

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2003**

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman John Molinaro at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Derek Hoffman took roll call. Board members present were Pam Rogers, Mike Sabella, Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy and John Molinaro. Joanne Knilans and Paul Jorstad were absent. Other attendees included Kent Brown, Roger Rude, Dave Wolfram, Sophia Estante (Cambridge News reporter), and guest speakers Susan Priebe and Ellen Rulseh (Partnership for Rain Gardens).

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. Derek Hoffman seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Sabella distributed quarterly financial statements for the three-month period ending March 31, 2003, for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) accounts.

LRMD: As of March 31, 2003, the Balance Sheet showed a cash position of \$89,653.17, no liabilities, and a \$35,346.69 receivable due from the LRPLP account. The Statement of Operations showed receipt of the first quarter installment of real estate taxes of \$36,353.87. Other revenue included \$200.38 in interest income, and a \$45.00 registration refund from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention. There was also a marine & truck insurance refund of \$239.00 to reflect off-season storage of the weed-harvesting dump truck. The cost of operations for the quarter was \$4,484.34, most of which was for legal fees associated with the Majestic Pines development. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$32,353.91 for the first quarter. An Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining report was also distributed. The report showed a general lack of spending activity in most categories. However, the cost of legal fees associated with Majestic Pines had already exceeded the annual budget for that expense category. Finally, Sabella provided the Board with a Transaction Listing report detailing actual disbursements for the period.

LRPLP: As of March 31, 2003, the Balance Sheet showed total assets of \$14,166.00. These consisted of \$200.00 in petty cash, \$9,260.65 in general checking used for operations, and \$4,705.35 in the Non-point Source account used for project cost sharing. Liabilities for the quarter were \$36,737.45, consisting of \$1,080.10 in accrued Federal and State payroll taxes, \$310.66 in accrued staff pension, and \$35,346.69 due back to the LRMD account. The Statement of Operations showed total revenue of \$11,996.00, including \$4,993.44 in cost-share reimbursements from the DNR, \$6,963.00 in recovered grant monies for operations (previously withheld due to erroneous audit findings), and \$39.56 in interest income. Direct costs were \$15,086.00 for cost sharing projects. Sabella noted that these costs were recently reimbursed by the DNR and will be reflected in subsequent financial statements. Operating costs were \$14,983.11, consisting mostly of staff and office expenses. A Transaction Listing report was also distributed that detailed actual disbursements for the period.

V. Special Presentation on Rain Gardens

Susan Priebe and Ellen Rulseh from Partnership for Rain Gardens LLC gave a slide presentation on using rain gardens to control stormwater runoff. The presentation included a description of how rain gardens function, pointers on how they can be installed and maintained, and typical costs. Questions were then taken from the Board and public attendees.

VI. Lake Manager's Report

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

- Organized Earth Day litter cleanup to be held this afternoon from 12-4 p.m.
Sponsors/donors: Cambridge State Bank, Dan's Gas 'N Stuff, Village Bakery & Coffee Shop, Piggly Wiggly, Melster's Candies, Marshall & Ilsley Bank, Friends of Cam-Rock Park, Steve Bentz Company, Earth & Road, Village Barber, Cambridge Ace Hardware, Gift Garden, Best-Built Garages, Heather's Rockdale Bar, Katy's Corner, Curves

for Women, Village Video, Village Pharmacy & Gifts, Rowe Pottery Works, Hoesly Real Estate Company, Edward Jones, The Potter's Garden, Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club, LRMD

- Continued negotiating deed restrictions and protective covenants for Majestic Pines Subdivision
- Hired contractor to build trail improvements at preserve beginning next month
- Met with new building inspector to discuss ongoing construction site erosion problems around Lake Ripley
- Attended and helped moderate the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention in Green Bay
- Obtained two dozen tree seedlings through Jefferson County that were planted at the preserve
- Completed the 2002 Priority Lake Project Accomplishment Report as mandated by the DNR
- Received verbal commitment from Long Sod Farms to finish ditch repair work this year
- Started shoreline restoration project for Glendale Association
- Located prospective buoy installer and requested formal bid for planning purposes
- Confirmed availability of weed harvesting staff for 2003 season
- Set up new computer/printer/fax system and completed a major re-organization of the office

VII. Old Business

A. Buoy Update

Molinaro reported that he and Dearlove were continuing to collect information to support the current no-wake buoy proposal that was presented to the Town Board. A prospective buoy installer had been located, and a formal bid was requested to get a better handle on costs. He explained that he felt the issue was going to require further negotiation and compromise with the Town Board before it is convinced to adopt an ordinance amendment.

B. Majestic Pines

Molinaro indicated that he and Dearlove were also continuing to work on negotiating deed restrictions and protective covenants for Majestic Pines. The Town Board had previously mandated that these restrictions be developed to protect wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas on the property. He said all LRMD comments and recommendations had been forwarded to the appropriate parties. It now remains up to the Town Board to decide whether or not to act on these recommendations. Molinaro said that he and Dearlove will continue to attend Town Board meetings to monitor the situation and respond to questions. He noted that he did not anticipate incurring any more legal costs with respect to Majestic Pines in the foreseeable future.

Roger Rude asked whether it was the LRMD's position to strictly prohibit any access or use of Vasby Island. Molinaro responded that the LRMD did not hold such a position. He said the main concern was to prevent any building on the island, and to offer assistance in establishing reasonable restrictions on uses that might threaten to destroy wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. He said there was also some discussion among the Town, DNR and developer on whether a public access requirement needed to be satisfied, and that the issue may have already been resolved.

C. Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention

Dearlove and Molinaro attended and helped moderate the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention held April 10-12th in Green Bay. Both felt it provided a tremendous opportunity to learn and network among other lake-management professionals. In addition, Molinaro said he had the pleasure of meeting the new DNR Secretary, Scott Hasset. He learned that Mr. Hasset owns property in the Lake Mills area, and that he was very familiar with Lake Ripley and the various management challenges we currently face. Molinaro said he hopes to give a presentation at next year's conference on our recreational carrying capacity study that we hope to complete this summer.

D. Computer

A new computer, printer and fax machine were purchased for the office to replace outdated equipment. The previous computer was several years old and could no longer support important software applications.

E. Lake Enhancement Committee Public Hearings (5/29 & 5/31)

The public steering committee of the Jefferson County Lakes Enhancement Project will be hosting two public hearings next month. Findings and recommendations of the committee will be presented, and feedback from the public will be solicited. Topics will include possible shoreland zoning changes, the creation of a county-wide lakes association, and development of a green certification program for landscapers, among many other issues. The first hearing will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th, at the Board of Education building in Fort Atkinson. Another hearing is scheduled from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 31st, at the U.W.-Extension building in Jefferson. For more information, interested participants were asked to contact Patricia Cicero at 920-674-7121.

F. Earth Day Litter Cleanup

It was announced that the annual Earth Day litter cleanup was scheduled 12-4 p.m. this afternoon. Interested volunteers were asked to meet at the Ripley Park to register and pick up supplies. Cleanup crews will then be disbursed to various sites around the lake, Koshkonong Creek and Cam-Rock Park.

VIII. New Business

Dearlove informed the Board that plans were being made to take the LRMD and Oakland Town Boards on a tour of the Lake Ripley watershed this summer. The tour would be intended to showcase some of our recent accomplishments, including various improvements at the preserve and several shoreline restoration projects. It would also be used to further educate the group about the lake's environmentally sensitive areas, and the proposed location of new slow-no-wake zoning. Kent Brown, Dennis McCarthy and John Molinaro each volunteered the use of their pontoon boats. Molinaro and Dearlove indicated they would find out about open meeting requirements.

IX Correspondence

Correspondence included several e-mail exchanges between Attorney Mike Rumpf and the LRMD office in regards to deed restrictions for Majestic Pines.

X. Adjournment

Pam Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Dennis McCarthy seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: May 17, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD