

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2013**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on July 20, 2013. Molinaro, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present during roll call: Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Dennis McCarthy and Walt Christensen. Gene Kapsner arrived a few minutes late. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Kent Brown, Amanda Walker, Jim Blank, Regina Blank, 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. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 06-15-13 meeting minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed the financial statements for the six-month period ending June 30, 2013. Handouts included: Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity; Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the three- and six-month periods ending June 30, 2013; Actual-to-Budget and Budget-Remaining report; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the District had total assets of \$146,821.22, total liabilities of \$2,983.97 in accrued payroll taxes and pension, and total equity of \$143,837.25. Equity consisted of \$87,170.47 in restricted funds, a fund balance of \$55,591.49, and \$1,075.29 in revenue over expenses. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove reported on his activities since the last meeting. Handouts included monthly phone logs, issue summaries on 2014 budget/policy items, and other supporting documentation. Updates were provided on ongoing program and project activities, including: weed harvesting; possible replacement of the outlet dam; Ripples newsletter; Lake District Preserve restoration work; stream monitoring; Clean Boats-Clean Waters; AIS early-detection monitoring; audit and budget committee meetings; the Willerup Bible Camp project; and plans for an Umbrella Daze lake-education booth.

**VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Board policy on geocaching at the Lake District Preserve**

In response to a citizen request to conduct geocaching at the Preserve, the Board discussed whether such activity should be allowed and under what conditions. Copies of a geocaching policy and permit application from Jefferson County Parks were distributed for informational purposes. Board members opposed to the idea of geocaching said it had nothing to do with the mission and purpose of the Preserve, and that it required close supervision to prevent problems. Those in favor or without objections considered it a reasonable public use of the Preserve, and that it could be sufficiently controlled through a permitting process. *Kapsner moved to adopt a policy allowing geocaching in the Preserve through a permitting process, and with application fees to be determined. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 5-2.* Dearlove was directed to inform the interested geocacher of the new policy, and to begin working on a permitting system that could be brought back to the Board for consideration.

**B. Discussion and possible action on the 2014 proposed budget and funding needs/strategies for related policy items:**

- 1. Replacement of rubble outlet dam with fixed-crest spillway design**
- 2. Implementation of a new, landowner cost-sharing initiative**
- 3. Replacement of weed-harvesting machinery and District vehicle**

Sabella distributed and reviewed the 2014 budget as proposed by the Budget Committee. Handouts included detailed work papers and the formal budget presentation. If approved at the Annual Meeting, the budget called for \$144,524 in total disbursements paid for by a \$124,969 tax levy, a \$2,055 carryover, and the authorized use of \$17,500 in unrestricted funds to reduce the levy. Compared to the current year's budget, this would result in a 5.6% tax levy increase. The budget presentation also showed a proposed consolidation of multiple restricted funds into a single "Lake Ripley Protection Fund."

Molinaro added that the Budget Committee identified three major policy items that, if pursued, could have significant cost implications for the District. These included replacing the outlet dam, funding new landowner incentives, and/or replacing aging weed-harvesting equipment. Given the potential cost impacts of these initiatives, Molinaro wanted Board input on how to prioritize to determine which issues go to the Annual Meeting. Dearlove then provided summary information on each issue, including a description of need, estimated costs, grant opportunities and other decision-making considerations.

During discussion, outlet dam owners Jim and Regina Blank expressed their discomfort with putting that particular matter on the agenda. They felt it was probably not the right time given the District's other needs, and especially those related to the harvesting program.

With respect to the budget and in light of future funding needs, Kapsner said that he was uncomfortable taking another \$17,500 out of reserves to reduce the tax levy. Molinaro responded by pointing out the difference between the restricted (capital reserve) versus unrestricted fund accounts. He said the \$17,500 was to be taken out of unrestricted funds, which consisted of about \$60,000 of accumulated interest income, grant money, etc. Amanda Walker and Jacobsen-Brown voiced support for Kapsner's position, arguing that an increased levy was justified by the current needs to maintain the lake and area property values. Discussion ended with no action taken.

#### **VIII. Correspondence/Announcements**

Written statements were received from Mike Sabella and Jane Jacobsen-Brown confirming their intentions to run for re-election to the Board.

#### **IX. Closed Session [as per Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate the acquisition of public properties; and as per Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1)(c) to consider staff-related employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data]**

*Kapsner moved to enter into closed session at approximately 10:45 a.m. to discuss a possible land donation to the District, and to consider staff-compensation matters. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.*

*Kapsner moved to return to open session at approximately 11:20 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.*

#### **X. Adjournment**

*Christensen moved for adjournment at 11:20 a.m. Motion seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 7-0.*

Next meeting: August 31, 2013, at the Oakland Town Hall (9:00 a.m. budget hearing followed immediately by the Annual Meeting).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD