

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2003**

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was held in the lower-level conference room of the Amundson Center due to a scheduling conflict at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Molinaro at 9:10 a.m. Molinaro asked Paul Dearlove, Priority Lake Project Manager, to take roll call in Secretary Derek Hoffman's absence. Board members present were Pam Rogers, Mike Sabella, Paul Jorstad, Dennis McCarthy and John Molinaro. Joanne Knilans and Derek Hoffman were absent. Four members of the general public were also in attendance.

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. Pam Rogers moved to accept the minutes as written. Paul Jorstad seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Sabella distributed year-end financial statements for the 12 months ending December 31, 2002, for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) accounts. Financial statements for the two-month period ending February 28, 2003 were also distributed.

In reference to the year-end financial statement for the LRMD, there was a cash position of \$57,299.26, with a \$35,346.69 receivable due from the LRPLP account. Sabella noted he intended to rectify the loan by the end of the year, but adequate funds were not available at the time. This resulted in total current assets of \$92,645.95 with no liabilities. The Statement of Operations showed total revenues of \$39,675.18, with the bulk of the revenues coming from property taxes. Total operating expenses were \$18,346.64 for insurance, weed harvesting and general operations. This resulted in an operating profit of \$21,328.54. Other expenses totaled \$12,174.00, which included a \$10,000 LRMD ACRA contribution to the LRPLP account. This equated to net income of \$9,154.54. An Actual-to-Budget Report was also provided. The report showed that actual expenses exceeded budgeted revenues by \$3,146.64, mostly as a result of unanticipated legal fees associated with Majestic Pines, and higher than normal maintenance costs for weed harvesting. However, there was an excess of receipts over disbursements of \$9,154.54. The actual disbursements from the fourth quarter of 2002 were also reported.

In reference to the year-end financial statement for the LRPLP, there was a total cash position of \$32,173.55, including \$200.00 in petty cash, \$17,225.10 in regular checking, and \$14,748.45 in the non-point source account. Liabilities included \$35,346.69 due back to the LRMD (which was not paid to avoid an overdraft situation), and \$821.64 in accrued federal payroll taxes. The Statement of Operations showed total revenues of \$82,744.82, consisting of \$26,018.62 in cost sharing, a \$10,000.00 LRMD ACRA contribution, \$46,350.00 in administrative grants, and \$376.20 in interest income. Direct costs were \$37,426.12 for cost sharing projects. Sabella noted that there is typically a 4-6 week delay before cost-share reimbursement is received from the DNR, so some money was still forthcoming by year-end. Total operating expenses were \$51,643.84, consisting mainly of salary, office costs, payroll taxes and insurance. This resulted in an operating loss of \$6,325.14. Other expenses included an \$8,400.00 lake-planning grant for which we will eventually be reimbursed. As a result, there was a net loss of \$15,151.24. Molinaro noted that the main reason for the operating loss was that our annual DNR grant has not provided for cost-of-living increases over the past several years. He explained that this situation was anticipated, and that the LRMD has budgeted a special reserve account that is intended to cover such shortfalls in the future.

In reference to the two-month period ending February 28, 2003 for the LRMD, total receipts were \$131.10 in interest income. Disbursements were \$4,348.15, mostly as a result of legal fees associated with Majestic Pines. Our cash position was \$53,062.21. Other items to report included the receipt of \$21,419.64 in property tax revenue, a \$45.00 WAL conference refund, and a \$239.00 insurance refund in March 2003.

In reference to the two-month period ending February 28, 2003 for the LRPLP, total receipts were \$27.31 in interest income. Disbursements were \$23,158.68, mostly as a result of cost sharing projects. Cash on hand included \$200.00 in

petty cash and \$9,135.73 in general checking. For bookkeeping purposes, we were actually overdrawn in the non-point source account by \$294.00. Sabella noted that \$4,993.44 was subsequently received from the DNR in early March to cover earlier cost-sharing expenses. In addition, \$6,963.00 was received from the DNR that was previously withheld from our grant due to a 1994-95 audit discrepancy that was later rectified.

Molinaro thanked Sabella for his ongoing assistance in managing and tracking the complex financial activities of both the LRMD and LRPLP.

V. Lake Manager's Report

Paul Dearlove presented the Lake Manager's Report, detailing his activities since the last meeting. Highlights from the report are presented below.

- Joshua Theodore Dearlove born March 2nd at 12:13 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces!
- Started organizing and planning for the annual Earth Day litter cleanup (Saturday, April 26, 12-4 p.m., Ripley Park shelter); Follow-up litter sweep set for Saturday, July 19.
- Prepared and distributed bidding documents for Lake District Preserve trail improvements
- Presented written comments and oral testimony in response to Majestic Pines' final plat submission
- Drafted suggested terms and conditions for the proposed Metherall conservation easement
- Started updating LRMD web site with new information and features
- Updated parcel-ownership database and sent Welcome Wagon packets to 8 new residents
- Obtained quotes to update antiquated computer system at LRMD office
- Met with new local building inspector to try and resolve ongoing construction site erosion-control problems
- Started working on 2002 Priority Lake Project Accomplishment Report for DNR

VI. Old Business

A. Majestic Pines

Molinaro indicated that he and Dearlove had spent an inordinate amount of time and energy over the past couple months reviewing and responding to various development proposals. Majestic Pines submitted a final plat for town approval earlier this week, but no action was taken since the town board felt a number of issues remained unresolved. One such issue was the establishment of acceptable covenants and deed restrictions to protect environmentally sensitive areas, as was mandated by the Town's conditional approval of preliminary plat. Molinaro explained that the Lake District had previously submitted a number of detailed recommendations on how this should be accomplished. The recommendations included specific restrictions that should pertain to specific lots, as well as mechanisms for adequate compliance monitoring and enforcement. He added that negotiations remain ongoing, and that he and Dearlove had already met with Attorney Mike Rumpf since the Town meeting in an attempt to resolve some remaining points of contention.

Molinaro mentioned that there is still significant disagreement on whether the DNR would ever permit new piers in these 'environmentally sensitive' areas. Paul Jorstad claimed that the locations of any proposed piers would have to be established on the final plat before the town would approve it. He then offered some background on the approval process and the town's conditional requirements. Molinaro thanked Jorstad and the rest of the Town Board for standing firm in their resolve to protect wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. He said these areas are critically linked to the overall health of Lake Ripley.

Jorstad said he was also personally concerned about Majestic Pines' proposed site for a private park near USH 12. He said he was opposed to the town requiring park space that would likely become under-utilized and neglected. Consequently, he was in favor of the town accepting cash in lieu of the mandatory park space as provided in the town's land division ordinance. The cash would then have to be used toward the maintenance of other existing parks in the township. Jorstad suggested that the cash might be able to go toward the maintenance of the Lake District Preserve. Molinaro indicated it was an intriguing idea, but that he would want to get a legal opinion on what implications that would have on the Lake District and the management of its preserve.

B. Carrying Capacity Study

Molinaro informed the board that he attended a facilitated meeting of local environmental groups last week. The meeting was sponsored by the Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club and moderated by Pam Rogers. At the meeting, he mentioned the Lake District's goal of completing a carrying capacity analysis for Lake Ripley, and requested assistance in collecting boat census data and other information. Club members offered to help count boats and collect other census information when they conducted their grant-funded "Clean Boats, Clean Lakes" program. The program involves setting

up a boat inspection and washing station at the public landing to educate people about exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil). Molinaro said he was hopeful that the Lake District could showcase the methodology and results of its carrying capacity study at next year's Wisconsin Association of Lakes Conference. He was not aware of any other lake groups in the state that have done such a study.

C. Lake Enhancement Committee

Molinaro announced that a public listening session is scheduled for May 31st in Jefferson. The purpose of the listening session is to receive public feedback on a series of county lake-improvement recommendations proposed by the committee. Anyone interested in the future of Jefferson County's water resources was encouraged to attend to share their thoughts and opinions. Discussion topics will include shoreland zoning enforcement, nonpoint source pollution, exotic species, and a host of other issues affecting our local lakes.

D. WI Association of Lakes Convention

The Wisconsin Association of Lake Convention will take place April 10-12th in Green Bay. Dearlove and Molinaro plan to attend, and both have volunteered to act as moderators. Invitations were extended to the other board members to consider attending as well. Molinaro said the Lake District had attended the convention every year for the past ten years. He said it offered an excellent opportunity to learn and network among fellow lake professionals throughout the state.

E. Earth Day Litter Cleanup

Dearlove announced that the annual Earth Day litter cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Interested volunteers were asked to meet at the Ripley Park shelter to obtain supplies and cleanup instructions. The Lake Ripley Management District, Friends of Cam-Rock Park and Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club are co-hosting the event again this year. Dearlove encouraged local businesses to sponsor the cleanup by donating prizes or making a small monetary contribution of \$25 or more.

F. Rain Gardens Presentation for 4-26-03

A rain garden expert was invited to attend the Lake District's next meeting. The speaker will make a short presentation on the benefits of rain gardens, and will provide guidance on how they should be installed and maintained.

VII. New Business

A. New Computer Equipment

Molinaro and Dearlove discussed the need to update the office's antiquated computer, printer and fax systems. It was explained that the current system is now several years old and no longer capable of supporting basic software applications. Dearlove said he had done considerable research into how we can cost-effectively upgrade the system, and indicated he would make the purchase in the near future. Jorstad and Sabella both recommended going with Dell for the computer. Sabella also confirmed that adequate funds were available in our budget to pay for the equipment. Molinaro explained that this was a typical office maintenance expense, and that the dollar amount of the purchase would not require a formal bidding process or special board approval.

In other New Business, Dearlove noted that significant stretches of unprotected shoreline along the north side of the lake were seriously damaged as a result of winter ice heave. He said he plans to appeal to lakefront property owners to participate in our cost-share program in the next newsletter.

Jorstad asked the Board to consider recommending a town ordinance to ban vehicular traffic from the lake's frozen surface, and requiring ATVs to have floatation devices. He said it was a safety issue, and used the Madison lakes as an example of where such regulations are already in place. Molinaro said he would consider assembling a special committee to further contemplate the issue and come up with a consensus opinion. He suggested such a committee could include ice fishermen and a local law enforcement representative. He agreed to come up with some names of people who might serve on the committee.

VIII. Correspondence

- An invitation was received from the Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club to join other local environmental groups at a round table discussion on March 20th.
- The Lake District sent a letter dated 2/21/03 to the Town Board and Majestic Pines in response to the developer's final plat submission. It contained recommendations for protecting environmentally sensitive areas on the property.

IX. Adjournment

