

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2013**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on June 15, 2013. Molinaro, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Dennis McCarthy and Walt Christensen. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Kent Brown, Mary Knipper, Karen von Huene, and Leah Garrison of 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 last meeting were reviewed. *Sabella moved to approve the 05-18-13 meeting minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.*

**IV. Invited Speakers: Mary Knipper and Karen von Huene of Wisconsin Lakes to discuss organizational priorities, effectiveness and benefits of membership**

Molinaro introduced Mary Knipper (Board President) and Karen von Huene (Executive Director) as invited guests from Wisconsin Lakes. He explained their attendance was requested to address questions and concerns about the organization's effectiveness in representing its membership, and particularly lake districts. Knipper and von Huene then presented information on the structure, history, priorities and direction of Wisconsin Lakes, and responded to follow-up questions and comments—both positive and negative—from the Board. Considerable discussion and debate concluded with no action taken to change the District's membership status.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and summarized his treasurer's report for the one-month period ending May 31, 2013. Receipts for the period amounted to \$73.48, consisting entirely of interest income. Disbursements of \$22,690.82 generally related to harvester repairs, insurance, staff payroll, newsletter printing and miscellaneous office expenses. A transaction listing was presented showing the details of individual disbursements. As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, asset balances included \$200 in petty cash and \$155,774 in the checking account. Other items of note included a \$75.00 cost-share refund back to the District related to the Fischer-Schabowski project. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.*

**VI. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove distributed a summary report, phone logs and other documentation to the Board. Activity highlights since the last meeting included:

- Repaired, launched and tested the weed harvesting equipment
- Completed second round of inlet/outlet stream testing
- Hosted sustainable landscaping seminar with Formecology
- Co-hosted 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' training workshop with Jefferson County LWCD; hired Miranda Heimstreet as program coordinator; Dylan Kersten to serve as a volunteer program assistant
- Contracted with Midwest Prairies to perform planned restoration/maintenance activities at the Preserve
- Investigated research literature on campfire impacts and the efficacy of related management policies
- Conducted data review and communicated findings related to DNR's proposed 303(d) impaired waters listing of Ripley Park Beach for E. coli bacteria; final public comment period to end on June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Met with three property owners to discuss proposed cost-share projects
- Met with Mary Knipper, Wisconsin Lakes Board President, to discuss organizational priorities, membership benefits, and concerns that could be addressed in her presentation to the board
- Upcoming activities: audit committee, budget committee, summer Ripples

**VII. Old Business**

• **Campfire policy for the Lake District Preserve**

The Board discussed the merits of various campfire policies for possible adoption. During discussion, a case was made for banning campfires. Reasons for a prohibition included: the potential for adverse impacts; daytime visitor hours that preclude overnight camping; liability and safety concerns; difficulties in policing; and a perceived incompatibility of the activity with stated management objectives. *Kapsner moved to establish a policy to ban campfires in the Preserve. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.*

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Discussion and possible action on use of cost-share funds to repair or improve past projects**

Dearlove requested that the Board provide guidance on the use of cost sharing to repair previously-funded projects. He explained that—due to random forces of nature—even well-designed and properly-installed practices are at risk of damage or lost effectiveness over time. Ice-push events were cited as an example. Kapsner recommended allowing any previously-funded project to be eligible for additional cost sharing upon the conclusion of the 10-year maintenance agreement. It was further recommended that established scoring procedures be used to guide any secondary funding considerations. Hearing no objections, Molinaro directed Dearlove to proceed as recommended.

**B. Schedule future meeting dates: audit committee, budget committee/hearing, Annual Meeting**

The following meetings were either confirmed or scheduled: 7/20 (Board), 7/25 (budget committee - tentative), 8/31 (9:00 a.m. budget hearing followed immediately by the Annual Meeting), 9/21 (Board), 10/19 (Board) and 11/16 (Board). There would be no meeting in December.

**IX. Correspondence/Announcements**

- \$3,120 County Conservation Aid-payment request submitted to Jefferson County Parks for completed forestry mowing work at the Lake District Preserve
- 5/24 email from Clay Alexander of Aquarius Systems outlining future, worst-case-scenario repair needs for the weed harvester
- 6/10 letter received from Midwest Prairies LLC documenting meander survey findings and recommended actions for the Preserve
- 6/12 email received from Kevin Weismann, Jefferson County Parks Supervisor, concerning weed conditions and management recommendations for FEMA property located at N4214 Sleepy Hollow Rd.
- Letter of explanation and \$75 check received from Liz Fischer and Tom Shabowski to reimburse the District for a failed treefall installation
- Other announcements related to recent carp spearing, DNR walleye stocking, water-clarity readings, and zebra mussel observations.

**X. Adjournment**

*Kapsner moved for adjournment at 11:00 a.m. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

Next meeting: July 20, 2013 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD