

**Lake Ripley Management District**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 16, 2003**

**I. Call to Order**

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman John Molinaro at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Derek Hoffman took roll call. Board members present at roll call were John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Pam Rogers and Derek Hoffman. Joanne Knilans was also present, but arrived shortly after roll call was taken. Paul Jorstad and Dennis McCarthy were absent. Others present included Paul Dearlove (Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable 12), Sophia Estante (Cambridge News), Ann Molinaro (elector), Roger Rude (elector), Rich Moen (elector), and Chuck Seeley (elector).

**II. Approval of 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Sabella, and passed by a unanimous vote.

**III. Nomination of Board Candidates**

Ballots were distributed to the electors present. Molinaro announced that Hoffman's term on the Board was due to expire following the Annual Meeting. Hoffman was nominated for re-election, and his name appeared on the ballot. No other nominations were received. Molinaro noted that space was left on the ballot for those who wished to submit write-in candidates. The electors present were then asked to cast their ballots so they could be tabulated.

**IV. Chairman's Report**

Molinaro presented the Chairman's Report. He began by reviewing the purpose and mission of the Lake Ripley Management District. He explained that the LRMD's many programs and activities are implemented with the goal of protecting, preserving and rehabilitating Lake Ripley. Pollution-abatement, lake-management and aquatic plant-management plans are all used to guide policy making. He said the Board strives to make decisions in a fair and equitable manner with the best information available, and without letting personal agendas, friendships or expediency get in the way of its mission. Molinaro then discussed the budget and budgeting process. He indicated that a bare bones budget is being proposed involving a small 2% increase over the prior year. He also reminded residents that for the last ten years over half of the LRMD's expenses have been covered by state grants. That funding will end in 2006, at which time the LRMD will have to absorb those costs just to maintain the status quo. Although some monies are being set aside each year to plan for that eventuality, he pointed out that a substantial budget increase will soon be necessary to continue this important work. He concluded his report by thanking his fellow Board members and the many volunteers who devote their time, skills and energies to the protection of Lake Ripley.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mike Sabella reviewed his role and responsibilities as treasurer of the organization, which was primarily to safeguard the assets of the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP). Responsibilities include preparing monthly and quarterly financial reports, collecting revenues, paying all operating expenses, and satisfying IRS reporting requirements. He then reviewed the Statement of Cash Flows he had prepared for the LRMD and LRPLP for the period 12/31/01 to 12/31/02 (see attached).

Under Section 33.29(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, Sabella noted that the Board is required to have an audit of the financial transactions of the LRMD to be prepared at the close of each fiscal year and presented at the Annual Meeting. The audit may be performed by an outside accounting firm or an internal committee. He then asked Rogers, as chair of the internal committee, to discuss the findings of the audit investigation. Rogers reported that the committee met on August 10, 2003, and then described the procedure used to conduct the audit. Committee members included Rogers, Craig Miller and Chuck Seeley. Sabella was also present at the audit committee meeting to present the accounting records and answer questions. After examining accounting records for FY2002, the committee concluded that the financial statements accurately reflected the receipts and disbursements of the LRMD and LRPLP. Rogers distributed copies of the meeting minutes.

Sabella concluded his report by inviting the public to inspect the financial records of the District following the meeting.

**VI. Budget & Tax Levy**

Copies of the 2004 proposed budget were distributed to those present. Molinaro reviewed the procedure for approving the budget, and explained that the law requires a separate vote for each line item in excess of \$5,000. He then asked Sabella to present the proposed budget.

Sabella described the procedure used to develop the budget which was first presented and discussed at the August 9, 2003 Budget Hearing. He then described each budget category in detail, indicating whether there would be any anticipated carryover, and explaining the nature of any changes in funding levels. A summary of the proposed 2004 budget is presented below.

	2003	2004	%CHANGE
PROJECTS			
LRPLP LAG	29000	34000	+17.2
LRMD ACRA CONTRIBUTION	10000	10000	
WEED HARVESTING	4500	4500	
LAKE DISTRICT PRESERVE	4900	4900	
LAKE WATCH	250	250	
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	3000	1500	-50.0
NO-WAKE REGULATION	3500	3500	
INSURANCE			
GENERAL LIABILITY	1400	1400	
MARINE & TRUCK	1000	1000	
WORKERS' COMPENSATION	900	900	
OPERATIONS			
LEGAL COUNSEL	1000	3000	+200.0
DUES/CONFERENCES	1000	1000	
OFFICE/MAILINGS	900	500	-44.0
CONTINGENCY	1500	1500	
COMMISSIONER STIPENDS	5150	4900	-5.0
CAPITAL RESERVE & LAND ACQUIS.	10000	10000	
TOTAL	78000	82850	+6.2
LESS CARRY OVER	<22550>	<26300>	
REQUIRED TAX LEVY	55450	56550	+2.0

Rogers moved to approve the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project Local Assistance Grant (LRPLP LAG) budget item. Hoffman seconded. Molinaro asked if there was any discussion. Roger Rude inquired about how that money was to be spent, and specifically with respect to salaries. Molinaro and Sabella explained that some of these funds are used to cover shortfalls in the \$46,350 annual state grant that pays for administering the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project. The majority of this grant is used to compensate the Project Manager for administering the program. Approximately \$10,000 of the total funds budgeted must now be used to supplement these grant monies that pay for staff, office rent & expenses, and information & education activities related to the Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program. It was explained that the DNR's annual grant allocation is not adjusted for inflation and cost-of-living increases. The remainder of the funds is carried over from year to year as a reserve to help cover operational costs when grant monies are delayed, and in anticipation of when grant assistance ends entirely in 2006. Rude objected to budgeting beyond the 2004 fiscal year. Molinaro thanked Rude for his opinion. There being no other discussion, Molinaro called to question. Motion passed by an 8-1 vote of the electors present.

Rogers moved to approve the Lake Ripley Management District's Anticipated Cost-Share Reimbursement Account (LRMD ACRA) Contribution budget item. Hoffman seconded. Molinaro asked if there was any discussion. Rude asked if the LRMD's proposed slow-no-wake zoning changes are intended to curb the shoreline erosion for which

