

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2007**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District (LRMD) Board convened its monthly meeting at the Oakland Town Hall on November 17, 2007. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present included 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 and Gary Zibell (Cable TV 12).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were previously distributed to the Board for review. *Kapsner moved to approve the minutes of the 10/20/07 meeting, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella presented the financial report for the one-month period ending October 31, 2007. Receipts for the period amounted to \$1,065.20. Receipts consisted of \$365.20 in interest income, a \$650.00 refund from Cambridge High School for an unfinished educational video, and a \$50.00 Lake District Preserve trapping fee. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$8,642.12. A Transaction Listing was distributed showing individual disbursements. These included landowner cost sharing, weed-harvesting operator wages and shoreline rental costs, staff payroll, and general office expenses. Asset balances as of October 31st consisted of \$90,934.64 in general checking, \$95,000.00 in investments, and \$200.00 in petty cash. Sabella noted that the bank CD was due to mature on 12/24/07. *Kapsner moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, and was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove provided an overview of his activities since the last meeting. Handouts included a Lake Manager Report and updated phone logs. Highlights are presented below.

- The weed-harvesting equipment was serviced, winterized and returned to storage. Additional anticipated expenses include the purchase of a set of extendable truck mirrors (\$260) and 15 gallons of food-grade hydraulic oil (\$205). Next, he said he planned to develop an operational plan for next season to better facilitate weed-growth monitoring, communication, oversight and scheduling predictability.
- Data entry was completed for 220 property owner opinion surveys (23% response rate). Results are currently being analyzed with the help of statistical software, and should be available within the next month or so. Results will then be publicized and used as part of ongoing management-planning efforts.
- Two shoreline cost-share projects (Rank and Strey/Carlson) were recently granted the necessary permit approvals and let out for bid. Both projects are on track to be completed before the end of the year. Approximate total cost for both projects is \$8,000. Six additional cost-share projects that are still pending (Gunnelson, Lorang, Golf Side, Maage, Sloninger and Anderson) will be carried over to 2008. Approximate total cost for the six projects is \$35,000.
- Dearlove thanked the 'Friends of the Preserve' volunteers for their recent help with Preserve-related activities. Recent activities included a 4th grade stewardship day, extensive brush clearing, cleaning out the bluebird boxes, and staffing an informational booth at the Cambridge Craft Fair.
- Work has started on the next Ripples newsletter. It is being expanded from a 4 to 8-page format. The goal is to have the newsletter disseminated by early December.
- A presentation was given at the 11/9 UW Nelson Institute Sustainability Forum on the LRMD's social-marketing project relating to rain gardens. There were 70 attendees at the forum.
- Plans are underway to replace the LRMD's 5-year-old computer system before year's end.

Dearlove said he was presently working with Molinaro on the coordination of the potential land acquisition. He said he was also working on replacing the LRMD's five-year-old computer system. He concluded his report by announcing two upcoming lakes conferences. These included a 2/16/08 aquatic invasive species workshop in Milwaukee, and the three-day Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay starting 4/17/08.

VI. Old Business

A. Subcommittee proposal to prioritize landowner cost-sharing using project scores

Molinaro moved to approve the cost-share subcommittee's recommendation. The recommendation is to allocate funds on a first-come, first-served basis or by project score if multiple approved projects are ready to be implemented at the same time but without the availability of adequate funding. Motion was seconded by Sabella. As a point of discussion, Sabella asked why all projects are not prioritized based on merit. Molinaro clarified that, in the past, projects were simply approved for funding if they met eligibility requirements. He said it was never a problem funding eligible projects that came through the door. He said the recommendation was meant to establish a decision-making protocol in the event that there is not enough money to meet the current demand. Sabella asked why not leave funding decisions completely to the discretion of the Board. Molinaro responded that he wanted to avoid any perception of bias when it comes to deciding which eligible landowners would receive funding in any given year. Burow suggested setting a date each year when all project proposals for the year would be reviewed and prioritized for funding purposes. Molinaro said he felt the proposed protocol was a good first step, and that later adjustments could be made if deemed necessary. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Update on status of zebra mussel infestation

Dearlove said the agenda item was intended to give the public another opportunity following the Annual Meeting to pose questions about the zebra mussel situation. A summary of prior LRMD actions was distributed. The summary enumerated public-education and monitoring efforts that were conducted over the years in recognition of the threat. Dearlove reiterated the difficulty in preventing invasive species introductions, especially on popular boating destinations like Ripley that are close to the Great Lakes and other infested waters. Burow said it was unreasonable to expect that zebra mussels would not eventually find their way to Lake Ripley given its level of use and proximity to other infested waterways. He said that despite taking reasonable preventative actions, mussels are now here and we will have to learn how to deal with them. Molinaro added that zebra mussel introductions on other lakes have typically gone through a boom-bust cycle. He was also aware of zebra mussels attaching to the stems of milfoil weeds and causing the weeds to lie down on the bottom. While this could help keep the weeds from entangling boat props, it could also make them harder to harvest. He concluded the discussion by promising to closely monitoring the situation and share information as it continues to become available.

VII. New Business

Kapsner indicated that preliminary approval was being sought from the Town of Oakland to make improvements on a lake house off Mehlretter Lane. The proposal was to jack up the existing structure and make it more permanent. The item was scheduled to be discussed at the next Town Board meeting. Molinaro said the landowners had attended a prior LRMD meeting looking for cost-share assistance to improve the shoreline. Dearlove added that the cost-share project was approved by the Board, but that it is entirely separate from the proposed building improvements Kapsner just described.

VIII. Correspondence

There was no correspondence that had not already been addressed through the course of the meeting.

IX. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties]

Sabella moved to enter into Closed Session at 9:45 a.m. Motion seconded by Burow. Motion carried by a unanimous (5-0) roll call vote.

X. Return to Open Session

Kapsner moved to return to Open Session at 10:50 a.m., and was seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 5-0. Following Closed Session discussion, Sabella moved to authorize Molinaro and Dearlove to proceed with efforts to pursue acquisition of the subject property. Motion was seconded by Burow. Motion carried 5-0.

XI. Adjournment

Jacobsen-Brown moved for adjournment at 10:50 a.m., and was seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: January 19, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD