

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2009**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on March 21, 2009. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Walt Christensen and Dennis McCarthy. Gene Kapsner was absent. Also present were Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Kent Brown, Richard Kutz, Debbie Kutz, and Gary Zibell (Cable TV 98).

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments concerning issues not already on the agenda.

**III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting (01-17-09)**

Draft meeting minutes were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 01-17-09 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella presented the Treasurer's report for the two-month period ending February 28, 2009. Total receipts for the period were \$77,585.48. Receipts consisted of \$142.51 in interest income, real estate taxes (two payments) totaling \$70,082.97, grants and donations of \$7,350.00, and a rain garden workshop registration fee of \$10.00. Total disbursements for the period were \$26,555.40, consisting mainly of landowner cost-share reimbursements, as well as staff payroll and office-related expenses. A Transaction Listing was provided documenting individual disbursements. Asset balances on 02-28-09 included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$126,937.57 in checking. Sabella noted that interest-generating monies in the checking account were fully protected by FDIC insurance. *McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report into the record as presented. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last meeting:

Lake District Preserve: Notices of three grant awards were received. They included a \$75,000 NAWCA grant to help cover land-acquisition costs; \$2,000 from Pheasants Forever for prairie restoration; and a \$1,000 C.D. Besadny grant for prairie restoration. A verbal offer was also received from Art Kitchen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, to donate and help plant prairie seed in previously cropped areas. Other activities included making arrangements with a tenant farmer to lease 26 acres of cropland east of CTH A, and to repair gulley erosion by installing a grassed waterway. Property corners will be marked prior to the start of any farming or restoration work. A dedication event will be hosted at the Preserve on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, following the scheduled board meeting. Molinaro said he would like to get quotes for an updated welcome sign, and have a new sign up before the event.

Landowner Cost Sharing: Shoreline riprap installations were completed for Sylvan Mounds 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, Sylvan Mounds II, and Eleanor Wood. As a DNR permit condition, lakeshore plantings are required at Sylvan Mounds 1<sup>st</sup> Addition. Dearlove hoped the Board would consider this extra work—estimated at around \$2,500—to be part of the original project for cost-share purposes. Because it was not previously approved or reflected in the original cost-share agreement, his intention was to bring bids and formally request cost-share authorization at the next meeting.

The Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project will also be brought back to the Board. Final Board authorization was still needed regarding a scope of work and cost-sharing commitment. To date, work has so far included the preparation of both riprap-installation and shoreland-management plans, and the removal of invasive brush by Camp volunteers. In addition, \$18,000 was raised through private fundraising, and outside grant assistance is now being investigated. Sabella requested clarification from the landowner as to whether private fundraising dollars would be applied to costs other than the required match. Aside from figuring out financing, the next step was to go after permits.

A draft plan and cost-share agreement was prepared for the Thompson shoreline restoration. The landowner is also now considering a rain garden, which would have to come back to the Board for approval. Recently proposed

projects awaiting review include: Fischer lakeshore restoration (W9346 Ripley Rd.); and DeGidio rain garden (N4396 Whispering Pines). A subcommittee meeting will be organized in the coming weeks to score these projects for funding purposes. Other activities included the installation of additional treefalls along Lake Ripley's west shore, thanks largely to the work of Kent Brown and Tim Newkirk.

Lake-Management Planning: Two management-planning sections were completed and distributed for Board review relating to the Lake District Preserve and the lake's fishery. Dearlove said he intended to have a complete plan ready to be presented by the September 26<sup>th</sup> public hearing. Approval was granted to post sections of the plan to the website following Board review. Sabella requested that any postings be clearly marked as "draft."

Outreach: The first of three Ripples newsletters and a companion E-Bulletin were distributed. In addition, legislative testimony was presented in support of a phosphorus lawn fertilizer bill.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **• Payment of out-of-scope costs related to floodplain study**

The Board asked Dearlove to try to work out a mutually acceptable payment plan with Montgomery Associates. The District had previously paid \$600 of the \$1,500 in documented out-of-scope expenses. The Board felt it would be fair to split the difference with the consultant, thereby paying an additional \$150. Dearlove was directed to see if this arrangement was acceptable so the matter could be brought to a conclusion.

## **VII. New Business**

### **• Lake District Preserve management plan**

Draft copies of an updated Lake District Preserve management plan were previously distributed for Board consideration. Dearlove accepted feedback and answered questions from the Board, and agreed to make some minor edits. It was decided that the draft plan should then be posted to the website for public review.

### **• Approve 2-year farm lease contract on 26 acres of Preserve land**

Draft copies of the lease contract were previously distributed for Board review. Sabella and McCarthy said they did not receive advance copies, and asked for a short recess to review the document. Molinaro responded by calling for a 10-minute recess at 10:45 a.m. Meeting resumed at 10:55. Molinaro explained that the lease contract was modeled after contracts used by Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department. He noted that it had been reviewed by Jefferson County's corporation counsel and resource conservationist, as well as the District's insurance agent. A copy was also reviewed by the proposed tenant farmer, Mr. Robert Riege. *McCarthy moved to approve the tenant farming lease contract with Bob Riege. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

### **• Lake Ripley fishery report and management plan**

Draft copies of the fishery report/management plan were previously distributed for Board consideration. Dearlove accepted feedback and answered questions from the Board, and agreed to make some minor edits. It was decided that the draft plan should then be posted to the website for public review.

### **• Schedule date for Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Oakland Town Hall. A budget hearing will be held from 9:00-9:45 a.m., and the Annual Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.

### **• Confirm future meeting and public hearing dates**

The Board set the following meeting and event schedule: 4-18-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting); 5-16-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting); 6-20-09 (8:00-9:30 a.m. rain garden workshop/10:00 a.m. Board meeting); 7-18-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting/11:00 a.m. Preserve-acquisition dedication); 8-29-09 (9:00-9:45 a.m. budget hearing/10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting); 9-26-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting/11:00 a.m. public hearing on lake management plan); 10-17-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting); 11-21-09 (9:00 a.m. Board meeting); and no meeting in December.

## **VIII. Correspondence**

A letter dated 02-25-09 was sent to North Trust (landowner) in response to a zoning notification regarding management of the "viewing and access corridor" at N9245 Ripley Rd. Landowner was informed of the District's cost-share program in relation to protecting and restoring natural vegetation along the lakeshore and using treefalls for fish habitat. All other correspondence was covered during the course of the meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Jacobsen-Brown moved for adjournment at 11:17 a.m. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned.* Next meeting: March 21, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary                      Date

Recorder: PDD