

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2007**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board convened at the Oakland Town Hall on June 16, 2007. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present included Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Mike Burow. Derek Hoffman and Dennis McCarthy were absent. Also present were Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Paul Heiberger, Ron Buss, Kent Brown and Gary Zibel (Cable TV 12).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

Molinaro moved for approval of the May 12, 2007 meeting minutes, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella presented the treasurer's report for the one-month period ending May 31, 2007. Receipts for the period totaled \$19,026.01. Receipts consisted of \$431.60 in interest earned on investments, \$1,273.41 in property taxes, a Kaashagen settlement of \$2,221.00, a \$100.00 donation to the Friends of the Preserve Fund by the Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club, and a \$15,000.00 advance on a DNR Lake Planning Grant. Disbursements for the period were \$7,170.46, consisting mainly of payroll and general operating expenses (see Transaction Listing). As of May 31, 2007, there were cash balances of \$76,970.55 in general checking, and \$97,492.00 in the investment account. Sabella noted that a bank CD was due to expire at the end of June. Following an evaluation of competing interest rate bids, the money will then be moved into another six- or nine-month CD. To maintain FDIC insurance, Sabella said the balance will be kept below \$100,000.

Kapsner moved to accept the treasurer's report, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last meeting. He reviewed the status of several pending cost-share projects that were in various stages of implementation. A project-information summary table was distributed. One of the listed projects had been proposed but still required a subcommittee evaluation and Board approval. It was estimated that sufficient cost-share funds were available to cover projected expenses. Dearlove said that some projects were on hold at landowner request, casting doubt as to whether or not they would move forward this year. Molinaro indicated that a number of Shore Place residents expressed interest in installing rain gardens at a recent association meeting. Dearlove agreed to evaluate properties in the Shore Place subdivision and other areas around the lake to gauge their suitability as rain garden sites.

It was anticipated that the weed harvester would be launched within the next two weeks. Meanwhile, milfoil beds were being monitored. Monitoring of water quality conditions and zebra mussels was also underway. Dearlove reported that McCarthy had recorded a Secchi disk reading of 6.5 feet last Sunday, and that the zebra mussel collection plates had been re-installed. A summary of water quality data collected on Lake Ripley over the last 20 years was then presented. The analysis showed Trophic State Index (TSI) values consistently around 50. The Priority Lake Project goal was to maintain TSI values under 50. It was announced that sediment coring with Paul Garrison was scheduled for July 11th at 9:00 a.m. Board members were invited to come along to observe.

Dearlove presented preliminary cost information for boardwalks at the Lake District Preserve. He estimated that at least 900 feet of boardwalk may be necessary to negotiate seasonally flooded areas along the path. At a minimum, he felt the boardwalk should be six feet wide and appropriately rated to accommodate a 600-pound mower. While products and cost estimates were still being investigated, it was noted that a Wickcraft system would run at least \$120 per lineal foot. Pictures of the boardwalk system were distributed. While a gravel path would be considerably less expensive, Dearlove said it would result in the filling of wetlands and would not likely be permitted. He was reluctant to make any specific recommendations until he was clear on the Board's long-term vision and objectives for the Preserve. Sabella suggested convening a long-range planning committee of citizens and Board members that could address these types of questions. Molinaro added that a Lake Ripley E-Bulletin could be disseminated to help identify interested committee participants. If there is sufficient interest, he said an ad-hoc committee could be established at the next meeting. Kapsner felt that taking it to the community might prove helpful in identifying sources of funding.

In other news, Dearlove mentioned that the Town had installed a new pier at the boat landing, and a public fishing pier next at the intersection of Ripley Rd. and Beach Ln. He also reported on carp-harvesting efforts at the outlet.

VI. Old Business

A. Ripley Waters Association dredging permit application

Dearlove distributed notes from his June 5th meeting in Janesville with Al Byla at DNR. He said Byla had invited him down to review the amended permit application for dredging the inlet before he wrote up the permit. Dearlove provided a brief overview of the proposed dredging operation, the status of the permitting process, and the specific questions related to the project that remained unanswered. He expressed disappointment that a number of basic but critical questions related to the proposed project had not been addressed, including questions LRMD had forwarded to DNR a year ago when the application was first submitted. A copy of a 6/22/06 e-mail to Mike Halsted (DNR) was distributed for the Board's review. Dearlove said he and Byla were in agreement that the questions needed to be addressed before an approval was issued.

Ron Buss voiced his displeasure with various aspects of the DNR permitting process. In particular, he was frustrated with the amount of time it was taking, and was perplexed why the Association was not being allowed to dredge the "holding ponds." He felt the holding ponds would have helped trap sediment and protect the lake, and would have extended the life of the main channel before it filled in again. He said he disagreed with DNR's rationale for some of the positions it was taking. Kapsner replied that the Association's objectives for the channel were probably quite different from the DNR's objectives. Jacobsen-Brown asked for clarification on the Association's main objective, which Buss confirmed was to be able to get boats in and out of the channel.

Sabella said the Board should take the position that DNR not sign off on a permit until all relevant questions were answered, especially if LRMD is to assume any kind of a monitoring role. He then asked Buss if the Association would be willing to address these questions outside of the permit-application process, primarily to assist LRMD with monitoring the operation and ensuring its success. Buss responded that the proposed project was publicly noticed over a year ago, and that nobody had anything to say about it at that point in time. He said that while he understands the questions that had been raised, and probably agrees they should be answered, it was also the first time he was made aware of them. Molinaro clarified that the LRMD had in fact submitted related questions during the comment period, and that they were documented in the 6/22/06 e-mail to Halsted. He explained that LRMD was simply following established procedures by submitting its comments directly to DNR. Dearlove added that he provided a copy of the e-mail at the time to Mary Shafer, who had delivered the original permit application on behalf of the Association.

Molinaro concluded the discussion by offering to have a conversation with Sue Josheff at DNR. He said he would try to get to the bottom of the communication and procedural questions with respect to the permitting process. He said that the LRMD wanted to work with both the Association and DNR in getting these issues resolved, and in a manner that ensures the protection of Lake Ripley.

B. Repair/replacement of shore conveyor engine for weed harvesting

Dearlove reported that an air-filter cover was needed for the shore conveyor engine. The cover was originally stolen by vandals last season, and the search for a replacement part has been unsuccessful. He said Bill Ratzberg was now attempting to fabricate a crude cover that could be retrofitted onto the engine. While he was confident that the effort would prove successful, he said he wanted to be prepared in the event of a worst-case scenario where a new motor was needed. He said that Ratzberg had estimated that a new engine might cost around \$1,000. *Sabella moved to authorize Dearlove to spend up to \$1,000 from the capital reserve account for the replacement and mounting of a new engine, but only if repair of the existing engine is not feasible. Jacobsen-Brown asked if Sabella would be willing to amend his motion to allow for a higher spending limit. Sabella amended his motion to allow for a \$1,500 spending cap to cover purchase and installation. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 5-0.*

In other Old Business, Jacobsen-Brown said she had observed a number of no-wake boating violations during the evening hours. She asked if it would be possible to get a summary report from the Town Police regarding its lake patrol efforts. As far as Lake Watch, she said that she and Kent will agree to coordinate the program if Chief Gondert agrees to send warning letters to documented violators. She also said they were in need of Lake Watch volunteers. Molinaro noted that no action could be taken on the matter since it was not on the agenda, but offered to put it on next month's agenda.

VII. New Business

A. Approve internship to implement rain garden campaign

Paul Heiberger was introduced to the Board. Dearlove explained that Heiberger was one of the UW-Madison students who helped design our community-based social marketing program related to rain gardens. He said that Heiberger—a master's student in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development—had agreed to assist with the implementation of the

program as a non-paid intern. Heiberger then summarized his anticipated work plan for the coming year. Proposed activities included conducting a survey and another focus group, identifying optimal rain garden sites, developing a series of educational workshops, retooling outreach strategies, pursuing grant assistance, and implementing a number of other recommendations that were advanced by the class. Dearlove said he planned to work closely with Heiberger over the course of the summer to lend assistance.

Sabella moved to authorize the payment of out-of-pocket expenses associated with the non-paid internship, subject to Dearlove's review and approval. Motion seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Construction site erosion-control monitoring and enforcement

Dearlove reported on what he felt was a continued lack of monitoring and enforcement of construction site erosion-control measures around the lake. Despite repeated prior phone calls to the Town building inspector, a number of active construction sites had failed to maintain adequate erosion controls which contributed to recent runoff and erosion problems. He said the building inspector and Town Chair are both aware of the situation.

Molinaro noted that this was really a Town of Oakland matter as it relates to the enforcement of a Town building inspection ordinance. He said he felt uncomfortable with Dearlove having to regularly contact the building inspector to point out these problems. Following the latest incident, he said he asked Dearlove to communicate our concerns directly to Lynn Anderson and other Town Board representatives so they can take any necessary action. Dearlove confirmed that that was done. He said he now intended to review the Town ordinance to see if the erosion-control standards were both clear and adequate. Molinaro asked that he also check on any rules that govern construction timeframes.

C. Town rain garden repairs

A proposal and cost estimate was prepared by Midwest Prairies LLC on 6/8/07 for rain garden repairs. Dearlove explained that portions of the rain garden could use spot spraying and re-seeding due to a weed infestation and prior seed failure. He said the weeds were an aggressive variety that could not be controlled through regular hand-pulling and therefore required a special herbicide. The plan was to use LRMD cost-share funds to cover the \$395 estimated cost of the work. Justifications were that the public rain garden serves as a community demonstration effort, and because the expense was more a consequence of the original installation than a lack of maintenance. Jacobsen-Brown asked if bad seed stock or contractor error might be responsible. Dearlove responded that it was unlikely since only certified seed stock was used and that every precaution was taken to ensure successful germination. He said that weather, weed competition, wood chipping and other factors could have played a role.

Jacobsen-Brown moved for Midwest Prairies to complete the rain garden work as specified in its proposal dated 6/8/07. Motion seconded by Sabella. As a point of discussion, Sabella requested a review and discussion of LRMD purchasing procedures at the next meeting. He said he favored the concept of a purchasing manual to establish clear procedural guidelines for various types of purchasing decisions. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Schedule budget meeting

Molinaro said he needed to meet with Sabella and Dearlove to draft a 2008 budget. A budget meeting was scheduled for [7/9/07](#) at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting would be duly noticed and open to the public.

VIII. Correspondence

- Invitation letters dated 6/4/07 were mailed to the Town Board, Town Police and DNR officials for the 6/16 boat tour.
- A letter dated 6/5/07 was received from Tracy D'Alessandro of the Cedar Shores Association along with an \$80.00 donation to the F.K. Elson Fund in memory of Al Walter.

IX. Adjournment

Sabella moved for adjournment at 10:45 a.m., and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.
Next meeting: July 21, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD