

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2011**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on March 19, 2011. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Board members present: Dennis McCarthy, John Molinaro, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Walt Christensen, and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Gene Kapsner and Mike Sabella were absent. Also present: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Jimmy DeGidio, Bill Ratzburg, Kent Brown, Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Shirley Teske, and Cambridge Cable TV 98.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments concerning issues not already on the agenda.

III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes from the 01-15-11 meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 5-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Copies of Sabella's financial report for the two-month period ending 02-28-11 were distributed to the Board. Molinaro reviewed the report in Sabella's absence. Receipts for the period amounted to \$76,480.90. Receipts consisted almost entirely of real estate tax revenue, as well as \$118.48 in interest income. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$15,010.41. A transaction listing showed most disbursements were related to staff payroll, general office operations, and restoration work at the Preserve. Asset balances at the end of the period consisted of \$200.00 in petty cash and \$184,302.63 in the general checking account. Also noted was \$200.00 received for native plant orders. *McCarthy moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 5-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last meeting and distributed related handouts. Highlights from his report included the following:

- County zoning permits were approved for selective tree thinning, a prescribed woodland burn, and shoreland re-vegetation work at the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp. Tree thinning was subsequently completed. The burn, understory seeding and aquatic plantings will begin shortly. Molinaro noted that Joel Winn was very pleased with the work so far, and was interested in hosting a tour of the property sometime this summer.
- Landowner cost-share contracts were finalized for the Mar-Pohl and Lindelof shoreline restorations. Contractor bidding and the filing of the DNR permit application for both projects are now underway.
- Lake District Preserve activities included prairie seeding on the 26 acres east of County Rd. A. The temporary containment of expanding willow colonies, clearing of the woodland path, and a limited amount of woody invasive control in the woodlot were also completed. Property boundary signs were obtained and will soon be installed. Upcoming work includes a prescribed prairie burn in late April, and the mowing/spot spraying of newly seeded prairie areas starting in June. A proposed, two-year work plan was distributed for consideration.
- The shore conveyor used for weed harvesting was taken to a small engine company in Fort Atkinson for a new motor. Replacement belting was also received and will be installed upon the conveyor's return. In addition to preparing for another harvesting season, an aquatic plant survey will be performed this June in partnership with Jefferson County's Land and Water Conservation Department.
- Outreach activities consisted of the production and dissemination of the Ripples newsletter, as well as the creation of a Facebook page. A pilot program to coordinate the bulk ordering of native plants was also publicized and implemented. Assistance continues to be offered to lakefront residents needing to register piers.

VI. Old Business

- A. Discussion and possible action on funding the continuation of restoration work at the Lake District Preserve.**

Molinaro summarized recent restoration activities at the Preserve. This was followed by the presentation of a two-year proposed work plan from Dearlove, including estimated costs, potential revenue sources and suggested timeframes of various project needs. Recommended next steps for 2011 were to contract with a qualified consultant to 1) prepare a long-range, master plan for the property, and 2) to assist with the implementation of a formal 'Request for Proposals' for forestry mowing of woody invasive vegetation. He said the proposal was developed in close consultation with Gomez-Ibanez and trusted experts. It was felt that it would lay the necessary groundwork to ensure that limited resources are used in the most cost-effective, goal-driven manner moving forward.

A work proposal and quote from SetterTech, LLC was distributed for consideration. Compared to previously-reviewed consultant proposals, the consensus opinion was that Jay Settersten of SetterTech, LLC offered the most favored approach for the best value. ***Molinaro moved to accept the SetterTech, LLC proposal to prepare and coordinate a 'Request for Proposals' for forestry mowing of the woodlot, and to develop a long-range plan for the Preserve, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,500 and with funds coming out of accrued farm-rental income. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. As a point of discussion, Christensen said he favored the approach of having Settersten come back to the Board if additional funds are needed to complete the plan. Motion carried 5-0.***

B. Shore conveyor engine replacement (weed harvesting)

Dearlove explained that three different brands of replacement engines were investigated by RM Small Engine Repair in Fort Atkinson. According to RM, the engine with the best fit, cost and commercial warranty was a Briggs & Stratton model in either 18 or 23 horsepower (\$1,700 vs. \$2,000 installed cost). Dearlove and Ratzburg both recommended the larger model based on past experience with the previous 18HP being slightly underpowered. McCarthy felt the extra expense was worth it in terms of improved safety and efficiency. ***McCarthy moved to purchase a 23HP Briggs & Stratton engine for the shore conveyor at an estimated total cost of \$2,000. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 5-0.***

VII. New Business

• 4/12-4/14 Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay

Molinaro reminded the Board about the upcoming lakes convention, indicating that some money had been budgeted for anyone interested in attending. Current registrants included Jacobsen-Brown and Dearlove. A description of the convention was provided, and Board members were encouraged to review the agenda and consider attending.

VIII. Correspondence

- 3/17/11 email from Gene Kapsner explaining the Town may be without a lake patrol officer this year due to a missed grant deadline. This was followed by a 3/17 email from Dearlove to DNR asking for reconsideration of the grant-application denial. Jacobsen-Brown expressed her opinion that it was essential from a safety standpoint that a law-enforcement presence be maintained on the lake.
- 3/17/11 email from Patricia Cicero of Jefferson County LWCD seeking permission to share the District's oxygen meter this summer. McCarthy vouched for Ms. Cicero's integrity and trustworthiness as a long-time partner. Christensen recommended first agreeing to some basic terms and conditions of use. Molinaro asked Dearlove to first check with DNR to see if equipment sharing was permissible under the grant. If so, he offered to put the matter on next month's agenda for possible approval pending a written agreement.
- 2/15/11 letter of recommendation on behalf of James Daly for a college-sponsored internship program. Molinaro said that regardless of whether Daly decides to return, he supported the hiring of a summer intern this summer, particularly since there was plenty of work to do and the money had been budgeted.

IX. Adjournment

Jacobsen-Brown moved for adjournment at 10:15 a.m. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting: April 16, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD