

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2004**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairman Molinaro called the meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District to order at 9:00 a.m. Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake Project Manager) was asked to take roll call in Secretary Hoffman's absence. The following Board members were present: John Molinaro, Dennis McCarthy, Sheri Walz, Mike Sabella and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Paul Jorstad and Derek Hoffman were absent. Others in attendance included Gary Zibell (Cambridge Cable TV 12), Roger Rude, Kent Brown and Jim Rank.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the 07/17/04 regular meeting and had no additions or corrections. *McCarthy moved to accept the minutes as written. Jacobsen-Brown seconded and there was no further discussion. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sabella distributed and summarized financial reports for the two-month period ending August 31, 2004 for the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP).

LRMD: Receipts for the period were \$21,920.00. These consisted of \$107.97 in interest earned on investments, a collection of \$682.84 on the Probst judgment, a DNR Lake Planning Grant advance of \$2,595.54, and \$18,533.65 in real estate taxes. Disbursements for the period were \$8,180.47, and a listing of individual transactions was provided. Most of the expenses were related to board stipends and weed-harvesting operations. As of August 31, 2004, there was a total cash balance of \$122,988.79, with a \$39,000.00 receivable due from the LRPLP account.

LRPLP: Receipts for the period were \$34.56, consisting entirely of interest earned on investments. Disbursements for the period were \$8,718.87, and a listing of individual transactions was provided. Most of the expenses were related to payroll and general office expenditures. As of August 31, 2004, there were cash balances of \$200.00 in the petty cash account, \$38,866.61 in the general checking account, and \$23,863.02 in the Nonpoint Source (cost sharing) account. There was also a \$39,000.00 liability due back to the LRMD account.

Molinaro recommended that the Board authorize Dearlove to obtain a Lake District credit card. It was explained that Dearlove had to use his personal account to cover certain purchases, namely those made over the internet or that exceeded the \$200 petty cash limit. After some discussion, the Board gave Dearlove authorization to obtain a no-annual-fee credit card with no more than a \$500 credit line. It was agreed that the card would only be used for occasional expenses, such as paying for the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

McCarthy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jacobsen-Brown seconded and there was no further discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Project Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed and summarized his Project Manager's Report, which detailed Lake District and Priority Lake Project activities since the last regular meeting. The following issues were discussed in the report:

Cost-Share Projects

- The Van Acker shoreline riprap project was successfully redone after the contractor failed to follow design specifications.
- The Anderson, Springstead and Long Sod Farm projects are scheduled to be completed this fall. The Cedar Shores, McCarthy, Wood and Paramore shoreline projects will be completed in the spring of 2005.
- A recent shoreline inventory revealed that only about a half-dozen shoreline properties remain eligible for cost sharing. Letters were sent to the landowners informing them of their eligibility and inviting them to participate in the program.

Aquatic Habitat Study

- The fieldwork and data collection for the pier-shading study have been completed.
- Data analysis is now underway with preliminary findings showing reduced biological diversity under piers than in open-water control sites.
- A presentation abstract was submitted to WAL to share our research findings at the 2005 WI Lakes Conference. Research findings will also be written up in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Weed Harvesting

- Weed-harvesting operations will end this month, and the equipment will be moved back into winter storage.
- Our operators have done an excellent job maintaining the equipment and following the directives set forth in our aquatic plant management plan.

Lake Watch

- Lake Watch patrols have ended for the season, and all information was summarized and forwarded to the Town Police. Kent and Jane Brown were instrumental in coordinating this year's effort.
- A meeting will be requested with Officer Gondert to continue discussing ways in which to improve the program.

Molinaro asked if the police ever responded to the violation reports that were made over Labor Day weekend. In particular, he indicated that there was a very large boat that was operating recklessly around buoyed swim areas. Dearlove said he included a personal note to Officer Gondert along with the violation report, but was not aware if any action was taken. Molinaro felt the police should consider sending a letter to the violator indicating that numerous complaints were received. McCarthy added that feedback from the police would be helpful to learn what actions are taken in response to serious violation reports. Dearlove said he would try to set up a meeting with Officer Gondert and the Lake Watch coordinators to discuss these matters. He then provided a historical summary of all violation reports that were made since the program began in 1998.

Lake Ordinances Review Committee

- The last meeting of the joint Town-Lake District committee was held on August 4th.
- A resolution was drafted and submitted to the Town of Oakland detailing ordinance recommendations. The Town Board will consider the resolution at its September 20th meeting.

Lake District Preserve

- The entire trail system is passable now that dryer conditions prevail. Our mowing crew has done an excellent job of keeping the path open for public use.
- A controlled prairie burn is tentatively scheduled for October 11th. Ron Martin of Midwest Prairies LLC will coordinate the effort.
- Land Resource Company, Midwest Prairies LLC, Pannier, and Advertising Creations, Inc. were each asked to submit proposals for building and installing informational kiosks at the Preserve.

Information/Education

- Cambridge H.S. students were taken on a bus tour of the Lake Ripley watershed to learn more about controlling pollution through good land use practices.
- Meetings are taking place with the Cambridge Aquatic Environmental Club to assist with grant writing and local environmental projects.
- Work will soon begin on a fall/winter edition of Ripples.
- "Welcome Wagon" educational packets were distributed to eight new LRMD residents.

Other Activities

- A Jefferson County committee is being formed to re-write existing zoning rules that govern shoreline clear-cutting. The committee will consist of representatives from LRMD, zoning, and land & water conservation. This effort is in response to earlier recommendations presented by the Jefferson County Lakes Enhancement Steering Committee.
- Water quality monitoring this summer included regular Secchi disc readings, and a more expansive mid-summer sampling session that analyzed temperature-dissolved oxygen depth profiles, total phosphorus and chlorophyll a. McCarthy volunteered to assist Hoffman and Dearlove with future monitoring.
- A small-scale litter cleanup was conducted on Lake Ripley with assistance from Dennis McCarthy and Brian Halick.
- Purple loosestrife control efforts are underway in the wetland area near the public boat landing.
- The DNR is currently re-evaluating ecologically sensitive areas on Lake Ripley.

