

**Lake Ripley Management District**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 20, 2005**

**I. Call to Order**

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman John Molinaro at 9:04 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall. Board members present were John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Sheri Walz, Gene Kapsner and Dennis McCarthy. Derek Hoffman and Jane Jacobsen-Brown were absent. Others present included Paul Dearlove (Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cable TV 12), and a total of 53 voting electors.

**II. Approval of 2004 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting were distributed for review. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. *Sabella moved to approve the minutes as written. McCarthy seconded and there was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**III. Nomination of Board Candidates**

Ballots were distributed to elect candidates for two open positions on the Board. Nominees appearing on the ballot included incumbents John Molinaro and Dennis McCarthy, with additional space provided for write-in candidates. Molinaro asked if there were any motions from the floor to nominate additional candidates. Seeing none, he requested that all electors cast their ballots so they could be tabulated.

**IV. Chairman's Report**

Molinaro presented the following State of the Lake Report:

“Since it’s inception in the 1990s, the Lake Ripley Management District’s mission has been to preserve and protect Lake Ripley. I am proud to say that work continues in 2005. This year alone we have repaired 615 feet of eroded shoreline. Through our cost-share program, we were able to install rock riprap and buffer strips to protect the shoreline of Lake Ripley. It is important to note that although our shoreline restoration projects are a visible sign of improvement, large projects like the Long Sod Farms and ditch plugs at the Preserve have accomplished more to protect the lake.

Another major project was the installation of the rain garden here at the Town Hall. Volunteers from the Lake District and Cambridge High School installed over 3,000 plants in the 3,200 square foot rain garden. We continue work on this demonstration project and by next year it should be a great example for residents around the lake. Hopefully, this rain garden will encourage others to install a rain garden on their property.

Paul Dearlove, our lake manager, partnered with the DNR and Rock Lake to complete a pier-shading study. These scientific studies allow us to add to the large data base of knowledge about the lake, which allows us to pursue our mission. Paul has kept busy all year completing two litter cleanups, producing three newsletters, conducting tours of the lake, and supervising weed harvesting to mention only a few of his responsibilities. Last fall we completed a prairie burn at the Lake District Preserve and installed new information kiosks, and we have more plans to improve the Preserve for next year.

Board member Dennis McCarthy has taken over responsibility for water quality monitoring. He has initiated several new tests to add to the years of information we already record. Board member Jane Jacobsen-Brown and her husband, Kent, are supervising the Lake Watch program. The information and observations their volunteers collect add to the safety of the lake.

So you see we keep busy. But we are faced with many more challenges. This year zebra mussels were found in Rock Lake. I would like to believe that there is some way to assure us they won’t come to Lake Ripley, but I am afraid that may not be possible. In addition to our recent newsletter will be the posting of information at the public access, and next month we will have a DNR specialist on invasive species speak at our meeting.

It seems that for every accomplishment we achieve, another project is just around the corner. You can be assured that this Board will do everything within its power to live up to our mission to protect and preserve Lake Ripley. I remain optimistic because working together will ensure a healthy Lake Ripley.”

**V. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Mike Sabella reviewed his role and responsibilities as treasurer of the organization, which is primarily to safeguard the assets of the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP). Responsibilities include collecting funds and paying operating expenses, preparing monthly summary reports and quarterly financial statements, and satisfying all government reporting requirements. He then distributed and reviewed a comparative net asset analysis for both the LRMD and LRPLP. The summaries compared the periods 12/31/03 vs. 12/31/04, and 6/30/04 vs. 6/30/05.

**LRMD:** As of 12/31/03 and 12/31/04, total cash and receivables (including monies loaned to the LRPLP) totaled \$113,293 and \$136,196, respectively. This equated to an increase in net assets of \$22,903. As of 6/30/04 and 6/30/05, total cash and receivables totaled \$148,249 and \$161,970, respectively. This equated to an increase in net assets of \$13,721.

**LRPLP:** As of 12/31/03 and 12/31/04, total cash and liabilities (including monies owed back to the LRMD) totaled \$11,627 and \$18,661, respectively. This equated to an increase in net assets of \$7,034. As of 6/30/04 and 6/30/05, total cash and receivables totaled \$31,210 and \$21,839, respectively. This equated to a decrease in net assets of \$9,371.

Under Section 33.29(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, Sabella noted that the Board is required to have an audit of the organization’s financial transactions 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 audit committee comprised of Lake District residents. The Board elected to convene an internal committee which met on August 7, 2005. Committee members included Chuck Seeley and Jim Rank. Sabella was also in attendance to present the accounting records and answer questions. In a letter dated August 16, 2005, the committee reported that a single exception was found in the general ledger coding of a payment. A check in the amount of \$100.00 for Lake District Preserve mowing was coded to ‘Insurance’ rather than to ‘Preserve Expense’. No other exceptions or errors were found. The Committee then concluded that the financial records, with the exception noted above, reflect properly, accurately and fairly the financial condition of each entity for the year ended December 31, 2004.

**VI. Budget & Tax Levy**

Copies of the 2006 proposed budget were distributed. Molinaro reviewed the procedure for approving the budget, and explained that statute requires a separate vote for each line item in excess of \$5,000. He then described each budget category in detail, indicating whether there would be any anticipated carryover, and explaining the nature of any proposed changes in funding levels. A summary of the 2005 budget is presented below.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
PROJECTS			
LRPLP LAG	39000	44000	+12.8%
LRMD ACRA CONTRIBUTION	4500	4500	
WEED HARVESTING	4500	4500	
LAKE DISTRICT PRESERVE	3000	3000	
LAKE WATCH	250	250	
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	1500	1500	
NO-WAKE REGULATION	3500	1000	-71.4%
INSURANCE			
GENERAL LIABILITY	1400	1900	+35.7%
MARINE & TRUCK	1000	1400	+40.0%
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION	900	900	
OPERATIONS			
LEGAL COUNSEL	3000	3000	
DUES/CONFERENCES	1500	1500	
OFFICE/MAILINGS	700	700	
CONTINGENCY	1500	1500	

COMMISSIONER STIPENDS	4900	4900		
CAPITAL RESERVE & LAND ACQUISITION	10000	10000		
TOTAL	81150	84550		+ 4.2%
LESS CARRY OVER	<34500>	<41150>		+19.3%
REQUIRED TAX LEVY	46650	43400		- 7.0%

Motions and related discussion are summarized as follows:

Molinaro discussed why additional money is budgeted each year to supplement the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project's Local Assistance Grant (LRPLP LAG). The proposed funding increase for 2006 is partially intended to cover the anticipated shortfall in the annual \$46,350 state grant, which is supposed to pay for administering the program (i.e., payroll, office expenses, educational outreach, etc.). He explained that the annual grant has never been adjusted for inflation or cost of living increases over its 12-year history. In addition, the proposed increase is intended to help build a reserve account that can be carried over and used to cover operations when the grant expires at the end of 2006. ***Jim Rank moved to approve the LRPLP LAG budget category for \$44,000. Karen Bennett seconded. As a point of discussion, Roger Rude opposed setting aside any more money than what would actually be needed and expended in 2006. Chuck Seeley countered that he felt it was necessary to budget in preparation for when the Priority Lake Project grant ends, and that by doing otherwise would result in the need for a sudden and dramatic tax increase at the end of the grant period. Motion carried by a near unanimous vote of the electors, with Roger Rude voting against the measure.***

Molinaro explained that \$10,000 is budgeted each year to fund a Capital Reserve & Land Acquisition account. He said the District has the statutory authority to use the account as a savings vehicle to help pay for large capital equipment expenditures or land purchases should the need or opportunity arise. The account balance is currently \$83,200. It will soon be reduced by as much as \$8,000 to expand the Town's cold-storage building for the purpose of storing our weed-harvesting equipment. ***Chuck Seeley moved to approve the Capital Reserve & Land Acquisition budget category for \$10,000. David Bennett seconded. Motion carried without further discussion by a unanimous vote of the electors present.***

There were several questions pertaining to the weed harvesting and Lake Watch programs. The ensuing discussion related to the goals and objectives of the two programs, and how operations are carried out. There were also some general questions and discussion pertaining to boating rules and the locations of no-wake buoys.

Molinaro then summarized the total requested budget, the affect of anticipated carryover, and the resulting tax levy. He revealed that the actual assessed valuation of all property included on the tax rolls for the year 2005 was \$198,415,160. If the tax levy of \$43,400 is approved, the estimated mill rate will be 0.2187 per \$1000 of assessed value. In other words, a home would be taxed \$21.87 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed value. Overall, this would result in a 7% decrease of \$2.45 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Molinaro pointed out that despite having the statutory authority to tax up to 2.5 mills to raise funds, the District has never had to exceed 0.5 mill. He emphasized that the Board works very hard to keep the budget under control through the aggressive pursuit of grants and by operating in a fiscally conservative manner. ***Karen Bennett moved to approve the 2006 budget in its entirety. Jim Rank seconded. Motion carried by a near unanimous vote of the electors present, with Roger Rude voting against.***

## **VII. Tabulation of Vote & Election of Officers**

A brief recess was taken while the elections committee tabulated the 52 ballots that were cast. The final tally was 46 votes for John Molinaro, 42 votes for Dennis McCarthy, and five write-in votes for Roger Rude. Molinaro and McCarthy were both re-elected to serve three-year terms on the Board.

***Molinaro moved to nominate Sabella to continue serving as treasurer. Kapsner seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. McCarthy moved to nominate Molinaro to continue serving as chairman. Walz seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. Finally, Molinaro nominated Hoffman(who was not present) to continue to serve as secretary. Walz seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

**VIII. Adjournment**

*Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the 2005 Annual Meeting at 10:25 a.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of the electors present.*

Next regular meeting: September 17, 2005 (9:00 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall)

Respectfully Submitted,

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Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD