

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2006**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board of Directors of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) met at the Oakland Town Hall at N4450 County Highway A in Cambridge on September 16, 2006. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Jacobsen-Brown took roll. Board members present included Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella, John Molinaro, Gene Kapsner, Mike Burow and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Derek Hoffman was absent. Others present included Paul Dearlove (LRMD Project Manager) and Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 7/15/06 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Kapsner moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by McCarthy with no subsequent discussion. Motion carried 6-0.*

Sabella asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting so they can be posted and shared with the public. Molinaro responded that the Annual Meeting minutes are considered draft until they are formally approved by the electors at next year's Annual Meeting. Meanwhile, he felt it was appropriate for the minutes to be put together and reviewed by the Board for any errors or omissions. Dearlove asked if he could post the minutes to the LRMD website as long as they were clearly marked as draft. After some discussion, the Board agreed he should proceed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed his treasurer's reports for the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) for the two-month period ending August 31, 2006.

LRMD: Total receipts for the two-month period were \$13,944.07, consisting of \$59.65 in interest earned on investments, a Dell computer rebate of \$11.12, a \$100.00 citizen donation, and \$13,773.30 in real estate taxes. Disbursements for the period were \$15,859.58. An itemized listing of disbursements was distributed. Major disbursements included \$8,000.00 to the Town of Oakland as part of a 10-year lease on the cold storage building, \$1,878.00 in general liability insurance, \$1,475.00 in auto/truck insurance, \$1,200 in board member stipends, \$1,750.00 to Capstone Building for the construction of the Preserve observation deck, and miscellaneous weed harvesting expenses. As of August 31, 2006, there were cash balances of \$64,804.10 in the general checking account, and \$95,000.00 in a bank certificate of deposit that will mature in early December. There was also a \$31,395.66 receivable due from the LRPLP, representing monies loaned in prior years to cover the cost of operations in excess of the grant.

LRPLP: Total receipts for the two-month period were \$13.82 in interest earned on investments. Disbursements for the period were \$17,389.96. An itemized listing of disbursements was distributed. Major disbursements were \$6,401.80 in landowner cost-share reimbursements, and expenses related to employee compensation and office operations. As of August 31, 2006, there were cash balances of \$200.00 in office petty cash, \$8,587.12 in general checking, and \$8,093.49 in the Non-point Source (Cost Sharing) account. There was also a \$31,395.66 payable due to the LRMD. Sabella noted that money will be transferred from the LRMD's general checking account before year's end to cover the cost of operations. He said the total amount borrowed over the years to administer the Priority Lake Project will increase to about \$45,000 by the end of the fiscal year. He explained that the deficit balance will disappear when the two entities are combined in 2007, as was approved at the Annual Meeting.

McCarthy moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Burow without subsequent discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last regular meeting. He reviewed the status of cost-sharing efforts, explaining that several shoreline projects were completed. A LRPLP-evaluation report and final reimbursement claims totaling \$25,871.50 were submitted to DNR for payment, effectively closing out the cost-share grant. He confirmed that future cost sharing would need to come from monies budgeted by LRMD or through other grants. Sabella noted that about \$34,000 remained in the LRMD cost-sharing account. He verified that those funds would be needed to cover the

remaining four projects previously approved by the Board, as well as any future projects that may be approved. Dearlove hoped to have the review committee evaluate a few additional cost-sharing proposals in the coming weeks. Jacobsen-Brown asked that her treefall project be dropped from consideration, indicating that she planned to pay for it herself.

Dearlove noted that he and Molinaro completed their annual census of piers, boat lifts and moored/beached watercraft. He also reported the completion of a videotaped and narrated tour of the Lake Ripley shoreline. Gary Zibell of Cambridge Cable TV 12 filmed the shoreline from Molinaro's pontoon boat while Dearlove narrated. Zibell was also acknowledged for his help in filming a walking tour of the Lake District Preserve. Both educational tours had since aired on the local cable access station. Molinaro said he received a lot of positive feedback from cable viewers. Dearlove explained that an informational boat tour for Town officials had to be cancelled due to bad weather. An impromptu tour was given for Dan Hunt at DNR so that various permitting and enforcement issues could be discussed.

