

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2003**

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman John Molinaro at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Derek Hoffman took roll call. Board members present were Joanne Knilans, Pam Rogers, Mike Sabella, Derek Hoffman and John Molinaro. Paul Jorstad was absent during roll call, but arrived later in the meeting. Dennis McCarthy was absent. Others present included Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager), Roger Rude, Mike Rumpf, Richard Moen, Steve Bentz, and Garry Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12).

II. Public Comment

Steve Bentz was in attendance to discuss his shoreline restoration project scheduled for this spring. He said the shoreline had taken a severe beating this winter from the ice. Despite his concerns about added cost, Bentz asked if there was still time to amend his LRMD cost-share agreement to allow for the use of rock riprap (in addition to planting a buffer strip) to control erosion. Dearlove agreed that the use of rock riprap to stabilize the shore was appropriate in this situation. He explained that the cost-share agreement could be amended, but that it would take some time to reapply for permits. Bentz feared he might not be able to come up with the local match if his fellow association members choose not to contribute to the cause. Dearlove asked Bentz to call him so they could review FY2003 funding availability and discuss options.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and had no additions or corrections. Pam Rogers moved to accept the minutes as written. Joanne Knilans seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Sabella did not have financial statements prepared for the meeting. Molinaro tabled approval of the treasurer's report to the next meeting.

V. Lake Manager's Report

Paul Dearlove presented the Lake Manager's Report. Highlights from the report are presented below.

ACTIONS SINCE 12/21/02 MEETING

Cost-Share Efforts

- Completed the installation of three shoreline riprap projects (Pieritz, Yackels, Sylvan Mounds #1)
- Developed new cost-share agreement and construction plan for Stoehr shoreline protection project
- Finalized cost-share agreement, construction plan and permits for Taylor shoreline protection project
- Obtained DNR permit approvals for Glendale Association's shoreline restoration project
- Renewed efforts to line up rain garden demonstration sites; invited rain garden expert to speak at our next meeting

Land-Use Protections & Improvements

- Working to establish a conservation easement on 10-acre Metherall parcel on CTH A
- Developed model deed restrictions and protective covenants for Majestic Pines Subdivision
- Obtained permits for trail improvements at the preserve, and currently preparing contractor bids (Derek Hoffman has agreed to donate some of the materials)

Management Planning & Implementation

- Continued meeting and corresponding with Town Board to push for adoption of buoy ordinance
- Started conducting research as part of recreational carrying capacity study for Lake Ripley
- Reproduced and distributed the Lake Ripley Aquatic Plant Inventory & Management Plan
- Continued participation on the Jefferson County Lakes Enhancement Steering Committee

Information & Education

- Wrote and distributed another Ripples newsletter
- Updated parcel-ownership database and sent Welcome Wagon packets to 11 new residents

VI. Old Business

A. Buoy Update

Following the Town-Lake District joint buoy meeting, Molinaro said he and Dearlove went before the Town Board to re-emphasize the Lake District's support of the buoy proposal, and to push for adoption of the ordinance amendment. He reported that the Town still had some concerns, particularly with the extent of the proposed no-wake zone along the north shore, but seemed to be generally open to compromise. The Town Board also requested additional details concerning the proposal, which were subsequently furnished. The next step is to re-submit the proposal for further consideration once appropriate modifications are made or further evidence is provided to sufficiently address the Board's concerns.

B. Majestic Pines

Molinaro briefly reviewed the status of the Majestic Pines Subdivision, and provided assurances that he and Dearlove are continuing to work with the Town and developer in an attempt to resolve water quality-related issues. He explained that the Town conditionally approved the preliminary plat allowing for 21 single-family residential lots. One of the conditions was for the island and adjoining wetland lots to remain as unbuildable outlots. Another condition was to establish covenants and restrictions to protect the environmentally sensitive areas on the property. Molinaro informed the Board that he and Dearlove were working closely with the Town and developer in drafting these protective covenants. He also indicated that a great deal of "clear-cutting" had recently taken place in these sensitive areas, but neither the DNR nor zoning felt the activities were in violation of shoreland zoning rules since some trees were left standing.

Mike Rumpf was in attendance on behalf of his client, Allen Howe. He provided the Board with an 18-page, draft Declaration of Covenants, Restrictions and Conditions for Majestic Pines Subdivision on Lake Ripley. Rumpf said they were currently working with the DNR to establish an Ordinary High Water Mark for the property. He asked if the Board had any questions. Molinaro thanked Mr. Rumpf for the opportunity to provide input, and promised to get back to him with questions and comments following a thorough review of the document.

C. Carrying Capacity Study

Molinaro announced that work was underway in completing a recreational carrying capacity analysis of Lake Ripley. He explained that the purpose of the study was to gather data on the types and numbers of watercraft that use the lake, and try to objectively determine how many the lake can reasonably and safely support. Some of these data have already been collected by Lake Watch volunteers and other sources. Although it is unknown what conclusions might ultimately be drawn from the study, it could lead to important changes in how we regulate development and access around the lake.

Sabella asked if there were any other lake districts in Wisconsin doing this type of study. Dearlove replied that he was not aware of any other groups in the state that were, but planned to ask around at the upcoming Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention. Molinaro added that this type of work had been done in other states such as Michigan, and that Dearlove had acquired some excellent models that we could adapt to Lake Ripley. He and Dearlove also plan to approach local student groups and environmental organizations to solicit their assistance in collecting the necessary data this summer. An "Environmental Roundtable", hosted by the Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club and facilitated by Pam Rogers, is planned for the evening of March 20th. The Lake District has been invited to participate, and Molinaro hopes to use the forum as a potential opportunity to establish some partnerships in this endeavor.

D. WI Association of Lakes Convention

Dearlove, Molinaro and Hoffman will be attending the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention in Green Bay on April 10-12, 2003. Dearlove and Molinaro will be volunteering as session moderators to help defray the cost of attendance. Derek Hoffman will be attending through his business, and offered to share his company booth if we wanted to use it for networking or displaying any Lake District materials. The other Board members were also encouraged to attend.

VII. New Business

A. County Lakes Enhancement Committee

Molinaro announced that he had been nominated to participate on the Jefferson County Lakes Enhancement Steering Committee in place of Tim Lorden who recently stepped down. Although the Jefferson County Land Conservation Committee still needs to formally approve the nomination, Molinaro has already started attending meetings and participating. He gave a brief overview of the committee's charge, which included identifying problems and recommending solutions that affect the county's lakes and water resources. He said he is currently working on shoreland zoning enforcement and the education of lakefront property owners, among several other issues. Final recommendations of the committee are expected to be available sometime this summer.

