

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2005**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board of Directors convened its regular monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Secretary Hoffman to take roll call. Board members present included John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Dennis McCarthy, Mike Sabella and Derek Hoffman. Gene Kapsner and Sheri Walz were absent. Also present were Paul Dearlove (Project Manager), Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12) and Roger Rude.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 07/16/05 meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Sabella with no further discussion. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Invasive Species Speaker: Donna Sefton, DNR

Donna Sefton, a DNR invasive species specialist, spoke about the zebra mussel threat to Lake Ripley. She noted that the lake's first confirmed zebra mussel was discovered just a few days ago as a result of continued monitoring efforts. Lake Ripley was subsequently placed on a watch list, but is not considered to be infested with a reproducing colony like neighboring Rock Lake. She said that only one other mussel was found after 3.5 hours of diving, and no larvae (called veligers) had been found. Board members examined zebra mussel specimens and asked a number of questions regarding the nature of the threat and what steps could be taken. Sefton recommended continuing with our ongoing information and education efforts. Lakefront property owners also were encouraged to inspect their piers and boats during fall removals, and to save and report any potential specimens that may be attached.

McCarthy suggested that an emergency mailing to all lakefront property owners was warranted. The Board concurred with the idea, and Dearlove agreed to get a special mailing out within the next week.

V. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed his monthly treasurer's report for the two-month period ending August 31, 2005, for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP).

LRMD: Total receipts for the period were \$14,988.68. Receipts consisted of \$14,947.59 in real estate tax revenues, and \$41.09 in interest earned on investments. Total disbursements for the period were \$4,428.52. A detailed schedule of disbursements showed that insurance and harvesting staff wages were the largest expense categories. As of August 31st, there was a cash position of \$60,877.42 in the checking account and \$80,000.00 in a certificate of deposit that will mature in December. In addition, there was a receivable from the LRPLP of \$31,652.06.

LRPLP: Total receipts for the period were \$8,110.64. Receipts consisted of \$8,082.40 in DNR cost-sharing reimbursements, and \$28.24 in interest earned on investments. Total disbursements for the period were \$13,679.15. A detailed schedule of disbursements showed that costs were mainly for landowner cost sharing, staff payroll and general office expenses. As of August 31st, cash balances included \$200.00 in petty cash, \$22,730.00 in the general checking account, and \$24,993.71 in the nonpoint source (cost-sharing) account. In addition, there was a payable to the LRMD of \$31,652.06.

McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Hoffman with no further discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed updated phone logs and reported on his activities since the last regular meeting. Recent activities included the following:

- Four projects were successfully completed on 308 feet of eroding shoreline (Wood, Lorden, Paramore and Town of Oakland). The DNR had approved reimbursement of the LRPLP-eligible projects using our 2006 grant allotment.

New project proposals currently being reviewed include: Baker shoreline restoration (112 feet); Golf Side bio-repair (175 feet); and Ball/Luzwick shoreline riprap (80 feet). Assistance was provided to three additional lakefront property owners in preparing shoreline-repair plans and related permit applications.

- A shoreline tour was conducted with DNR officials to resolve concerns with the permit-approval process for erosion-prone sites classified as “low energy” sites. These concerns are now under DNR advisement.
- Maintenance of the Town Hall rain garden continued with mulching and weeding. Signage was ordered and will be installed by the next meeting.
- Aquatic weed-growth surveys were conducted with the harvesting staff. Very little milfoil or other nuisance growth was observed. Limited harvesting has been conducted mainly to maintain an access path out from the inlet channel. Preparations will soon begin for the removal and winterization of the harvesting equipment. The equipment will be stored at the Rude farm until the Town’s cold-storage facility is completed.
- A DNR buoy permit was approved for the purpose of redefining slow-no-wake areas as per Town ordinance. Five additional buoys will be ordered to provide 200-ft-from-shore reference points. The existing buoys will be removed for the season around the first of October.
- An informational boat tour was conducted for Town Board officials on 7/18. Participants included John Molinaro (LRMD Board), Paul Dearlove (LRMD staff), Jane Jacobsen-Brown (LRMD Board), Gene Kapsner (Town and LRMD Boards), Dale Falk (Town Board), David Walz (DNR Warden), Kent Brown (LRMD resident) and Roger Rude (LRMD resident). The tour proved helpful in clarifying issues related to the proposed Town ordinance changes.
- A follow-up watercraft census was conducted on 7/28 to document the number of moored boats and piers on the lake.
- A zebra mussel alert was the featured topic in the Ripples newsletter mailed in late July. An article also appeared in the Cambridge News. Invasive species literature dispensers were installed at both the public landing and marina. A “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” grant is being sought to help finance a watercraft inspection program.
- Welcome Wagon informational packets were mailed to 30 new residents.
- A public opinion survey was drafted for the purpose of re-assessing public attitudes about the lake and its management. After some discussion, the Board decided that the survey should be distributed around the first week of October. It was decided that the survey should be sent as a separate mailing after the zebra mussel alert gets disseminated.

Dearlove announced that he plans to attend a free workshop on invasive species in Madison on 10/4. He also said he plans to attend an international lakes symposium in Madison on 11/9-11/11.

VII. Old Business

A. Status of Recommended Ordinance Changes

Molinaro indicated that several lake-ordinance recommendations were unanimously approved by the Town Board on 7/19. He reported that the Town’s attorney is currently working on drafting the approved ordinance changes. Dearlove added that a brief status report on the ordinances had been included in the Ripples newsletter.

B. LRMD Cost-Share Agreement Template

Molinaro reiterated the need for and purpose of a Lake District cost-sharing contract. He said that Dearlove had put together a draft contract that was distributed for Board review at the last meeting. It was then reviewed by Attorney Phil Ristow, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel, and subsequently finalized for future use.

C. F.K. Elson Memorial Fund

Molinaro reported that additional donations to the F.K. Elson Memorial Fund may be forthcoming. He explained that Mr. Elson’s wife had recently passed away, and that the family was requesting that donations be sent to the Lake District.

VIII. New Business

Molinaro announced his intentions to nominate Jane and Kent Brown to participate in the 2006 Lake Leaders program.

Also under New Business, Kent Brown asked that the Board consider adding a future agenda item on purple loosestrife. Like the zebra mussel, he said that purple loosestrife is an ongoing invasive species threat that needed to be addressed. Dearlove added that he had conducted some reconnaissance surveys and found patches of the noxious weed growing in a few locations around the lake. He said he intended to send letters to the affected landowners informing them of the issue and what steps they could take to address the concern.

IX. Correspondence

- A copy of a letter dated 9/5/05 from Mike Halsted (DNR) to Ron Buss was received explaining the status of an inlet dredging permit. The letter confirmed that the original permit application was withdrawn and that the applicant was in the process of re-applying for a similar permit.

- A Letter dated 8/29/05 was received from Wayne Ringquist (DNR) confirming receipt of our waterway marker permit application.
- An e-mailed dated 8/15/05 from Ted Swanson (LRMD resident) complaining about recent ordinance approvals that he felt were too restrictive to water skiers. A response e-mail was sent 8/16/05.
- Multiple e-mails were received from lake groups in Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota requesting more information on the methods that were used for our recreational carrying capacity study.

X. Adjournment

Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting at about 10:30 a.m. Motion was seconded by Sabella and there was no further discussion. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Next meeting: October 15, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD