

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2004**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairman Molinaro called the meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) to order at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Hoffman took roll call and noted the following Board members present: John Molinaro, Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy, Sheri Walz, and Mike Sabella. Paul Jorstad and Joanne Knilans were absent. Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), Shirley Teske (Cambridge News), Tim Lorden (LRMD resident), and Roger Rude (LRMD resident) were also in attendance.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 05/15/04 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *McCarthy moved to accept the minutes as written. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sabella distributed financial statements for the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) for the one-month period ending May 31, 2004. He then provided a brief summary:

LRMD: Receipts for the period were \$50.74 in interest earned on investments. Disbursements for the period were \$672.24. Expenses incurred were for staff training, convention fees, vehicle repairs and office petty cash. There was a cash balance of \$109,507.85 as of May 31, 2004. Other items reported included a \$39,000.00 receivable from the LRPLP.

LRPLP: Receipts for the period were \$30.78 in interest earned on investments. Disbursements for the period were \$3,573.67, consisting entirely of payroll and office expenses. Cash balances on May 31, 2004, included: \$200.00 in petty cash; \$52,216.49 in general checking; and \$23,844.40 in the Nonpoint Source (cost-sharing) Account. Other items reported included a \$39,000.00 payable owed to the LRMD.

Walz moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized the status of various projects and activities since the 05/15/04 meeting:

Cost-Share Projects

- A cost-share contract, construction plan and permit application were approved for the McCarthy shoreline project.
- Eleanor Wood signed up to cost-share a 90-ft. shoreline bioengineering project.
- Plans are being prepared to correct minor erosion at three prior bioengineering sites affected by high-water levels.
- Five additional shoreline projects and one ditch-repair project are awaiting implementation.

Aquatic Habitat Study

- A number of study sites were identified on Lake Ripley and Rock Lake.
- Fieldwork on both lakes will start at the end of the month and continue throughout July.
- The study will involve taking light measurements and sampling for fish, aquatic plants and macro-invertebrates under piers and at adjoining control sites.

Weed Harvesting

- Preparations are underway to move the harvesting equipment back to the lake next week.
- Teske and Schueler are currently conducting routine maintenance and minor repairs on the equipment.

Lake Watch

- An article was submitted to the Cambridge News to promote the program and request volunteer assistance.

- Town of Oakland approval was received to install a lock box at the public landing for volunteer use.

Lake District Preserve

- A narrative on the Lake District Preserve was submitted for inclusion in the updated Jefferson County Parks & Open Space Plan. The narrative described past management activities and outlined future project goals. The Preserve's inclusion in this comprehensive plan will guarantee eligibility for future Stewardship funding.
- Meetings were held at the Preserve with Bill McKinley of Land Resource Company LLC to start exploring the feasibility and costs of additional boardwalks, informational kiosks, etc. Dearlove requested that the Board decide what it generally wants to accomplish and how much it is willing to spend as an agenda item for the next meeting. He said he would then develop concept plans and solicit cost estimates for any proposed trail improvements.

Other News

- Full payment in the amount of \$682.84 was received in satisfaction of the Probst civil judgment. The property was sold and is now under new ownership.
- Work is underway to produce a summer edition of Ripples. Dearlove indicated that the theme will probably be on volunteering, and he asked Board members to contact him with article ideas.
- The DNR received a permit inquiry from Majestic Pines for a proposed pier in Vasby's Channel. According to Mike Halsted's response, a permit approval is highly unlikely given that the location is part of a designated sensitive area.
- Molinaro and Dearlove were interviewed for an article that will appear in the special Lake Ripley edition of the Cambridge News. The article will highlight the ongoing efforts of the LRMD and Priority Lake Project.
- Hoffman and Dearlove were field trained by DNR staff on various water quality monitoring techniques. They will be measuring Secchi depth, oxygen and temperature profiles, total phosphorus concentrations, and chlorophyll *a* levels throughout the summer. Hoffman noted that a 9-ft. Secchi depth was recorded on June 4th, indicating comparatively good water clarity for this time of year. There was also discussion on the heavy spring rainfall and associated runoff the lake is receiving. Dearlove indicated that algae blooms favor these types of conditions. He was hopeful that the BMPs being implemented through the Priority Lake Project will lessen the impact of the unusually wet weather.

VI. Old Business

A. Lake Ordinances Review Committee (Lake District/Town Boards)

The second meeting of the Lake Ordinances Review Committee was held on June 9, 2004. Molinaro announced that significant progress had been made on a number of fronts, and that a full presentation will be made to the Board once the committee has finalized its recommendations. The next meeting will take place from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on July 7, 2004, at the Lake District office. Dearlove indicated that the meeting minutes are being posted on the LRMD website.

B. U.S. Highway 12 Construction Update

Molinaro provided a brief update on the U.S. Highway 12 construction, including the best routes to take to access the public boat landing. In regards to the public landing, Sabella said he witnessed a lot of illegal parking on previous weekends. He asked why the parking rules were not being enforced. Molinaro replied that the issue had been brought up at recent meetings of both the Town Board and Lake Ordinances Review Committee, and that Officer Gondert was aware of the situation. Gondert had also informed him that the Town's new lake patrol officer had recently started and will be working about 35 hours per week. McCarthy indicated that he saw the police boat out on the lake on numerous occasions the previous weekend. Dearlove added that the Lake Watch will help keep the police informed of illegal boating activities when they can't be out on the lake, and that the information can help them allocate resources accordingly. Molinaro then pointed out that law enforcement is ultimately a Town obligation and not within the Lake District's authority.

C. Annual Meeting Timetable

Molinaro confirmed that the Annual Meeting is set for August 21, 2004. Board positions currently held by Sabella and Knilans will be up for election. He asked Sabella and Knilans to make their intentions known as to whether they intend to run for re-election. Other interested candidates were asked to submit nomination papers to the secretary at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting date to be listed on the ballot. Space will also be provided for write-in candidates. Molinaro indicated that notice of both the Annual Meeting and August 14th Budget Hearing will be disseminated no less than 14 days prior to each meeting date. He said he will be getting together with Sabella and Dearlove soon to work out a proposed budget. Sabella added that an Audit Committee will also need to be convened to examine the books from the prior year.

VII. New Business

A. Lake Levels

Molinaro indicated that emergency no-wake ordinances are in affect on many lakes and streams in the area due to high-water levels. He explained that the Lake Ordinances Review Committee is likely to recommend a similar protocol for Lake Ripley when water levels reach a certain point. Discussion followed as to where and how a staff gage can be installed to accurately monitor lake levels.

B. Weed Harvester Training

Dearlove noted that Ted Teske and Chuck Schueler had recently completed a weed-harvesting training workshop which was very well received. He said he invited them to the meeting so they could meet the Board and give a report on the training, but that they evidently were unable to make it. Dearlove explained that Teske had also requested the opportunity to discuss his wage rate. Molinaro added that a Closed Session had been included later in the agenda for the purpose of revisiting the wage policy should that become necessary.

C. Lake Leaders Workshop

McCarthy and Hoffman each gave a brief summary of the Lake Leaders Workshop they attended in Green Lake, WI. McCarthy said he was impressed with all the presenters, and that he found the experience to be both inspiring and educational. Hoffman concurred, and recounted his surprise to learn that legislative representatives are often moved to take action on an issue after receiving only 10 letters from concerned citizens. Molinaro noted that McCarthy and Hoffman will be attending two more workshops as part of the Wisconsin Lake Leaders curriculum.

D. Friends of Lake District Preserve

Molinaro explained the role of "Friends" groups, and floated the idea of creating such a group to help with ongoing projects at the Lake District Preserve. He indicated that available staff time, funding and manpower was already stretched thin, and asked if any Board members would be willing to take the lead in getting such a group started. Hoffman felt that if an article ran in the paper that managed to generate a half-dozen interested volunteers, then the Board as a whole might be able to take on a limited role in orchestrating the group. However, he felt it could prove to be a significant challenge for one member to take on alone. Sabella added that he supports the concept in general, but was concerned about drawing limited volunteer resources away from the Lake Watch program. He felt Lake Watch should probably take precedence over a Friends of the Preserve group given that lake safety is a priority. Molinaro agreed that Lake Watch is a priority, but pointed out that prospective volunteers need access to a boat to participate, not to mention an interest in that particular type of work. Sabella felt the purpose of the Board was to set up programs in which citizens could participate, and was reluctant to have any one Board member try to take on the responsibility of day-to-day coordination. Sabella said he would first like to assess the results of any volunteer solicitation to see what kind of interest can be generated, and preferred to continue the discussion after the August elections. Walz suggested that The Nature Conservancy could be contacted in the meantime to obtain additional guidance.

VIII. Closed Session (as provided by Sec. 19.85(1)(c) of Wis. Stats.)

The Board was prepared, if necessary, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of revisting the pay scale that it established for weed-harvesting staff. Since Teske and Schueler were not in attendance to make such a request, the Board remained in Open Session.

IX. Return to Open Session

The Board had not gone into Closed Session so no action was warranted.

X. Correspondence

There was no other correspondence that had not already been reviewed and discussed.

XI. Adjournment

Sabella moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Hoffman seconded. Motion to adjourn was carried 5-0 vote.

Next meeting: July 17, 2004 (9:00 a.m. @ Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD