

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2007**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board convened its monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on September 15, 2007. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members in attendance during roll call were 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), Kent Brown, Dawn Kubly, Ron Buss and Cable TV 12.

II. Election of Officers

Molinaro said the Board was now required to elect officers as prescribed by state statute. *Molinaro moved to nominate Sabella to serve as treasurer. Motion seconded by Burow. Motion approved 5-0. Sabella moved to nominate Jacobsen-Brown to serve as secretary. Motion seconded by Burow. Motion approved 5-0. Jacobsen-Brown moved to nominate Molinaro to serve as chair. Motion seconded by Kapsner. Motion approved 5-0.*

III. Public Comment

Dawn Kubly spoke in objection to LRMD's use of chemical herbicides to control weeds in the Town Hall rain garden, expressing concerns about environmental impacts. She suggested hand-pulling the weeds in the future. Dearlove provided clarification that the herbicide was an EPA-approved product, that its use was recommended by an experienced restoration consultant at Midwest Prairies, and that it was used sparingly and only after two years of hand-weeding thistles proved ineffective. Kubly recommended consideration of a pre-emergent weed killer made from corn gluten. She said she did not think the use of chemicals was either necessary or appropriate.

Kubly next commented on the recent zebra mussel infestation. She felt LRMD was not sufficiently proactive in preventing their recent infestation. She was particularly displeased with the warning signs at the public landing, which she felt were not very visible. Kubly was further frustrated with what she felt was a lackluster public-awareness campaign. Molinaro clarified that all signage was designed and installed per DNR guidelines. For information purposes, he and Dearlove then enumerated prior actions that had been taken over the years to raise public awareness of the threat. These included a feature newsletter article, multiple press releases, signs and brochures at the boat launches, inviting invasive species experts to District meetings, and talking to area homeowner associations. Kapsner added that there were many ways in which zebra mussels spread that could not be controlled short of shutting down the lake and putting a cap over it. Kubly reiterated her opinion that more of an effort could and should have been made.

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Sabella moved to approve the 7/21/07 regular meeting minutes. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion approved 5-0.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sabella presented the treasurer's report for the two months ending August 31, 2007. Handouts included a transaction listing and a summary of receipts, disbursements and asset balances for the reporting period. Total receipts of \$23,160.60 consisted of \$797.60 in interest, \$22,283.00 in real estate tax revenue, and an \$80.00 donation to the F.K. Elson Fund. There was \$17,811.04 in total disbursements. Disbursements were primarily for wages, office expenses, landowner cost sharing, and work related to a DNR lake-planning grant. Assets consisted of \$104,134.74 in general checking, \$95,000.00 in an investment account, and \$200.00 in office petty cash. Molinaro asked whether more money should be moved into savings to maximize interest income. Sabella said that all accounts were in fact earning a competitive interest rate. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the treasurer's report, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.*

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last regular meeting. Handouts included his Lake Manager report, updated phone logs, and various materials and correspondence related to ongoing projects. He first reviewed the status of several cost-share efforts. This was followed by updates on two public opinion surveys that were being conducted. He announced that Agrecol was serving as a rain garden sponsor by donating \$350 worth of native plants. Survey respondents will have a chance to win the rain garden plants through a random drawing performed by the UW. He said he also recently worked with Paul Heiberger, UW student intern, to identify and map parcels around the lake that were optimal for rain gardens.

Dearlove next reported on Lake Watch and weed-harvesting activities. He thanked Kent and Jane Brown for devoting over 100 hours to patrolling the lake this summer. They were also thanked for helping him and Molinaro with the annual boat/pier census. Jacobsen-Brown said she was pleased with the level of compliance and patience she observed during the high-water period, and thanked the community for its cooperation. As for weed harvesting, Dearlove noted that operations would continue for another few weeks, at which time the equipment would be moved back into winter storage. He briefly summarized the number of operator hours and loads harvested to date. Sabella said he was in favor of a more aggressive harvesting schedule, suggesting that a more concerted effort was needed to control the weed problem in Milwaukee Bay. Dearlove proposed that the Board consider forming a weed-harvesting committee. He said the committee would ideally have ready access to a boat for the purpose of conducting regular weed-condition assessments.

It was noted that a sediment core was recently extracted from the bottom of Lake Ripley. The sediment core will be analyzed over the winter as part of a grant-funded paleolimnological study. As for outreach activities, Dearlove mentioned that the Ripples newsletter had been distributed, and that articles were written for the Lake Ripley Edition of the Cambridge News and Wisconsin Association of Lake's *The Lake Connection*. In addition, there were four Lake Ripley E-Bulletins. Topics of the E-Bulletin and associated press releases included the budget hearing and Annual Meeting, the recent zebra mussel infestation, an emergency slow-no-wake alert, and announcements about the Town shoreline restoration and closing of the public boat landing. He said that he and Molinaro were also attending homeowner association meetings to raise awareness about LRMD activities and lake-related issues.

In other news, it was reported that elevated levels of E. coli bacteria were discovered at the community beach this summer. Dearlove explained that the Jefferson County Health Department was monitoring the situation, and that the source of the bacteria has not yet been identified. Resident geese populations, pet waste and/or runoff from the recent heavy rains were suspected as likely culprits. He concluded by updating the Board on the hearing testimony he presented in support of Senate Bill 197 relating to statewide regulation of phosphorus lawn fertilizers.

VII. Old Business

A. Proposal for selective harvesting of trees at Lake District Preserve

Information was distributed pertaining to the proposed tree harvest at the Preserve for forestry-management purposes. This included a scope of work, quantity and estimated value of harvestable trees, and a summary of consulting work that has been completed to date. Unless the Board objected, he said he intended to continue working with the Oakland Conservation Club to solicit bids from loggers. He also requested Board permission to pay our share of the consulting costs that were incurred. Upon being recognized by the Chair, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez urged caution when working with loggers, explaining that a bad logger can easily destroy a woodlot. Dearlove explained that a forestry consultant was being retained to protect our interests, and that any future logging operations would be closely supervised by both LRMD and the Club. The work would also be scheduled during a time when the ground is frozen to minimize disturbance.

No objections were raised as far as proceeding with the solicitation of bids. *Kapsner moved to approve reimbursement of the Oakland Conservation Club for the District's share (or up to 30%) of the current consulting costs. Motion was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 4-0, with Burrow not voting due to an early departure from the meeting.*

B. Lake District Preserve Planning Committee report

Dearlove said the Lake District Preserve Planning Committee had met three times since the last meeting. He complimented the group for its progress and enthusiasm. Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Committee Secretary, provided a brief report summarizing committee activities. She said the group mostly focused on what it felt were the two biggest priorities: protecting water quality and educating the public. She noted that the Board would receive a list of proposed recommendations within the next few days. She asked the Board to get her any input it might have. In particular, she was interested in knowing if the recommendations adequately fulfilled the expectations of the Board. Dearlove agreed to distribute the committee report to the Board, and to forward any subsequent comments to the committee.

C. Questions for Town building inspector regarding erosion-control enforcement

Dearlove reported that the Town building inspectors were invited but could not attend the meeting to discuss erosion-control concerns. However, he noted that Inspector Greg Noll offered to answer any specific questions from the Board if we were willing to get him something in writing. Kapsner reminded the Board that not all building projects were permitted and therefore under the control of the Town inspector. He said he felt many problems related to smaller projects that did not involve permits. He also voiced frustration with the big pipeline project that lacked proper erosion controls despite disturbing massive amounts of soil throughout the Town. Discussion ended with Board members being asked to submit any questions to Dearlove so they could be forwarded to the Town building inspector for comment.

VIII. New Business

A. Landowner cost-sharing proposal: N4142 Sleepy Hollow Rd. shoreline repair

The project-review subcommittee was not able to evaluate the project in time for the meeting. Discussion and action was postponed until the next meeting.

B. Lottery drawing for Preserve trapping permit

One applicant requested permission to trap muskrats at the Preserve by the application deadline. Since there were no other applicants, a random drawing was not necessary. *Molinaro moved to accept Tom Ehrke's application to trap muskrats at the Preserve during the 2007-08 trapping season. Motion was seconded by Kapsner. As a point of discussion, Sabella commented that the approval was based on the presumption that the applicant would adhere to all applicable trapping rules. Motion carried 4-0.*

C. Establish future meeting schedule

Molinaro set forth the following meeting schedule: 10/20/07, 11/17/07, 1/19/08 and 3/15/08. All meetings to start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

IX. Correspondence

- A zebra mussel infestation alert was issued by press release and Lake Ripley E-Bulletin on 8/20.
- A letter and draft ordinance amendment was delivered to the Town regarding the adoption of an emergency slow-no-wake policy. Dearlove said that he planned to advocate for the ordinance at the next Town Board meeting. All other correspondence was covered during the course of the meeting.

X. Adjournment

Kapsner moved for adjournment at 10:45 a.m., and was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: October 20, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary
Recorder: PDD

Date