

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2008**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on May 10, 2008. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Walt Christensen was welcomed to the Board as our new Jefferson County representative. Secretary Jacobsen-Brown was then asked to take roll. Board members present: John Molinaro, Dennis McCarthy, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Gene Kapsner, Mike Sabella and Walt Christensen. Also present were Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), Jim Dovgin, Jim Rank, Jay Settersten, Jim DeGidio, and Richard and Debbie Kutz.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by the Board. *McCarthy moved to approve the 04/12/08 meeting minutes without additions or corrections, and was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 7-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sabella distributed and reviewed two financial reports. These included a first-quarter report ending March 31, 2008, including Balance Sheet, Statement of Operations, Actual to Budget/Budget Remaining Report, General Ledger and Transaction Listing, and a one-month report for the period ending April 30, 2008. A summary is provided below.

For the three months ending March 31, 2008, the balance sheet showed \$215,394.92 in total current assets, consisting of \$200.00 in petty cash, \$117,592.04 in checking, and a \$97,602.88 bank certificate of deposit due to expire on 6/21/08. Land-acquisition-related investments totaled \$12,920.00, bringing total assets to \$228,314.92. Current liabilities of \$2,255.45 consisted of \$1,054.51 in accrued Federal payroll taxes, \$205.00 in accrued State payroll taxes, and \$995.94 in accrued pension. Total equity was \$226,059.47, including \$118,650.00 in restricted funds, a fund balance of \$52,786.27, and net income of \$54,623.20. Total liabilities and equity was \$228,314.92. Sabella next reviewed the Statement of Operations showing revenue and expenses over the three-month period. There was a net profit (revenues over expenses) of \$54,623.20. The Actual to Budget/Budget Remaining report was also summarized.

For the one-month period ending April 30, 2008, total receipts were \$1,907.82. Receipts consisted of \$181.81 in interest, and a \$1,726.01 property tax lottery credit. Disbursements were \$7,022.75. A transaction register was provided that listed individual disbursements. Asset balances included \$200.00 in office petty cash, \$112,477.11 in checking, and \$97,602.88 in the investment account. There was a bank certificate of deposit due to mature on 6/21/08 with interest of approximately \$2,166 (State of Wisconsin money market interest rate).

Kapsner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed copies of his Lake Manager Report, including updated phone logs and other handouts related to his activities since the last meeting. Highlights from the report are summarized below.

Lake District Preserve & Land Acquisition Activities

- A prescribed burn was conducted at the Preserve on 4/28.
- A coordination meeting was held with the Friends of the Preserve for fundraising-strategy purposes. A number of ideas and recommendations came out of the meeting that are currently being implemented.
- The next Ripples newsletter will contain a feature article on the District's pursuit of additional public lands. A separate appeal letter from the Chair will go out in late June once the status of our land-acquisition grants are known. Aside from the appeal letter, the Annual Meeting agenda and proposed budget will also need to be distributed.

Cost-Share Projects

- A final cost-share contract, project plans, and a DNR permit application were completed for the Andersen shoreline restoration. Work is set to begin immediately upon receipt of the permit approval.

- Contacts are being made to landowners who had previously been approved for cost sharing, but who continue to delay moving toward implementation. These landowners were not subject to the one-year required implementation period that is now standard in all our cost-share contracts.
- The scoring committee evaluated three proposed projects. All three projects are recommended for funding and will be considered under New Business. Subsequent shoreline inspections found evidence of continued erosion on two previously bioengineered shorelines due, in part, to high water levels. These sites will have to be formally evaluated by the committee to determine a recommended course of action.

Special Programs

- The weed-harvesting equipment was serviced in preparation for summer operations.
- Planning meetings were conducted with our rain garden instructors and project intern to prepare for this summer's workshop series and native plant sale. Work is now underway on developing news articles, public service announcements, and flyers to further publicize the event.
- A meeting was held with DNR and county zoning officials to challenge DNR's proposed changes to Lake Ripley's 100-yr floodplain elevation. Engineering proposals were then solicited for the completion of a limited floodplain study.
- At the Wisconsin Lakes Convention, a half-day workshop was conducted on how to affect large-scale behavior change for lake-protection purposes. The workshop was well received.

Key dates

Saturday, May 10th: 'Adopt-a-Site' Litter Cleanup (10:30-12:30)

Tuesday, June 17th: Rain garden workshop – Part I (7:00-9:00 p.m., Amundsen Center)

Saturday, June 21st: Rain garden workshop – Part II (10:30-12:30, Oakland Town Hall)

Saturday, June 21st: Native plant sale (1:00-3:00, Oakland Town Hall)

VI. Old Business

Molinaro noted that he completed his term as Board President of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and has subsequently stepped down from that position. He also spoke briefly about the Wisconsin Lakes Convention, why our participation there is important, and its relevance to the work we do here on Lake Ripley.

VII. New Business

A. Cost-share committee recommendations (N4294 Alpine Village Ln. shore restoration; W8971 Ripley Rd. hillside stabilization; W9031 Ripley Rd. shoreline repair)

Dearlove reported that he and the committee met on 4/22/08 to evaluate and score the above projects for cost-share eligibility purposes. Committee members include John Molinaro and Jay Settersten. Copies of the completed scoring sheets and committee recommendations were distributed and made part of the record. Discussion ensued among Board members, staff, committee members, and attending landowners regarding project specifics.

N4294 Alpine Village Ln.: Jim Dovgin was in attendance to answer questions and to distribute contractor proposals for his proposed project. The committee awarded the project a score of 15 and recommended it be approved for cost-share assistance. The score would be reduced by 3 points if riprap is used instead of vegetated armoring, or if a rain garden was not incorporated into the proposed 35-ft. buffer. A modest sand beach area could be retained if adequate measures are taken to prevent sand from washing into the lake. Total cost was estimated at \$16,800, of which an estimated \$6,400 in buffer-installation costs may be eligible for Jefferson County cost-share reimbursement. Kapsner recommended addressing the upland runoff problem as part of any restoration effort. ***Jacobsen-Brown moved to approve cost-sharing eligibility for the proposed shoreline restoration at N4294 Alpine Village Ln. Motion was seconded by McCarthy. As a point of discussion, Sabella requested an amendment to the motion. He asked for a maximum financial commitment by the District of \$7,000 unless additional Board approval is received. After some discussion and debate, motion for approval with a \$7,000 cap carried 7-0.***

W8971 Ripley Rd.: Jim DeGidio was in attendance to answer questions related to his proposed project. The committee awarded the project a score of 10 and recommended it be approved for funding assistance. Score would be reduced by 2 points if it failed to incorporate a rain garden or similar stormwater-infiltration device in addition to the native plantings. Total cost was estimated at \$8,400. ***Kapsner moved to approve cost-share eligibility for the proposed hillside stabilization at W8971 Ripley Rd. Motion was seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.***

W9031 Ripley Rd.: Eleanor Wood was not in attendance as the requesting landowner. The committee did not score the project since it was a previously approved and completed shoreline bioengineering effort. Molinaro provided project background and explained it was presently in need of repair due to high-water damage. The committee recommended that the District pay the full cost of reinstalling a biolog, estimated at \$1,500. The landowner would then be responsible for backfilling behind the biolog and replacing any lost plants. Board discussion ensued regarding the strengths and limitations of bioengineered shorelines, permitting challenges related to other practices, and the maintenance responsibilities of the landowner. Action was postponed until DNR issues guidance on alternative erosion-control strategies that could be permitted.

B. Proposal for limited study to verify accuracy of Lake Ripley's 100-year floodplain elevation as estimated by DNR

Molinaro provided background on why he felt an engineering study was needed to verify the 100-year floodplain elevation. He explained that FEMA had recently mandated that DNR update all its floodplain maps. As a result, DNR's latest proposal is for a two-foot increase to the 838-ft. floodplain elevation that has been used for at least the last 50 years. Molinaro briefly explained DNR's process in making its determination. He felt the process involved too much guesswork and was not based on good information, mostly because money was not available to do the necessary evaluation. He said that Jefferson County Zoning shares the District's opinion that the true 100-year floodplain is probably closer to 838 feet based on our knowledge of local conditions. He noted that the proposed 840-ft. elevation was a full three feet higher than the historically high lake level that was reached last August. Molinaro said that such a change could put many more properties in the floodplain, which could negatively affect property values and result in landowners having to purchase expensive flood insurance. While it was explained that the county board had the power to reject the new floodplain maps, it would mean that all of Jefferson County would no longer be eligible for Federal disaster relief.

Molinaro said he convened a meeting with county zoning and DNR officials to discuss the matter. It was concluded that the only way to challenge the estimated floodplain boundary was for the District to conduct its own engineering study. This led to a solicitation of engineering bids which suggest the cost would be at least several thousand dollars—assuming some of the survey work could be performed by the county surveyor. This would represent money that had not been budgeted and approved for the current fiscal year. Considerable discussion followed on how an expanded floodplain boundary might affect area property owners, what action might be warranted by the District and other entities, where money could be found to perform a study, and timeline considerations. Discussion concluded with agreement that the following steps would be taken: 1) get a legal opinion on the District's authority and options for funding the study; 2) obtain a list of affected properties and landowners; 3) inform the public using Ripples, newspaper articles, and/or a direct mailing; and 4) go before the Town Board to raise awareness of the issue and request support.

C. Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp request to adjust shore-rental fee to \$150/month for weed harvesting

Dearlove noted that Joel Winn, property manager and board member for the scout camp, has requested a \$50/month increase in the shore-rental fee. It was explained that the rental fee is currently \$100/month, and that it has never been adjusted in all the years the District has used the shoreline as a staging area for weed harvesting. *Kapsner moved to approve a \$150/month shoreline rental fee to be incurred during the four-month harvesting period. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 7-0.*

VIII. Correspondence

- 4/25/08 letter from Mike Burow to the Lake District Board and staff regarding his departure from the board.
- 4/28/08 letter from Dearlove to Dean and Sandra Brumm in response to concerns about potential flooding impacts to their property caused by the Dieckhoff wetland scrapes.

IX. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties]

Sabella moved to enter into Closed Session as per Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties. A role-call vote was taken by Secretary Jacobsen-Brown. All members present voted in favor of moving the meeting into Closed Session.

X. Return to Open Session & Adjournment

Kapsner moved to return to open session for purposes of adjournment at 12:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 7-0. Kapsner immediately moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: June 21, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary
Recorder: PDD

Date