

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Budget Hearing Minutes  
August 27, 2011**

The Lake Ripley Management District budget hearing was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 8:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall. Board members in attendance: John Molinaro, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Mike Sabella, Dennis McCarthy and Jane Jacobsen-Brown. Also in attendance: Kent Brown, Deb Kutz, Rick Kutz, Jimmy DeGidio and Ann Molinaro. Late arrivals included Gene Kapsner (8:50), Jim Rank (8:55), Bill Ratzburg (9:00) and Bill Trout (9:00).

The 2012 proposed budget was distributed to those in attendance (see attached). Budget-development and approval procedures were reviewed. The budget committee met on July 1, 2011, and a draft budget was previously presented for board review and discussion at the July 16, 2011 board meeting. Both meetings had been noticed and were open to the public. Molinaro and Sabella provided an overview of the budget and responded to audience questions.

Deb Kutz requested that, in the future, a column be added to the budget presentation showing the prior year's budget. The purpose for including that additional information was to be able to compare changes from one budget to the next. Molinaro and Sabella pointed out that Wisconsin state law dictates the format of the budget presentation, and that the prior year's budget was provided in last year's Annual Meeting minutes which had been distributed. However, there was general agreement that adding the extra column of information would be useful if state statutes permit. This idea would be investigated prior to the publishing of next year's proposed budget.

There was considerable discussion about the weed-harvesting program and budget. It was agreed that two crew members should always be present on the harvester at any given time for safety reasons. Concern was also expressed about current staff having difficulty coordinating schedules to adjust to changing needs. Regarding the harvester operators, Sabella proposed increasing both the general "operator rate" and the higher "mechanical rate" to reward tenure and expertise. He said Dearlove had previously expressed his support for increasing the overall harvesting budget to allow for more flexibility during high-growth years, whether by bringing on additional crew members, increasing cutting hours, and/or approving new wage-rate incentives for our current staff. Data were then provided showing how a hypothetical wage increase might impact the budget. Molinaro argued that the same amount of money could be used to increase cutting hours rather than pay for raises on top of an already competitive wage rate. Kutz said she favored increasing the harvesting budget to allow for both wage incentives and the hiring of an additional crew member to facilitate a more flexible cutting schedule. Kutz added that she would rather pay a little more in taxes to have the lake more useable. DeGidio said he would support increasing cutting hours but not operator wage increases, pointing to the bad economy and his belief that the current wage rates were already more than fair. Jacobsen-Brown said she was not expecting and was therefore not prepared to revisit operator wage rates at this time. It was generally felt this could be handled during a closed session of any regular board meeting. Meanwhile, the consensus opinion was that the board should try to find money in the current budget to hire additional crew members to increase cutting hours.

Next, Sabella reviewed and provided detailed explanation on each budget item. Explanation included the fact that summer internship money was once again being budgeted under the miscellaneous category. This would allow for the money to be used for other purposes if a qualified intern candidate could not be found. Referencing the Capital Reserve, Land & Equipment Acquisition fund, Sabella noted an anticipated need to draw from that account for a new computer, updated GIS software, and a replacement dump truck and/or pickup truck. A minimum amount was budgeted for maintaining the Preserve, but

with the recognition that more would need to be budgeted in the future to pay for planned property improvements. In addition, the budget included enough money to distribute three newsletters. DeGidio suggested the newsletter could be put online to save on printing and mailing costs. Molinaro responded that public surveys have consistently shown that receiving the newsletter was the preferred way of receiving information.

Jacobsen-Brown moved to adjourn the hearing at 9:10 a.m. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary  
Recorder: PDD

Date

**LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
2011 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	2009 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2010 JAN-JUNE <u>ACTUAL</u>	2010 JAN-DEC <u>ESTIMATED</u>	2011 PROPOSED <u>BUDGET</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$ 110,517	\$ 72,866	\$ 112,888	\$ 118,775
Grants		5,000	5,000	
Interest Income		374	750	
Carry-over	1,572	4,000	4,000	6,650
Other	<u>4,824</u>	<u>1,977</u>	<u>3,934</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>116,913</u>	<u>84,217</u>	<u>126,572</u>	<u>125,425</u>
<b>Projects:</b>				
Staff Payroll/Fringes/Taxes	63,358	32,488	64,977	67,275
Landowner Cost Sharing	16,663	7,509	10,000	10,000
Weed Harvesting	6,456	2,310	7,156	7,150
Lake District Preserve	5,180	2,566	3,000	4,500
Special Programs	112	--	--	250
<b>Insurance:</b>				
General Liability	1,956	--	2,200	2,300
Marine & Truck	1,149	--	1,350	1,400
Worker's Compensation	918	919	950	950
<b>Operations:</b>				
Legal Counsel	--	--	3,000	3,000
Dues & Conferences	410	55	400	1,400
Office & Community Outreach	4,391	3,203	6,330	6,800
Contingency	1,097	162	1,500	3,700
Commissioner Stipends	4,650	2,400	4,800	4,900
Rent	1,800	1,050	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land/Equipment Acquisition	<u>10,000</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<u>118,140</u>	<u>52,662</u>	<u>117,463</u>	<u>125,425</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<u>\$ (1,227)</u>	<u>\$ 31,555</u>	<u>\$ 9,109</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

Non-lapsible Fund:	Capital Reserve, Land & Equipment Acquisition	F.K. Elson Memorial	Friends of the Preserve	Preserve Restoration & Development
Est. Balance (12/31/09)	\$ 49,776	\$ 204	\$ 1,801	\$ 200
Add'l. 2009 activity:				
Increase				
Decrease	(2,016)			(200)
Final Balance (12/31/09)	47,760	204	1,801	0
2010 Est. Additions	73,012			
2010 Est. Interest	225	1	9	
2010 Est. Expenditures	(63,012)			
Est. Balance (12/31/10)	\$ 57,985	\$ 205	\$ 1,810	\$ 0