

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 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 with the following Board members present: John Molinaro, Pam Rogers, Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella and Paul Jorstad. Joanne Knilans was absent. Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), and Roger Rude (LRMD resident) were also present. Bruce Gondert (Town Police) showed up later in the meeting.

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. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried on a 6-0 vote.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed the quarterly financial statements for the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) for the period ending March 31, 2004. These included balance sheets, statements of operations, actual to budget/budget remaining reports, and account ledgers. A brief summary is provided below:

LRMD: The LRMD had a total cash position of \$111,292.97, consisting of \$37,023.13 in property tax revenue collected during the three-month period. There was also a \$39,000.00 receivable due from the LRPLP, of which \$26,000.00 was carried over from the prior year. There were no outstanding liabilities. Total operating expenses of only \$298.89 during the first three months of the fiscal year translated into an operating profit of \$36,999.75.

LRPLP: Current assets included \$200.00 in petty cash, \$59,492.44 in general checking, and \$23,832.77 in the Nonpoint Source account. The only liability was \$39,000.00 payable back to the LRMD. Revenues included \$3,290.00 in state cost-sharing reimbursement, a \$46,350.00 state grant to help cover annual staff and operating expenses, and \$112.09 in interest income. Expenses for the period were \$13,071.72, consisting mainly of payroll and office expenditures.

Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried on a 6-0 vote.

V. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized the status of the LRPLP and other Lake District activities since the last meeting. He said he attended both state and national lakes conferences with Molinaro, giving presentations on Lake Ripley's recreational carrying capacity study. The Lake Ordinances Review Committee was also formed to explore measures to better manage overcrowding and boat-traffic impacts. Dearlove said he will participate as a meeting organizer and technical advisor.

He also submitted the 2003 LRPLP Accomplishment Report and 2005 funding request to the DNR. As for cost-share projects, contractor bids were solicited for the Cedar Shores and Van Acker shoreline riprap projects. A cost-share agreement, construction plan and DNR permit application were also completed for the Springstead shoreline riprap and buffer planting project. Springstead's neighbor, Mark Anderson, recently signed up for the program and is interested in doing a similar effort. Dearlove said he was working on amending cost-share agreements for the Gaulke and Reay shoreline properties. These restoration sites received winter ice damage and may require additional toe protection using riprap.

In other news, Dearlove informed the board that he attended a small claims hearing and received a default judgment in favor of the Lake District. The hearing was requested in response to John Probst's continued farming encroachment into the Lake District Preserve. He also reported that the Earth Day litter cleanup was postponed due to poor weather conditions. He indicated that the rain date will most likely be scheduled for the second week in May. Finally, Dearlove mentioned that he is in the process of setting up a planning and coordination meeting for the Lake Watch volunteers. He said he hopes to schedule the meeting right after the May 15th LRMD Board meeting, and plans to invite Officer Gondert of the Town police.

VI. Old Business

A. Lake Ordinances Review Committee (Lake District/Town Boards)

Molinaro announced that the first meeting of the Lake Ordinances Review Committee will take place at 3:00 p.m. on April 29th at the Lake District office. He explained the committee's objectives were to evaluate and propose strategies to address problems of overcrowding and boating impacts. Part of this process will involve reviewing existing ordinances to determine whether changes are warranted. Aside from himself, committee members include Paul Jorstad, Lynn Anderson and Dennis McCarthy. Dearlove will serve as a technical consultant. Molinaro said the meeting will be open to the public, and that it had already been duly noticed.

B. Probst Farming Encroachment into Preserve

Molinaro said he received a phone call from Mr. Probst last week in response to our court summons. He explained that Probst was well aware of the situation and had received all our past correspondence pertaining to the issue. Probst had also indicated that he wanted to resolve the matter by dropping off a check prior to the hearing date. Molinaro noted that the check was never received. He then asked Dearlove to explain what happened at the small claims hearing. Dearlove recounted that Probst failed to show up at the hearing, and that a default judgment was made in our favor. Discussion then ensued as to the legal ramifications of the judgment, including available methods for recovering the money that was owed for property damages. Jorstad pointed out that wage garnishment and property liens could be used to collect on money owed. However, he noted that there is no guarantee that the Lake District will ever receive its money. Molinaro agreed, but reiterated that all necessary actions were being taken as the board had previously directed.

C. Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Molinaro summarized the three-day lakes convention that was held in Green Bay last week. Over six hundred people were in attendance, and some of the state's most influential politicians came to speak to the group. Issues of particular interest were as follows:

1. NR115 – Shoreland Zoning

Molinaro reviewed that status of the NR115 re-write process. He said a new DNR official is now spearheading the effort, but that the proposed rule revisions are still to be submitted for legislative approval by January 1, 2005. A second round of public hearings is supposed to take place later this summer. He expressed concern that the process could potentially drag on longer than anticipated, and may not even be approved in the end. Meanwhile, he explained that Jefferson County Zoning was taking a wait-and-see approach with regards to its own shoreland zoning rules. He felt local action should be taken to strengthen important lake-protection rules regardless of what might happen at the state level.

2. SB440 – Lake District Law Change

Molinaro indicated that SB440 was signed into law by Governor Doyle at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. The new law pertains to the conduct of annual meetings, including public-notice and budget-approval requirements. He said that most of the changes were relatively immaterial, and offered his assurance that the District would continue to comply with its legal mandates. He then reviewed a legal summary of the new law that was prepared by Attorney Bill O'Connor. Dearlove said that he would make copies of the summary and disseminate them to the board.

3. WI Act 118 – Water Regulation Permitting Changes

Dearlove provided a brief summary on WI Act 118, formerly known as the so-called Job Creation Bill. He explained that although it was allegedly intended to simply streamline the Ch. 30 permitting process, in actuality it significantly weakened DNR regulatory oversight. He then described some of the rule changes and their possible implications to Lake Ripley. Molinaro added that Act 118 codified into law the DNR's "pier planner" guidelines. It was still unclear as to how existing, non-compliant piers would be treated. He and Dearlove said they will continue to follow the rulemaking process and provide updates as they become available. Both felt the new statutory changes were bad for Wisconsin's lakes, and that

there are still many unanswered questions that the DNR will have to address. Dearlove encouraged people to call the DNR or access their Web site to get more information.

There was no other Old Business.

