landowner was now requesting that rock be placed along the shore as added protection. It was his and Dearlove's opinion that any decisions related to the practice wait until spring when a full evaluation can be performed. ***Sabella moved that the Board table the matter until the April or May meeting after a full evaluation is performed, and was seconded by McCarthy. As a point of discussion, Sabella requested and was given project-location information. Burow then asked what would happen if they added rock on their own, referencing phone logs indicating that Mr. Hernandez had pushed for riprap from the beginning. Molinaro responded that such action, if not formally approved by this body, would be a violation of the cost-share agreement which is a signed legal contact. Motion carried 5-0.***

VIII. New Business

A. Status of public land acquisition adjoining Lake District Preserve

Molinaro reviewed the progress that was being made toward acquiring public land next to the Preserve. Work included getting an amended Option to Purchase signed, contracting with an appraiser, initiating contacts with prospective donors (Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Oakland Conservation Club, Audubon Society, etc.), filing an application for

financial assistance with the Cambridge Foundation, and preparing supporting materials for state and federal grant applications. He said the process is very involved, but that he is optimistic that funds can be raised based on the positive responses so far received. He indicated total costs could be close to \$400,000. Gomez-Ibanez asked if individual donations would be solicited. Molinaro responded that it might become necessary at some point depending on how things go with grants and large-donor partnerships. At Mary Shafer's request, Molinaro provided information on the acreage and location of the proposed acquisition. Shafer also asked how the Board intended to use the property on the west side of County Road A. Molinaro explained it had not yet been discussed, but that it would likely be managed and used similar to other areas of the Preserve, and would be based on the parameters of any DNR grants used for the purchase. He then listed the various benefits to the District that would be realized from acquiring the property. Ms. Shafer then asked if it would be possible for her family to buy about 90 feet south and adjacent to their existing property. Molinaro said he did not currently know if that it would even be possible and depended on what the DNR allowed. He said the Board would be willing to discuss such matters at the appropriate time, and that updates would continue to be provided on the acquisition process.

In other New Business, Sabella noted that it was difficult for the public to access the Preserve due to an unplowed parking lot. He suggested it might be a good idea to have it regularly plowed to facilitate access. Molinaro agreed that some limited plowing might make sense and that he would look into getting quotes.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence that had not already been addressed through the course of the meeting.

X. Adjournment

McCarthy moved for adjournment at 10:15 a.m., and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: March 15, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary
Recorder: PDD

Date