It was noted that harvesting operations had been in full swing since the last meeting. Ted Teske and Bill Ratzberg were complimented for their good work. Dearlove explained that operations would soon be wrapping up, and that the equipment would be returned to the Town Hall for maintenance and winter storage. He said the drive motor for one of the paddle wheels would have to be replaced once the harvester is removed from the lake. Plans were also underway to assist the Town Police in removing all the buoys for the season.

Dearlove said he was working with Dale Evenson and a DNR forester to develop a management plan for the small woodlot between the Preserve and Oakland Conservation Club. It was suggested that some limited tree thinning may be appropriate to better preserve the health of the woodlot. He said a plan will be brought before the Board for its review before any work is authorized. In other news, Dearlove said a resident complaint prompted him to investigate potential water quality impacts associated with the recent chip sealing project on Ripley and Park Roads. After consulting with various experts, he reported that the possible impacts were considered negligible due to the inert properties of the material that is used. Kapsner added that the Town went with a chip-seal method that did not involve oil coating the chips. He said the company was very good at coming back right away and vacuuming any loose slag material that remained on the roads.

Jacobsen-Brown and McCarthy were asked to report on their volunteer work. With respect to Lake Watch, Jacobsen-Brown indicated that a number of incident reports had been submitted since the start of the boating season, and that Chuck and Dottie Seeley had signed on as new volunteers. McCarthy then provided an update on his monitoring activities. He reported that water clarity had increased during the summer to about a 10-foot Secchi reading, and that another round of water samples were sent to the lab for chemical analysis. No zebra mussels had been found on any of the plate samplers. He also reported that a staff gage was installed at the Hussey property for the purpose of tracking lake level fluctuations.

VI. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business

A. Cost-sharing Rates and Eligibility Criteria

The Board re-opened discussion on cost-sharing rates and eligibility criteria now that the state cost-share grant is over. *Sabella moved to establish an across-the-board 50% cost-sharing rate for documented third-party invoices associated with any future projects funded by Lake District tax dollars. Motion was seconded by Kapsner. Discussion ensued and the following clarifications were made with respect to the motion: 1) donated labor would not be used as a factor in determining the landowner's reimbursable expenses; 2) any grant-funded efforts would be cost shared at whatever rate is specified in the particular grant; and 3) landowners who do not complete their approved projects within one year of a signed contract must apply for a six-month extension from the Board. Motion carried 6-0.*

Dearlove agreed to revise the cost-share contract and bring it back to the Board for its review and approval. Burow recommended inserting a clause in the contract saying that participating landowners would not lose their cost-share funding in the event of project delays that are beyond their control. Kapsner and Jacobsen-Brown requested a rethinking of the vocabulary used to describe eligible practices, whenever feasible and appropriate, to increase their appeal to landowners. Molinaro suggested creating brochures with pictures to help market the program and the various practices.

B. Allocation of F.K. Elson Funds

Dearlove requested and was granted Board approval to use the F.K. Elson Fund to pay for the Baker treefall. Sabella confirmed that any project designed to enhance fisheries habitat would meet the criteria of the Fund.

In other New Business, Kapsner announced that stairs were in place at the Town of Oakland's public access near Arbor Dell. He felt the shoreline could now use some plantings to help control runoff. Molinaro asked Dearlove to include the project on the list of sites that the review committee will be evaluating.

VIII. Correspondence

- "Welcome Wagon" packets were mailed to six new landowners on 7/18/06.
- A letter was sent to TrueGreen ChemLawn on 7/19/06 requesting written verification that its lawn fertilizers are phosphorus-free.
- A letter was sent to James and Jane Johnson on 7/27/06 indicating the Lake District's potential interest in acquiring their woodlot in the center of the Preserve should they ever wish to sell.
- A draft cover letter and settlement agreement was sent to Pam Kober at DNR on 8/10/06 for possible use in the Kaashagen enforcement case.
- Lake Ripley E-Bulletins containing budget hearing and Annual Meeting announcements were distributed on 8/2/06 and 8/16/06.
- Letters were sent to the Town Board members on 8/15/06 inviting them along on a pontoon boat tour of Lake Ripley.
- A letter was sent to Chuck and Dottie Seeley on 8/30/06 thanking them for signing up as Lake Watch volunteers, and thanking Chuck for serving on our audit committee.
- An e-mail was received on 9/5/06 from Ken Raymond, Town of Oakland Sanitary District, providing effluent discharge numbers from the Lake Ripley area.

IX. Adjournment

Sabella moved for adjournment at 10:45 a.m. Motion was seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 6-0.
Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: October 21, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD