

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2004**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Molinaro called the meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) to order at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Hoffman took roll call, and the following Board members were present: John Molinaro, Pam Rogers, Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy and Paul Jorstad. Mike Sabella and Joanne Knilians were absent. Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), and Roger Rude (LRMD resident) were also present.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Rogers moved to accept the minutes as written. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Financial statements were distributed for the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) for the two-month period ending February 29, 2004. Molinaro reviewed the financial statements that were prepared by Treasurer Sabella. The following is a brief summary:

LRMD: Receipts for the period were \$37,124.49, consisting of \$101.36 in interest earned on investments, and two property-tax-revenue installments totaling \$37,023.13. Disbursements for the period were \$288.89 for general office expenses. A transaction ledger was included with the report identifying each individual disbursement. There was a cash balance of \$111,128.82 as of February 29, 2004.

LRPLP: Receipts for the period were \$46,410.15, consisting of \$60.15 in interest earned on investments, and a DNR staffing grant of \$46,350.00. Disbursements for the period were \$7,161.24, consisting mainly of payroll, office rent, and general office expenses. A transaction ledger was included with the report identifying each individual disbursement. Cash balances as of February 29, 2004 were as follows: \$200.00 in petty cash, \$65,851.41 in general checking, and \$23,824.59 in the nonpoint source cost-sharing account. It was also reported that a \$3,290.00 cost-share payment was made to Robert Stoehr on March 1, 2004.

Jorstad asked whether the cost-share checks are made payable to the landowner or the contractor, and if proof-of-payment documentation is retained. Dearlove responded that reimbursement checks are made payable to the landowner. He indicated that it is the landowner's responsibility to pay the contractor once the work is completed and approved. Reimbursement is then issued once proof-of-payment documentation is received. Molinaro added that detailed files are retained for each cost-share project as stipulated by DNR's recordkeeping requirements.

V. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized the status of the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project and other Lake District activities since the last meeting. Highlights from his report are presented below.

- A presentation on Lake Ripley's watercraft census and carrying capacity analysis was given at a SE Wisconsin lakes conference; PowerPoint presentations have also been prepared for upcoming state and national lakes conferences
- Carrying capacity findings were presented to the Oakland Town Board, and a joint Lake District-Town Board committee was requested to review ordinances and recommend a course of action
- A journal article on the carrying capacity study was written for LakeLine, a North American Lake Management Society publication
- Completion of the ditch-repair work at Long Sod Farms was confirmed for later this year
- A shoreline riprap project at the Stoehr property was completed; The landowner's cost-share agreement and construction plan were then amended to include future bank terracing and a vegetated buffer
- A cost-share agreement, construction plan and permit application were developed for the 420-ft. Cedar Shores property
- A cost-share agreement, construction plan and permit application were developed for the 75-ft. Van Acker property

- The spring edition of the Ripples newsletter was produced entirely in-house and distributed to area residents
- Back issues of Ripples and prior meeting minutes were posted to the LRMD website
- A \$3,500 state grant award was received to conduct a study on how piers influence aquatic habitat
- Plans are underway for the 2004 Earth Day litter cleanup in partnership with Cambridge H.S. & Friends of Cam-Rock
- John Probst's continued farming encroachment into the Preserve was reported to the County Sheriff's Department (an ordinance citation was issued); A small claims action was then filed for reimbursement of property damages
- Mike Halsted at DNR verified that the Lake Pointe pier exceeded its dimensional requirements as mandated by conservation easement; A final notice of violation is currently being drafted
- A 2003 Priority Lake Project summary report is presently being prepared to document our pollutant-reduction progress

VI. Old Business

A. Probst Farming Encroachment into Preserve

Molinaro reviewed John Probst's ongoing farming encroachment into 0.80 acres of the Lake District Preserve. Despite repeated written warnings from our attorney, the trespassing continued and had resulted in several hundred dollars in property damages. He then asked Dearlove to discuss actions that were taken since the last meeting. Dearlove began by reiterating that a number of good-faith attempts were made over the past year and a half to resolve the matter amicably. He explained that continued encroachment led to the filing of a trespass report with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. An ordinance citation was issued when Mr. Probst admitted to the charges but failed to compensate the Lake District for its loss. Dearlove explained that a small claims action was then filed in circuit court in an attempt to recover Lake District costs. He announced that a court date was set for April 7, 2004.

Roger Rude asked if an attempt was made to speak to Mr. Probst personally. Dearlove responded that the primary mode of communication was through written correspondence, including registered letters from our attorney with attached maps. It was also noted that the county sheriff's deputy and our attorney had each spoken to Mr. Probst by phone before civil action was initiated.

B. Recreational Carrying Capacity Report

1. Formation of Joint Town-Lake District Committee

Molinaro and Dearlove presented the findings of the carrying capacity study at the February 19, 2004 Oakland Town Board meeting. Following their presentation, they recommended convening a joint Town-Lake District committee to review existing ordinances and recommend measures to better manage boat traffic. Molinaro announced that the Town subsequently appointed Paul Jorstad and Lynn Anderson to serve on the committee. Molinaro and McCarthy then volunteered to serve as the Lake District representatives. The committee members agreed to figure out an initial meeting date, which will most likely be on a Tuesday or Thursday evening in late April. Molinaro indicated that committee meetings will be duly noticed and open to the public.

Jorstad added that the Town Board members had reviewed the report and were impressed with the work that went into it. He said the report has generated some creative brainstorming on different ways of approaching the problem.

Roger Rude asked for clarification on the definition of a keyhole subdivision, as was referenced in Ripples. Molinaro replied that a keyhole or funnel development occurs when a lakefront lot is used as a common access for a backlot development located off the water. He said that Shore Place is an example of a keyhole subdivision. Dearlove added that extensive pier systems and private, unregulated boat ramps are often associated with such developments. Rude asked whether there was potential for more of these types of developments to occur around the lake. Molinaro responded that the potential was there and that it represented a real concern. He pointed out that one of the tasks of the joint committee will be look further into the issue.

2. National Lakes Conference

Molinaro and Dearlove reported that they were honored to accept an invitation to speak about carrying capacity at a national lakes conference in Chicago on April 22nd. They will also be submitting an article to LakeLine, which is an internationally circulated publication by the North American Lake Management Society.

C. Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Molinaro and Dearlove reported that they would be presenting at the upcoming Wisconsin Lakes Convention (April 15-17th in Green Bay). Molinaro also announced that he recently accepted a nomination to serve on the Wisconsin Association of Lakes' Board of Directors. The election will take place at the April convention.

In other Old Business, Molinaro said that he nominated McCarthy and Hoffman to join the statewide Lake Leaders Institute, and that both had been accepted to participate. He congratulated them on being accepted, and noted that a \$250 state scholarship and other support were available to help offset travel costs.

VII. New Business

A. Meeting Schedule

The Board scheduled future meetings for the following dates: May 15, June 19, July 17, August 14 (budget hearing), August 19 (annual meeting), and September 18. All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

B. Annual Meeting Notice Requirements

Molinaro reviewed the noticing requirements and other matters pertaining to the Annual Meeting. He indicated that Dearlove would be sending a summary sheet of these guidelines to each of the Board members. He also reminded the Board that two positions were up for re-election that are currently held by Knilans and Sabella. To have their names on the ballot as candidates, each must submit their intent in writing no less than 45 days prior to the August 21st meeting date.

VIII. Correspondence

E-mail correspondence was received from Mike Yankaitis on March 13th containing several comments and questions pertaining to regulatory policies on Lake Ripley. A reply was sent via e-mail on March 15th. All other correspondence pertained to matters already discussed.

IX. Adjournment

Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Hoffman seconded. Motion to adjourn was carried on a 5-0 vote.
Next meeting: April 24, 2004 (9:00 a.m. @ Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD