

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2010**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on April 17, 2010. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present during roll call: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Walt Christensen, John Molinaro and Gene Kapsner. Dennis McCarthy arrived a few minutes late, following the approval of the meeting minutes. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Kent Brown, and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

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

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the 03-20-10 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Board. *Christensen moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella reviewed the first-quarter financial statements ending March 31, 2010. Handouts included: Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity; Statement of Revenues and Expenses; Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining report; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. Total assets of \$164,368.09 consisted of \$200.00 in petty cash and the remainder as cash in the bank checking account. There were no reported liabilities. The \$164,368.09 in total equity was represented by \$49,765.00 in restricted funds, a fund balance of \$62,793.99, and \$51,809.10 in revenue over expenses. Revenue for the quarter consisted mainly of property taxes (\$71,425.28), a final Lake Planning Grant payment (\$5,000.00), and a tenant farming lease payment (\$1,942.50). Direct costs for cost-sharing expenditures totaled \$7,509.29. There was also \$18,290.10 in total operating expenses, which primarily included staff payroll, board stipends, and general office expenditures. After accounting for other income and expenses, there was \$51,809.10 in revenue over expenses. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last meeting:

Landowner Cost Sharing

- The final phase of the Fischer/Schabowski shoreline restoration is scheduled to be wrapped up within next few weeks. Given the extent and visibility of the restoration, the plan is to eventually install a public informational sign at the site.
- The county-funded portion of the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp restoration is currently underway. This includes the recent approval of a landscape plan, as well as the continued removal of invasive honeysuckle by camp volunteers. Planting is scheduled to begin in a couple weeks. A DNR Lake Protection Grant will once again be sought to help fund this extensive, overall effort.
- Proposals and cost estimates for the Thompson and Dovgin projects should be available for review by the next meeting. An extension is likely to be requested at that time for the Hoiby project.
- A cost-share contract is now being developed for the recently-approved Paramore/Snellman project. Two additional shoreline projects were recently proposed, and will soon be scheduled for review by the cost-share committee.

Lake District Preserve

- The Preserve was officially accepted into the Wisconsin Community Forest program. This designation will allow the District to access woodland-stewardship resources, such as free nursery stock and management assistance through the state forestry program.
- A grass-swale waterway was successfully installed to control soil erosion between the Preserve and the adjoining farm to the north.

- A new kiosk was installed at the parking lot. The Board and Friends of the Preserve members were asked to visit the kiosk and provide input on the information and materials currently on display.
- Bob Riege, the tenant farmer, will be erecting several fence posts to serve as boundary markers. The boundary markers are intended to prevent adjoining farming operations to accidentally encroach into the Preserve.
- In addition to the mowing schedule planned for restored prairie areas, a prescribed burn was recommended for 2011. Plans are also underway to determine the best locations for any new trails.

Other Activities and Announcements

- A \$992 DNR Lake Planning Grant was received for the purchase of a new dissolved oxygen meter.
- A DNR permit application has been filed by Ripley Waters Association to dredge the inlet channel. Dearlove provided an overview of the proposal, and said he would be submitting comments once his review is complete.
- Also reported was repair work on the harvesting equipment, and the latest plans for installing the Town buoys.

VI. Old Business

- **Consideration and possible action on cost-share committee proposal to make “buffer” plantings an eligibility requirement for future shoreline riprap projects**

Summarizing the outcome of a March 17th meeting, Molinaro indicated the cost-share committee is recommending that the Board consider requiring an upland planting component for all future shoreline-riprap projects as a condition for cost sharing. It is recommended that existing “lakeshore buffer” planting standards be applied, but with a minimum square footage calculated by multiplying shore length by an 8-foot planting width. Unique shoreline situations that might prevent the application of the square footage requirement would then be considered on a case-by-case basis. Dearlove added that plantings were now being mandated as a DNR permit condition, but that no specific technical standards were in place for determining plant types, spacing, planting depth, etc. He advocated for the measure to better clarify and standardize a set of minimum planting requirements, and to further advance stated management-planning objectives that call for increasing lakeshore buffers around the lake. While extra scoring points can be awarded to projects that incorporate a vegetative buffer, it was explained that any buffer currently had to be no less (on average) than 20 feet wide to be an eligible practice warranting additional points.

During discussion, Board members disagreed on the need for and potential repercussions of the proposed eligibility requirement. One common objection was that it could dissuade some property owners from correcting shoreline-erosion problems, especially if they lacked the flexibility to decide on the amount of plantings they wanted.

Jacobsen-Brown moved to table action on the proposal until the fall, mainly to allow for further assessment on whether such action was necessary. Motion failed from lack of a second. Gomez-Ibanez moved to adopt the measure as an eligibility requirement while allowing for reasonable exceptions. Motion seconded by Christensen. As a point of discussion, Sabella said he favored the idea of relying on the current point system and educational efforts, rather than impose another eligibility mandate that would make it easier to kill a project at the committee level. Motion to adopt failed by a vote of 2-5.

VII. New Business

- **Discussion related to process and cost of installing and removing Town of Oakland’s navigational buoys**

Molinaro noted the physically-demanding challenges related to installing and removing the lake buoys. In the past, this task has been performed by the Town police, and with Dearlove’s assistance. He said that Kapsner, on behalf of the Town of Oakland, has found a local marina that will take over the operation for as little as \$600 per year. Because this service does not presently include getting the buoys to and from the lake, Molinaro said he was concerned with having Dearlove do all the loading and unloading unassisted. Sabella indicated that this type of heavy lifting was not part of the project manager’s job description, that it was the Town’s legal responsibility to manage the buoys, and that it would be an insurance issue in the event that staff gets injured. Molinaro said he agreed, but wanted to make sure we maintain a cooperative relationship with the Town in dealing with the buoys, particularly given the District’s role in advocating for the no-wake ordinances. Discussion ended with a general agreement that Dearlove would continue to assist as long as it did not involve a lot of heavy lifting.

VIII. Correspondence

Molinaro informed the Board of a call he received from a local bank about farm property for sale between the Lake District Preserve and the Oakland Town Hall. He said the bank had asked whether the District would be interested in purchasing any additional property. Molinaro said his personal opinion was that it was unlikely given the lack of

available grant assistance and the questionable strategic value of the land to the District. However, he had promised to bring it to the attention of both the Board and the Glacial Heritage Program, and said he could include the matter as a future agenda item if the Board so desired. Sabella subsequently requested that the matter be put on next month's agenda.

All other correspondence had been covered during the course of the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Jacobsen-Brown moved for adjournment at 10:12 a.m. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: May 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD