

Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2006

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board met at the Oakland Town Hall at N4450 CTH A in Cambridge on May 20, 2006. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present included Mike Burow (newly appointed Jefferson County representative), Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Gene Kapsner. Derek Hoffman was absent.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 4/15/06 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Kapsner moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by McCarthy with no subsequent discussion. Motion carried 5-0, with Sabella abstaining.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

A. Approve Financials from Start of Fiscal Year

Sabella first distributed and explained the year-end adjusted December 31, 2005 financial reports for the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP). They included balance sheets, statements of operations and general ledgers. He noted that our cash position was strong in both entities, and that we received our DNR grant shortly after the first of the year for administering the LRPLP. *Jacobsen-Brown moved for approval of the year-end adjusted financial reports. Motion was seconded by Kapsner with no subsequent discussion. Motion carried 6-0.* Next, Sabella distributed and reviewed the quarterly financial statements ending March 31, 2006 for both entities. *Kapsner moved to approve the quarterly financial statements. Motion was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown with no subsequent discussion. Motion carried 6-0.*

Finally, Sabella distributed his treasurer's report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2006 for both entities.

LRMD: Receipts for the period were \$758.84, consisting of \$719.16 in real estate tax revenues, \$30.68 in interest income, and \$9.00 in Wisconsin shared revenue for exempt computer aid. Disbursements for the period were \$2,211.00, consisting mainly of board stipends and insurance expenses. A transaction listing was attached showing each disbursement. As of April 30th, there were cash balances of \$65,236.66 in general checking and \$95,000.00 in an investment account. It was noted that approximately \$84,000 in the investment account was restricted for capital improvements or land acquisitions. Kapsner asked if Sabella was aware of the Wisconsin Investment Pool for which the Town of Oakland is a member. Sabella said that earlier investigations showed that it would not be in the LRMD's best interest to participate, primarily due to certain restrictions and other considerations. He pointed out that the Wisconsin Investment Pool represented a money market account with an uninsured, variable rate as opposed to the insured, fixed rate of return that we currently receive. Sabella said he would be happy to revisit the issue at the pleasure of the Board. Molinaro added that, at the time, the Board had expressed a desire to reinvest tax dollars locally.

LRPLP: Receipts for the period were \$6,906.18, consisting of \$6,780.00 in DNR cost-sharing reimbursements, a \$112.18 conference registration refund, and \$14.00 in interest income. There was \$3,762.01 in disbursements, consisting mainly of payroll and office rent. A transaction listing was attached showing each disbursement. Cash balances as of April 30th were \$200.00 in office petty cash, \$30,085.78 in general checking, and \$27,713.91 in the nonpoint source (cost-sharing) account. Molinaro noted that all available cost-share dollars are now earmarked for existing project commitments. He anticipated that the projects would be completed by the end of the year. He said that more money will need to be budgeted for cost sharing if these efforts are to continue in future years.

Kapsner moved to accept the treasurer's report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2006. Motion was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown with no subsequent discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Project Manager's Report

Molinaro distributed and reviewed copies of the project manager's report that Dearlove had prepared (see below).

2006 Earth Day Event

- Litter cleanup: Over 150 volunteers participated in the full-day event, filling two full-size dumpsters with trash. Target areas were CTH A, Lake Ripley outlet to USH 18, and Koshkonong Creek south of USH 18 through Cam-Rock Park.
- Town Hall rain garden: Volunteers installed a rain garden sign and performed seasonal maintenance work.

Cost-share Projects

- The Ball/Luzwick shoreline riprap project was completed.
- Phase I of the Ehrenberg shoreline restoration was completed.
- Weed-control efforts have started as part of the Dieckhoff wetland habitat restoration. Spraying and mowing will continue throughout the summer to prepare for planting and seeding next spring.
- Shoreline restorations have started at the Ehrenberg, Gaulke/Reay, Baker, Anderson and Lorden project sites.

Lake District Preserve

- Observation deck: Three contractors have visited the project site and have agreed to submit sketches and cost proposals. A building permit will be filed once a specific design and contractor are selected.
- The Board may want to consider re-positioning the entry sign for better visibility. The sign can also be improved in terms of its design so it is easier to read and more welcoming to visitors.

Outreach

- A homeowner instructional packet on rain gardens and rain barrels is now available. Technical and installation assistance can be provided to interested property owners.
- The following articles and announcements were published in the Cambridge News: Slow-no-wake within 200 feet of Lake Ripley shore; Water safety boating course; Help needed for community litter cleanup; Clean boats, clean waters; and John Molinaro receives Lake Stewardship Award.
- The kiosk at the public boat landing was updated with the new 200' slow-no-wake ordinance and fee schedule.
- Presentations were given at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention on how to conduct recreational carrying capacity assessments and how to work with town governments to adopt lake ordinances.
- A (draft) financial and strategic planning analysis was prepared as a starting point for Board discussion.

VI. Old Business

A. Wisconsin Lakes Convention Report

Molinaro, Dearlove and Jacobsen-Brown attended the Wisconsin Lakes Convention held April 20-22 in Green Bay. Molinaro said that he and Dearlove gave presentations on how to conduct recreational carrying capacity assessments, as well as how to work with town government to advance lake-protection policies. Molinaro also participated as a session moderator and keynote speaker. He said several hundred people were in attendance, and felt it was a very worthwhile experience. Jacobsen-Brown added that Molinaro was honored at the event with the 2006 WI Lake Stewardship Award.

B. DNR Mandates for Curing Kaashagen Easement Violation

Molinaro noted that the DNR had sent Mr. Kaashagen a notice of violation dated April 27, 2006. Copies of the letter were distributed. He said he spoke to Mike Halsted at DNR prior to the meeting and learned that Kaashagen had not yet responded to the letter. He said the DNR was planning to schedule a follow-up meeting with Kaashagen to go over the terms of the enforcement. As stated in the letter, Kaashagen will be required to restore the clear-cut area according to DNR specifications. There will also be a fine, but the amount was not yet specified. Any additional restoration activities the landowner may wish to perform would have to be requested in writing and approved by both the LRMD and DNR.

C. Proposal for Observation Deck at Lake District Preserve

Molinaro explained that Dearlove was working with three prospective contractors who were planning to submit bids. He said they were still waiting on a couple of the bids, and suggested that the matter be tabled until the next meeting.

D. Strategic Planning Initiative and Meeting

Molinaro reminded the Board that Priority Lake Project funding would no longer be available after this year. Over the last 13 years, roughly \$1 million in grants had been received to help pay for lake-improvement efforts. He distributed a cash-flow summary and strategic planning analysis that Dearlove had prepared for the meeting. The analysis included a description of current LRMD objectives, existing programs and activities, cost breakdowns and revenue sources. Molinaro said he planned to set aside the first hour of the June 17th meeting to initiate a public discussion regarding future priorities. Depending on what comes out of the discussion, he suggested a special committee could be put together at that time to explore various options prior to the August budget hearing. He noted that while lake districts have the statutory authority to tax up to 2.5 mills, the LRMD has never taxed above 0.5 mill, and currently taxes at around 0.2 mill. He explained that

the grant was responsible for financing significant lake-protection work over the years, and at very little real cost to local taxpayers. He said that work will continue in identifying other grant opportunities that may become available in the future.

Jacobsen-Brown expressed her strong support for the strategic planning initiative. She felt it was important for the Board to give Dearlove some assurances regarding the security of his employment. She also hoped to discuss the status of various management objectives that had been set forth during prior planning efforts. Kapsner wanted to know how the public was going to be notified about the upcoming meeting. Molinaro responded that he and Dearlove would make a concerted effort to get the word out, mainly by contacting homeowner groups and publishing articles in the local papers. Kapsner felt it was important to not only talk about what we do or have managed to accomplish, but also the potential consequences should these efforts be discontinued. Discussion ensued on the relationship between lake health and regional property values. Molinaro promised to gather research-supported statistics regarding this relationship in time for the next meeting.

In other Old Business, Sabella reported that he was able to get an erroneous \$750 insurance penalty waived. He complimented the new insurance broker for his work in getting the misunderstanding resolved. Molinaro, in turn, thanked Sabella for all his time, professional expertise and continued hard work in keeping the District's finances in order.

VII. New Business

A. Set Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting Dates

The Board set the budget hearing and Annual Meeting dates for August 12th and August 19th, respectively. Sabella cautioned that only seven months of financial data for the 2006 fiscal year would be available for making 2007 budgeting decisions. Molinaro agreed with Sabella that the timing presented some challenges. However, he and Jacobsen-Brown were reluctant to move the meeting dates later in the year when seasonal residents were less available.

In other New Business, Kapsner said the Town Board had come to a conclusion regarding the Elm Terrace (Beach Ln.) pier controversy. He said the Town had decided to put in a public pier at that location, and that no boat mooring would be allowed. Sabella asked about parking, questioning whether it would be accessible to people outside of the subdivision. Kapsner responded it may be possible for a limited number of people to park in the Beach Ln. right-of-way. In addition, he said there were many walkers on Ripley Rd. who would have easy access to the pier. Molinaro thanked Kapsner and the Town Board for their efforts in resolving the matter. He pointed out that it will be the only public pier on the lake where a non-riparian can freely access the water to fish or swim.

VIII. Correspondence

- April 27th letter from Pamela Kober, DNR Environmental Enforcement Specialist, to Dag Kaashagen regarding enforcement of Lake Pointe Conservation Easement violation.
- April 27th letter from Mike Halsted, DNR Water Management Specialist, to Ripley Waters Association regarding "Notice of Complete Application" for an inlet dredging permit. Molinaro summarized what DNR officials had told him regarding what they would allow. Kapsner asked about the potential benefits to the lake. Molinaro responded by sharing what he felt were some of the possible pros and cons associated with dredging. He said it was a question that would have to be answered for the purpose of gauging cost-share eligibility. Sabella voiced concern about the possibility of containment measures failing to keep suspended sediments from clouding the lake and impacting neighboring properties. He asked about the type of recourse that would be available if such a situation were to unfold. Molinaro offered to pose this question to Halsted. He added that the DNR employs an extensive review process to ensure that these types of projects will not adversely affect the lake. He said he was still waiting for a copy of the permit application, and promised to include the topic on next month's agenda to allow for further discussion.

IX. Adjournment

Jacobsen-Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Motion was seconded by McCarthy without further discussion. Motion carried 6-0. Next meeting: June 17, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD