

**Lake Ripley Management District**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2005**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board of Directors convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall at N4450 CTH A in Cambridge. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present included John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Sheri Walz, Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella, Gene Kapsner and Derek Hoffman. Public attendees included Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), Roger Rude, Kent Brown, Ron Buss, and Roger Kelly.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**III. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 04/16/05 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *McCarthy moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Walz with no further discussion. Motion carried 7-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and summarized the Treasurer's Report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2005, for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP).

LRMD: Total receipts for the period were \$911.85, consisting of \$64.18 in interest income and a real estate lottery credit of \$847.67. Total disbursements were \$136.91. Individual disbursements were itemized in an attached accounting ledger. There was a cash balance of \$134,282.97 with a \$31,662.06 receivable due from the LRPLP.

LRPLP: Total receipts for the period were \$19,125.23, consisting of \$15.23 in interest income and a state cost-share reimbursement of \$19,110.00. Total disbursements were \$3,292.54, consisting primarily of wages and office-related expenses. Individual disbursements were itemized in an attached accounting ledger. Cash balances included \$200.00 in petty cash, \$44,071.41 in general checking, and \$33,907.11 in the Nonpoint Source (cost sharing) account. There was a payable due back to the LRMD of \$31,662.06.

*Hoffman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was seconded by McCarthy with no further discussion. Motion carried 7-0.*

**V. Project Manager's Report**

Molinaro distributed and reviewed the Project Manager's Report for Dearlove who was on vacation. The report indicated that the following activities had been completed since the last meeting:

- Annual review meeting with DNR to discuss LRPLP progress
- Presented the results of the Lake Ripley/Rock Lake pier-shading study at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention
- Prepared and submitted permit applications for Town of Oakland, Wood, and Rohloff shoreline projects
- Produced educational materials for the Lake District Preserve's trail kiosks
- Assisted Town Police with the installation of the slow-no-wake buoys
- Met with Kent Brown and Town Police to plan for summer Lake Watch activities
- Completed water quality monitor training with Dennis McCarthy and Donna Sefton; zebra mussel monitoring devices installed at three locations around the lake
- Continued with the planning and coordination of the Town Hall rain gardens and several other cost-share projects
- Began working on script for Lake District video segment
- Developed a 3.2-acre habitat restoration plan for the Dieckhoff project; solicited contractor bids

Molinaro noted that Dearlove had attached a detailed scope of work for the proposed cost-share project on the Dieckhoff property. He indicated that Dearlove was requesting Board approval to proceed with the project using LRMD cost sharing. Considerable discussion ensued as to whether the Board had enough information to make an informed authorization decision. *Sabella moved to table a funding decision regarding the Dieckhoff project until the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*

*following the review of additional information. Motion was seconded by McCarthy and there was no further discussion. Motion carried 7-0.*

The report also detailed Dearlove's upcoming project tasks. These included the following:

- Move weed-harvesting equipment back to the lake in preparation of summer operations
- Develop LRMD cost-sharing contract; draft rain garden technical standards
- Write and produce a summer edition of Ripples
- Draft a lake-user opinion survey as discussed at previous meeting
- Assist with the preparation of the 6/21 Town hearing and informational open house
- Schedule another videotaping of the Lake Ripley shoreline
- Organize pontoon boat tours of Lake Ripley for elected officials
- Conduct scoping meeting with DNR to discuss grant ideas involving: 1) development of a lake nutrient budget, and 2) replicating natural treefalls to improve structural habitat for fish

## **VI. Old Business**

### *A. Ordinance Review Status*

Molinaro reminded the Board that the second Town hearing will take place on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Oakland Town Hall. He said the Town Board was receptive to our proposal to conduct an informational open house prior to the actual hearing. The open house was subsequently scheduled from 5:00-6:00 p.m. It is intended to allow the public to ask questions and obtain clarifications from the ordinance review committee before the hearing. In addition, he explained that the recommendations pertaining to sensitive areas would be taken up at a later date. Molinaro said Dearlove would provide any assistance that the Town might require in preparing for the event.

Roger Rude asked if the ordinance review committee had met to discuss dropping the recommendations related to sensitive areas. Molinaro responded that he had previously discussed the idea with the other members, except for Paul Jorstad who he was unable to reach. He said he received no objections to the idea of dropping the issue at this time so it could be addressed separately at a later date. He explained that the issue had proven somewhat contentious, and that it seemed to make more sense to deal with it separately from all the other recommendations. Jacobsen-Brown said her concern was making sure the issue eventually gets put back on the agenda.

### *B. Appointment of Project Review Committee*

Molinaro said he appointed Hoffman to assist him on the Project Review Committee. He explained the committee will be responsible for reviewing any proposed projects that fall outside the state's eligibility requirements. The committee, after conferring with the Project Manager and evaluating the merits of each proposal, will then make funding recommendations to the full Board. Discussion ensued as to the type of information that should be brought before the Board. Information that was requested included nature and scope of project, projected impacts or benefits, estimated costs, and the recommended cost-share rate. Additional discussion then ensued as to how cost-share rates should be determined in the future. In particular, it was discussed whether it would be appropriate for the Board to select reimbursement rates that might differ from those that were previously mandated by the state program. Discussion ended without any motions or conclusive decisions being made.

### *C. Wisconsin Lakes Convention*

Molinaro noted that he, Jacobsen-Brown and Dearlove attended all three days of the convention, and that Hoffman was there for part of the time through his business. He and Dearlove also participated as speakers and session moderators. Jacobsen-Brown, Hoffman and Molinaro each gave a brief synopsis of what was learned and experienced while attending the conference.

### *D. NR115 and NR326 Re-Write Status*

Molinaro reminded the Board that proposed changes to NR115 (shoreland zoning rules) would be going to public hearing this summer. After public comments are reviewed, the proposed changes would need to be approved by the Natural Resources Board before going to the legislature. He said he would announce the hearing dates and locations as soon as they were made available. He also expressed his disappointment that important issues such as keyholing were not being addressed at the state level through minimum standards, but rather left to the discretion of the individual counties.

As for proposed changes to NR326 (pier rules), Molinaro said he continues to participate on the advisory committee, and that public hearings had been conducted throughout the state. He said the committee will be meeting again via conference call to resolve three public-comment issues in which the members had not reached a consensus. These issues include whether or not to allow loading platforms, the permitting of grandfathered piers, and how to deal with environmentally

sensitive areas. Assuming the committee can reach consensus, the proposed changes would then be forwarded to the Natural Resources Board in July before going to the appropriate legislative committees in August or September. Sabella questioned the reason for meeting via conference call and asked what provisions were being made to comply with open meeting rules. Molinaro responded that the DNR had provided proper notice which included a toll-free number for anyone wishing to sit in on the discussion. Jacobsen-Brown requested that Molinaro object to the provision allowing 10x12' loading platforms at the end of piers without a permit. She said it was excessive and would prove detrimental to lakes. Molinaro explained that he was asked to sit on the committee as a riparian homeowner, and not as a representative of the Lake District or the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. He said he had personally received numerous e-mails, most from the northern part of the state, echoing her exact sentiments. He then explained the committee's position on the matter.

#### *E. Lake Watch*

Kent Brown, volunteer Lake Watch coordinator, was asked to update the Board on his activities. He and Dearlove recently had a planning meeting with Bruce Gondert and Jayme Bowman of the Town Police. He said the meeting went well and that an article was published in the Cambridge News to attract potential volunteers. Three volunteers are already participating, and additional contacts are being made to try to get more help. He said he will be meeting with the volunteers starting next week to provide the necessary education and paperwork. Molinaro quickly summarized the goals and objectives of Lake Watch for the benefit of those who were not familiar with the program. He pointed out that we were the first in Wisconsin to have such a program. McCarthy asked what kind of law-enforcement presence could be anticipated for the lake this summer. Brown responded that Ms. Bowman had been hired by the Town to work 35 hours per week. He was informed that her day-to-day schedule would vary, but that greater emphasis would be given to weekends and holidays.

In other Old Business, Hoffman asked about the proposed dredging project in the inlet channel. Molinaro responded that he was not yet aware of any permits being filed. He then offered some background on the matter and what the DNR had preliminarily identified as the main issues of concern. He indicated that significant progress has been made over the years to address the major sources of sediment to the channel. Kasper asked if documentation was available that might show how much sediment loading has been curtailed. Molinaro explained that Dearlove was closely tracking this type of information as a requirement of the Priority Lake Project's Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan. He said that ditch erosion alone was estimated to contribute close to 80% of the sediment input to the lake, and that most of these ditches have either been repaired or completely closed off. He said other sources can include leaf litter and aquatic plant decomposition which may not be feasible to eliminate.

Kapsner also brought up the issue of the outlet, leading to discussion of control structures for the purpose of regulating water levels. Molinaro explained that the matter had been previously investigated by the Board. He said that such a structure would need to be partially installed on private property, and that the affected landowner was staunchly opposed to the idea since he didn't want a stagnant creek bed running through his property. Molinaro said he would be happy to revisit the whole idea if any members of the Board wanted to try and reopen discussions with the landowner. Any such structure would also have to be authorized by DNR. Kapsner noted that an acceptable water level would need to be established which could be controversial in itself.

Jacobsen-Brown asked about the status of the Majestic Pines' pier permit request. Molinaro reviewed the details of the permit request and said that he was not aware of any DNR decision at the present time. He said we had requested and would be receiving a written copy of the decision once it is made.

## **VII. New Business**

### *A. Insurance Review*

Sabella explained the LRMD's insurance needs, and reviewed its existing coverages and policy premiums through Binning & Dickens Insurance. He then provided the Board with a detailed insurance comparison based on a competing proposal from The Horton Group. Board discussion followed as to what insurance changes might be appropriate, and what strategies could be taken to reduce the premiums while maintaining sufficient coverage. Sabella said he favored The Horton Group, but agreed to approach both insurance brokers in an attempt to negotiate the most favorable insurance package. ***Sabella then moved for the authorization to retain The Horton Group for insurance purposes at a total FY2006 premium cost not to exceed \$4,169. Motion was seconded by Walz. As a point of discussion, Kapsner recommended dropping collision insurance on the used trucks. Sabella agreed and said he would try to get the insurance costs lowered by increasing the policy deductibles, reducing the estimated value of the two trucks, and removing the collision insurance on the trucks. Walz questioned whether the proposed medical payments cap provided adequate protection. Sabella said he would rely on the advice of the insurance experts as to what was appropriate for our situation. There was no further discussion. Motion carried 7-0.***

*B. Land Legacy*

Molinaro provided the Board with an overview of Jefferson County's Land Legacy program. He said that significant state funding may soon become available for land-conservation purposes in the county. He felt the funding could potentially allow the Lake District to acquire the wooded area at the center of the Lake District Preserve. Molinaro said he would keep the Board updated as additional information on the Land Legacy program becomes available.

In other New Business and in reference to the wooded area at the Preserve, Sabella suggested contacting the landowner and offering our assistance to remove the stockpile of old tires. Sabella also asked if it would be possible for meeting information to be distributed to the Board a few days in advance of each meeting. He felt it would allow the Board more time to consider the materials and research any issues prior to having it discussed at the meetings. Molinaro agreed to discuss the matter with Dearlove to see what would make the most sense. He also announced that he and Dearlove would be trying to meet with the different homeowner's groups around the lake for informational outreach purposes.

**VIII. Correspondence**

- Copy of letter dated April 12 from Jefferson County Zoning to Allen Howe (Majestic Pines) pertaining to shoreland zoning enforcement action.
- Letter dated April 26 to Town of Oakland suggesting hearing protocols for 6/21 public hearing.
- May 13 letter to Town of Oakland documenting continued erosion-control concerns and recommending corrective measures for Town Hall site.

**IX. Adjournment**

Prior to moving for adjournment, Jacobsen-Brown asked everyone to put the 6/21 Town hearing date on their calendars. She said she wanted to make sure that the Town Board members hear from as many people as possible, and not just those who are opposed to the ordinance proposals. She said if the surveys were any indication of how people felt, the vast majority of residents supports the recommendations and should make their voices heard. ***Jacobsen-Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Motion was seconded by Hoffman and there was no further discussion. Motion carried by a 7-0 vote.*** Next meeting: June 18, 2005 (9:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall)

Respectfully Submitted,

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Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD