

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2003**

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 9:05 a.m. Secretary Hoffman took roll call. Board members present were Pam Rogers, Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella, John Molinaro and Joanne Knilans. Paul Jorstad was absent, and Knilans left shortly after roll call was taken. Others present included Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager), and Gary and Barry Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Special Presentation by Paul Garrison of DNR

Paul Garrison, Research Scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, spoke about the importance of near-shore tree falls, snags and other woody structure for fisheries habitat. He demonstrated through prior research findings how this type of habit directly influences fish growth and reproduction. He encouraged lakefront property owners to leave trees and other vegetation growing along the shoreline, and cautioned against "cleaning" the lake of fallen tree limbs and other woody structure.

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and had no additions or corrections. Rogers moved to accept the minutes as written. McCarthy seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sabella reviewed the financial statements for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) accounts for the second quarter ending June 30, 2003. Highlights are provided below.

LRMD: The Balance Sheet showed total current assets of \$114,527.75, including \$69,181.06 in checking and a \$45,346.69 receivable due from the LRPLP, and no liabilities. The Statement of Operations showed total revenue of \$1,431.90 during the three-month period ending June 30th. Revenues included \$905.04 in property taxes, \$176.86 in interest income, \$300.00 in donations, and \$50 in miscellaneous income. Operating expenses consisted of \$3,477.10 for insurance, \$770.00 for weed harvesting, and \$2,326.07 for general operations. Other expenses included \$5,330.84 for trail improvements at the Lake District Preserve. Sabella also distributed an Actual-To-Budget/Budget-Remaining Report, and a detailed listing of disbursements.

LRPLP: The Balance Sheet showed total current assets of \$66,920.63, including \$200.00 in petty cash, \$52,053.49 in checking, and \$14,667.14 in the Nonpoint Source account. Total current liabilities were \$46,232.59, consisting of \$885.90 in accrued federal payroll taxes and a \$45,346.69 payable to the LRMD. The Statement of Operations showed total revenue of \$61,426.16 during the three-month period ending June 30th. Revenues included \$15,050.00 in state cost-sharing reimbursement, \$46,350.00 in state grant monies, and \$26.16 in interest income. Total direct costs were \$5,107.10 for cost-sharing projects. Total operating expenses were \$13,050.86, consisting mainly of payroll, rent and general office expenses. Sabella also distributed a detailed listing of disbursements.

Following the treasurer's report, Molinaro explained that he was still trying to find an LRMD citizen to serve on the Financial Audit Committee. Current members include Sabella and Rogers, who agreed to set a committee meeting date sometime before the Annual Meeting. He also indicated that he, Sabella and Dearlove would be meeting later in the morning to work on the 2004 budget.

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove presented the Lake Manager's Report, detailing activities of the Priority Lake Project since the last meeting. The following actions were taken since the 06/21/03 meeting:

- Mobilized weed-harvesting equipment and commenced operations.
- Wrote newsletter to be distributed in a couple weeks; LRMD will be responsible for future formatting and printing costs due to state budget cuts.
- Performed watercraft/pier survey; compiled data from public launch registrations; and completed video documentary of Lake Ripley shoreline development. Preparing to perform a follow-up watercraft survey and measure pier lengths as part of carrying capacity study.
- Lake District Preserve: Worked with Frey Landscaping to mow and repair a portion of the preserve trail; contracted with ABEX Survey to re-mark corner posts to address farming encroachment issue. (Molinaro explained that the neighboring landowner has continued to till soil that was recently planted with prairie seed donated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, despite prior warnings. Efforts will now be taken to address the issue. Sabella suggested we first contact the USFWS to determine the amount of the damages.)
- Attended final meeting of the Jefferson County Lake Enhancement Steering Committee. (Molinaro updated the Board on what happened at the meeting and what happens next.)
- Updated parcel records and sent 'Welcome Wagon' packets to 17 new residents.
- Closed out DNR Lake Planning Grant and requested expense reimbursement for aquatic plant study.
- Unfortunately, our application for a \$50,000 rain garden grant from the EPA was not awarded.
- Lake Watch report by Joanne Knilians.

VII. Old Business

A. Recreational Carrying Capacity Report

Molinaro reviewed data-collection efforts performed since the last meeting. He indicated that hundreds of boat counts have been taken so far. Counts are taken of watercraft actively using the lake during various days and time periods, as well as those that are parked on shore. Public boat launch records are also being evaluated to estimate the proportion of watercraft that access the lake from that location. In addition, piers have been counted and measured, and a video record of the shoreline was completed. Molinaro anticipated that sufficient data will be available by the end of August to start writing the report. Preliminary numbers will be shared with members of the Oakland Town Board during the informational tour at the end of the month.

As a result of this process, it was determined that a lot of illegal parking was occurring at the landing. Sabella felt it was important to inform the Town of the problem for policing purposes.

B. Status of Deed Restrictions for Majestic Pines

Dearlove distributed to the Board copies of e-mail correspondence that had been exchanged with the Town's legal counsel regarding Majestic Pines. Molinaro then re-summarized the development proposal, noting that the Town had stipulated several requirements as a condition for approval, and that these requirements had not yet been satisfied. At the LRMD's urging, these requirements included that the island and outlots would remain unbuildable, and that special deed restrictions would be established to ensure protection of the wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas. He explained that the developer recently requested to build a picnic shelter and perform some vegetation clearing on the island. The Town Board subsequently reiterated its position that no structures be built on the island. The Board then reaffirmed its stance that vegetation cutting be kept to a minimum in the wetlands/sensitive areas by means of reasonable deed restrictions. Molinaro explained that respective legal counsel planned to sit down together to work on getting any outstanding issues resolved. He said the LRMD would continue to serve as an expert advisor to the Town Board until we reach final plat approval.

C. Annual Meeting

Molinaro indicated that a proposed 2004 budget and Annual Meeting agenda will be published next week to comply with public-notice requirements. A budget Hearing will then be held August 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall. He said he had not yet learned whether a state-imposed property tax freeze was forthcoming that could influence the budgeting process. In any case, he said that every effort would be taken to continue to remain fiscally conservative for tax purposes. The Annual Meeting will then take place on August 16th, again at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

D. Lake Ripley Tour w/ Oakland Town Board

Molinaro was pleased to report that the Town Board was looking forward to the Lake Ripley informational tour the LRMD plans to host on their behalf. The tour will be noticed and conducted according to open meetings law. It is scheduled for July 29th, and will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake District Preserve. Participants will then board pontoon boats (provided by Molinaro and McCarthy) at the public landing for a tour of the lake. The goal of the tour is to educate the Town Board on matters pertaining to the protection and management of Lake Ripley. He emphasized that it was strictly for informational purposes, and that no action will be taken on any discussion items.

The Board was asked if any other Old Business needed to be discussed. There was no other Old Business.

VIII. New Business

Dearlove reminded the Board that future meeting dates needed to be scheduled. Chairman Molinaro then set the following meeting schedule following the Annual Meeting: 09/20/03, 10/18/03, 11/15/03 and 01/17/03. All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

IX. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received since the last meeting:

- Letter dated 7/1/03 from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The letter informed us that our application for a \$50,000 rain garden grant could not be funded.
- E-mails dated 7/11/03 – 7/14/03 exchanged between the LRMD, Attorney Dick Yde, and Howard Olson of the Oakland Town Board regarding Majestic Pines.

X. Adjournment

Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m. Rogers seconded. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD