

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2003**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 9:00 a.m. Secretary Hoffman took roll call. Board members present were Derek Hoffman, Dennis McCarthy, John Molinaro and Pam Rogers. Mike Sabella, Joanne Knilans and Paul Jorstad were absent. Others present included Paul Dearlove (Priority Lake 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 last meeting and had no additions or corrections. *Rogers moved to accept the minutes as written. Hoffman seconded and the motion carried on a 4-0 vote.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Quarterly financial reports for the period ending September 30, 2003 were distributed for both the LRMD and Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project (LRPLP) accounts. Financial reports consisted of Balance Sheets, Statements of Operations, Actual-to-Budget/Budget Remaining Reports, and Transaction Listings. These reports are available for public inspection at the Lake Ripley Management District office.

Due to Treasurer Sabella's absence, *Molinaro requested a motion to table discussion and approval of the quarterly financial statements until the next meeting. Rogers so moved and Hoffman seconded. Motion was carried by a 4-0 vote.*

**V. Project Manager's Report**

Dearlove presented the Lake Manager's Report, detailing activities of the Lake Ripley Priority Lake Project since the 9/20/03 meeting. Highlights are presented below.

- Moved weed-harvesting equipment back into winter storage and performed seasonal maintenance on the machinery
- Completed first draft of the "Lake Ripley Watercraft Census & Recreational Carrying Capacity Analysis"
- Received DNR approval to cost-share a shoreline-protection project at Cedar Shores (400' frontage)
- Scheduled shoreline riprap installation at Taylor property in December to use up 2003 cost-share \$
- Scheduled shoreline riprap installation at Stoehr property after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year
- Planned rain garden demonstration project at Ripley Park to be completed this fall
- Co-supervised water quality monitoring performed by Ed Grunden's high school classes

**VI. Old Business**

*A. Forest K. Elson Memorial Fund*

Molinaro reviewed the memorial fund proposal that was first presented and discussed at the last meeting. He felt it was now time for the Board to make a decision on how it wished to proceed. Molinaro was of the opinion that the fund could be set up to accept donations from a variety of sources, and used for a variety of projects based on need. Rogers and Hoffman both concurred that it should be kept as open and broad as possible in terms of spending flexibility from year to year.

*Molinaro moved that the Board establish a Forest K. Elson Memorial Fund, as well as guidelines for accepting and spending donations. McCarthy seconded and there was no other discussion. Motion was subsequently carried by a 4-0 vote.*

*B. Probst Farming Encroachment into Preserve*

Molinaro reviewed the situation with John Probst and his continued farming encroachment into the Lake District Preserve. He informed the Board that a letter from Attorney Behling has so far gone unanswered. The letter warned Mr. Probst against further trespass and sought compensation for associated property-damage expenses incurred by the District. Molinaro asked the Board if it was interested in taking the next step by bringing the matter to small claims court. Hoffman responded that the District has the responsibility to try and recover taxpayer money. Molinaro agreed and added that the

District would be seen as a paper tiger if it did not follow through on such matters. McCarthy concurred and felt a firm precedent needed to be set. Rogers asked what it might cost to go through small claims court. The consensus opinion was that the process should be relatively straight forward and would not likely be too expensive.

*Hoffman moved to pursue whatever legal remedies were necessary to rectify damages caused by the trespass. Rogers seconded and there was no other discussion. Motion was subsequently carried by a 4-0 vote.*

*C. January LRMD Meeting Date*

At Molinaro's request, the Board agreed to change the January 17, 2004 meeting date to January 10, 2004. The Board also scheduled the following meetings: 2/21/04, 3/20/04 and 4/24/04. All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

*D. Lake Pointe Pier*

Molinaro reminded the Board that the Lake Pointe pier was recently found to be non-compliant with respect to its conservation easement restrictions. He then asked Dearlove to explain the status of the situation. Dearlove explained that written notice was sent to the association informing them of the problem, and providing a 45-day correction period. The association subsequently responded that it would correct any violations, but challenged the District's position that the pier exceeds its length requirement. According to the association, the pier length has not been altered and recent shoreline erosion has made the pier appear longer. Dearlove indicated that the easement contract is silent as to where measurements should begin—such as the existing shoreline, the Ordinary High Water Mark, or some other reference point. He said he is now waiting for the DNR to weigh in on the matter.

**VII. New Business**

*A. Long Sod Farm Project Status*

Molinaro indicated that Pat Long had delayed the completion of his ditch-repair project for the second consecutive year. He then asked Dearlove for a status report. Dearlove explained that the project is currently about 85% complete, and that several thousand dollars in cost-share money had been set aside the last couple of years to finish the work. He explained that the landowner's decision to delay work each time has been attributed to a combination of variables related to the weather and issues pertaining to ongoing farming operations. Given the late timing of these decisions, he said it becomes a significant challenge to quickly reallocate funding to other projects before year-end. Dearlove said he has so far managed to reallocate the money, but that he feared the pattern could continue and eventually cause other projects to be deprived of funding. Molinaro added that the completion of the Long Sod Farm project is a top priority for the District. Both Molinaro and Dearlove indicated they would meet with Pat Long to see what needs to be done to ensure project completion by next season.

**VIII. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received since the last meeting:

- 9/23/03 letter to Lake Pointe Association providing notice that their pier currently exceeds the dimensional requirements set forth in the Lake Pointe deed of conservation easement.
- 9/23/03 letter to Carl Lang informing him why the LRMD Board rejected his proposal to install a walking path through lands held in conservation easement.
- 10/2/03 written response from Carl Lang indicating disappointment and confusion over the decision, but thanking the Board for its consideration.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Hoffman seconded and the motion was carried by a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: November 15, 2003 (9:00 a.m. @ Oakland Town Hall).*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Derek Hoffman, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD