

**Lake Ripley Management District**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 17, 2007**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board convened at the Oakland Town Hall on March 17, 2007. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and asked Secretary Jacobsen-Brown to take roll. Board members present included John Molinaro, Dennis McCarthy, Gene Kapsner, Mike Burow and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Mike Sabella and Derek Hoffman were absent. Also present were Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Kent Brown, and Cambridge Cable TV Channel 12.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**III. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 01/20/07 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Kapsner moved to approve the minutes as written, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was postponed until the next meeting.

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove distributed copies of his lake manager's report and phone logs, and summarized his activities since the last meeting. He provided the following updates as part of his report:

- Lake-grant applications totaling \$20,000 had been submitted and were receiving very favorable reviews. Based on preliminary scoring, the awarding of the DNR grants was anticipated. Official notice would be received by early April.
- The UW-Madison partnership to design a community-based social marketing program for Lake Ripley was described as making great progress. The class has been meeting twice per week, and is working on two target behaviors: "building rain gardens" and "using zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizers." Focus groups were conducted, and a pilot program is now being developed. The class plans to formally present its findings and recommendations on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Concept drawings were presented at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting depicting the shoreline restoration previously approved for cost sharing. The Town Board accepted the concept plan but postponed formal approval of the project until its next meeting. The Board also approved new signage for the public landing and marina. Kapsner thanked Dearlove for his assistance with the signs.
- The cost-sharing subcommittee was set to meet next week to evaluate a proposed rain garden project on Linda St. The meeting had been duly noticed. Work continues with Bill O'Connor to finalize the new landowner cost-share contracts.
- The spring edition of the Ripples newsletter was produced and distributed. A Lake Ripley E-Bulletin seeking focus group participants was also disseminated, as well as several 'Welcome Wagon' mailers sent to new residents.
- DNR permit approval was received for our mechanical weed-harvesting program. The permit is valid for five years.
- The recently installed staff gage was tied into an elevation benchmark by ABEX Survey and is now operational. A brief explanation was provided on how to use the gage, as well as how lake levels have historically fluctuated.
- Announcements were made with regard to the April 17<sup>th</sup> prairie burn at the Lake District Preserve, and the April 20<sup>th</sup> Earth Day litter cleanup in partnership with Cambridge High School.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Jefferson County ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizers**

Molinaro updated the Board on the status of a proposed countywide ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizers. He explained that the Land and Water Conservation Committee had previously voted to endorse the measure. Corporation counsel was then asked to determine whether the county had the appropriate legal authority to implement the ban. It was found that a ban would only affect unincorporated areas of the county. This meant that phosphorus lawn fertilizers could continue to be sold and marketed in villages and cities, potentially rendering a ban ineffective. Molinaro explained that Dane County, which currently has a ban, has unique statutory authority which Jefferson County presently lacks. He said the Jefferson County Board subsequently and unanimously passed a resolution asking the state of Wisconsin to address the issue. The resolution requested consideration of a statewide ban similar to Minnesota's, or else to allow counties greater statutory

authority to pass ordinances that include incorporated areas. Molinaro said he advocated for these policy changes during a recent meeting with local legislators, but felt there was a lack of bipartisan interest on this particular issue. He did note that there was growing support throughout the state for greater regulation of lawn fertilizers, and that a number of municipalities have already adopted or are considering their own phosphorus-fertilizer bans. At Kapsner's urging, Molinaro agreed to try to get the Wisconsin Towns Association to sign on to the resolution.

#### **B. Kaashagen easement violation and restitution status**

Dearlove reported that Mr. Kaashagen failed to submit a signed settlement agreement or pay for costs of enforcement for the conservation easement violation. He said the DNR was planning to send him a follow-up letter warning that the matter would now be referred to the Department of Justice. According to Pam Kober at DNR, Kaashagen's consultant has not been paid for any of the previously completed restoration work. McCarthy inquired about the status of the restoration. Dearlove said the bulk of the work was done, but that some additional spraying of reed canary grass was still needed followed by three years of monitoring. McCarthy questioned how this work was going to be completed if the consultant was not being paid. Kapsner recommended that the Board seek legal counsel regarding its options at this point. Molinaro asked Dearlove to contact Bill O'Connor to obtain his legal opinion.

#### **C. Update on land-purchase proposal**

Molinaro said that he and Dearlove met with DNR and National Audubon Society representatives about a possible land purchase next to the Preserve. He said the group reacted very enthusiastically, and had suggested there was a good chance of obtaining grants to pay for the acquisition. The landowner, Jane Johnson, was later contacted for the purpose of requesting permission to perform a property appraisal. Molinaro reported that Ms. Johnson denied the request and indicated she was no longer contemplating selling the property.

#### **D. U.W.-Madison partnership to improve outreach effectiveness**

Molinaro gave a brief overview of recent activities related to the partnership. These included weekly campus meetings, a class tour of Lake Ripley, and the hosting of citizen focus groups at the Town Hall on March 5<sup>th</sup>. He said that about a dozen people participated in the focus groups, which were designed to identify perceived barriers and benefits associated with building rain gardens and switching to zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizers. He explained that the goal of the partnership was to come up with more effective ways of approaching people to encourage positive behavior changes.

#### **E. Revised landowner cost-share contract**

Dearlove reported that Bill O'Connor was still working on amending the landowner cost-sharing documents. He said he expected to receive the finalized documents by early next week. He briefly described the nature of the changes, and asked the Board whether it wanted to formally review and approve the legal edits. Dearlove said he preferred not to incur further delay, noting that the revisions were being made at the advice of our attorney and did not alter the original contractual conditions previously set forth by the Board. Molinaro asked each of the Board members for their input regarding Dearlove's request. Given that the legal documents were drafted in consultation with Attorney O'Connor, Board members agreed that Dearlove should proceed at his discretion. Dearlove said he would forward copies of the documents to the Board upon their completion.

#### **F. Wisconsin Lakes Convention registration**

Molinaro reminded the Board that the Wisconsin Lakes Convention would take place April 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Green Bay. He provided a description of this year's theme, and said that he and Dearlove were planning to attend. Board members were encouraged to register before the deadline if they were interested in attending. Molinaro also announced that he was elected to continue his service as President of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

### **VII. New Business**

#### **A. Board member training**

Molinaro said he was working with Jefferson County and UW-Extension to develop a statewide syllabus for training Lake District board members. He said the training would likely take place at the regional level, and would cover a range of legal and procedural topics that are important for new board members to understand. If the development of this type of training program is successful, Molinaro said he planned to recommend that the Board pay a per diem to new board members wishing to participate.

#### **B. Lake District Preserve prairie burn (4/17)**

Dearlove announced that Midwest Prairies LLC will direct the April 17<sup>th</sup> prairie burn at the Preserve starting at 10:00 a.m. The Town Hall rain garden will be burned as well. Volunteers interested in helping with the burn were encouraged to contact the District office. Dearlove said he planned to submit a press release closer to the date of the event.

