

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2011**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on April 16, 2011. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Dennis McCarthy and Walt Christensen. Mike Sabella was absent. Paul Dearlove, Kent Brown, Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Shirley Teske, and Cambridge Cable TV 98 were also present.

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 03-19-11 meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Copies of Sabella's financial report for the first quarter ending 03-31-11 were distributed. Handouts consisted of the Statement of Revenues and Expenses; Actual-to-Budget/Budget-Remaining; Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. For the three-month period, revenues were \$76,558.51, operating expenses were \$20,208.68, and there were \$3,858.98 in other expenses. Current assets consisted of \$200.00 in petty cash and \$173,999.47 in checking. Total equity of \$174,199.47 included \$55,722.00 in restricted funds, a \$65,986.62 fund balance, and \$52,490.85 in revenue over expenses. *McCarthy moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove distributed phone logs and summarized activities since the last meeting. A prescribed woodland burn and additional brush clearing/chipping were completed at the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp with help from Good Oak Ecological Services and several volunteers. Next steps prior to closing out the DNR grant include understory seeding, installation of erosion matting, and the planting of aquatic emergent vegetation. This work is expected to be completed in late May or early June. Molinaro cautioned that wood debris, which may have originated from the camp, had been spotted floating on the north side of the lake. It was agreed that an effort would be made to retrieve the debris as soon as a boat was available.

Landowner cost-share work consisted of filing the necessary permit applications and initiating contractor bidding for the Lindelof and Mar-Pohl projects. Both shoreline projects are on schedule to be completed this summer. Over at the Preserve, firebreaks were mowed and a prairie burn was started with help from Midwest Prairies. Efforts by SetterTech were also underway to spot spray weeds in the new prairie west of County Road A; develop a Request for Proposals for woodland forestry mowing; and to begin long-range restoration planning for the entire property.

On the weed-harvesting front, a new engine was installed on the shore conveyor, and the old belting is currently in the process of being replaced. Other related activities included the completion of aquatic-plant-identification training to prepare for this summer's plant inventory. Christensen warned that rising fuel costs, if they continue, could negatively affect this year's harvesting budget.

Ongoing outreach consisted of sharing District-related information through Facebook, E-bulletins, and periodic 'Welcome Wagon' mailings to new residents. In addition, pier-registration assistance had been provided to a number of pier owners around the lake prior to the April 1st deadline. Dearlove concluded his report by sharing a summer internship announcement that had been posted. Applications would be accepted through May 5th.

VI. Old Business

A. Volunteer needs at Lake District Preserve

Dearlove provided a brief reminder as to the role of the Preserve in protecting Lake Ripley. He then summarized both ongoing and anticipated Preserve activities relative to the District's limited budgetary and human-resource

capacity. An appeal for volunteers was made, especially to help pull garlic mustard, assist with prairie burns, and perform other work as needed. Molinaro added that finding effective ways to communicate with people remains a constant challenge, and was the impetus for creating a Facebook page. Facebook is now being used in combination with the newsletter, E-bulletins and website to post project announcements and try to recruit new volunteers. Consideration is also being given to planning an annual, volunteer work day that can be advertised in the newsletter.

B. Status of recruitment process for part-time, summer intern

Molinaro explained that last year’s intern, James Daly, had decided to accept an opportunity in Minnesota and would not be returning this summer. He noted that Daly sent a gracious thank you card acknowledging that the experiences he gained during last summer’s internship proved valuable in landing his current position. In an effort to recruit another intern, a position announcement had been disseminated via E-Bulletin and sent to UW-Whitewater and UW-Madison. The position description included a number of possible activities for which the intern may be asked to provide project support. Applications will be accepted through May 5th. A copy of the position description with desired qualifications was shared with the Board, and will also be posted on the Lake District website.

C. Wisconsin Lakes Convention report from attendees

Jacobsen-Brown and Dearlove represented the Lake District at this year’s Wisconsin Lakes Convention held in Green Bay. Both gave it high marks and felt the experience was well worth the cost of attendance. Summary reports were provided on topics ranging from fish cribs and aquatic habitat, to bluegreen algae monitoring, to proposed phosphorus rule changes and legislative updates. Jacobsen-Brown encouraged board members, area lake residents, and even representatives from the local chamber of commerce to consider attending in future years. She felt it was important for people to not only learn more about lakes and their management, but also to fully appreciate how important good lake health is to our community.

VII. New Business

Molinaro noted that complaints had been received and investigated concerning construction activity on a Ripley Road lakeshore property. He explained that the activity related to the reconstruction of a boat house, and that it had been properly permitted by the Jefferson County Zoning Department. Also related to permits, it was announced that Jefferson County now offers two-year permits to eligible groups (with at least 25 members) to maintain existing sand beaches. This led to some discussion on beach monitoring and safety. A proposal was made to invite a public health official to a future meeting to talk about bluegreen algae and bacteria.

VIII. Correspondence

All pertinent correspondence was reviewed and discussed during the course of the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Christensen moved for adjournment at 9.55 a.m. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0.
Next meeting: May 21, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD