

**Lake Ripley Management District
Budget Hearing Minutes
September 8, 2012**

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, Jane Jacobsen-Brown and Walt Christensen. Gene Kapsner was absent. Also in attendance: Kent Brown, Debra Kutz and Ed Grunden.

The proposed budget for 2013 was distributed (see attached). Sabella presented the budget and explained how it was developed. It was noted that the budget committee met on July 6, 2012. Molinaro, Sabella and Dearlove drafted the budget and presented it for board review at the July 21, 2012 meeting. Both meetings had been noticed and were open to the public.

The most significant budget increases were proposed for weed harvesting and planned restoration work at the Lake District Preserve. The \$3,360 budget increase for weed harvesting was based on the increased need for additional cutting and operator hours. Plant growth was unusually prolific and robust this summer, and the current budget is not sufficient to accommodate the greatly increased cutting intensity. Kutz commented that she was happy to see a harvesting budget that is more reflective of the need. Molinaro pointed out the difficulties in predicting weed growth from year to year, particularly when record drought and low lake levels enter the picture. It was proving to be a record-setting year in terms of both weather and harvesting intensity.

As for the Preserve, a budget increase of \$10,250 over the current year was proposed to implement a recommended woodland restoration. Additionally, over \$10,000 in grants had been received to help cover the cost of the project. Among other items noted was the planned purchase of a new computer system and digital camera. In total, the budget predicts an estimated \$136,500 in expenses, resulting in a required tax levy of \$118,320 after adjusting for carryover and a one-time transfer of \$17,500 from unrestricted funds. If approved at the Annual Meeting, the required tax levy to support the proposed budget would remain nearly unchanged over the prior year.

Referencing the proposed use of unrestricted funds, Debra Kutz asked if it made better sense to increase the tax levy by some percentage to be more reflective of the true cost of doing business. Molinaro clarified that the bulk of the transfer would cover one-time capital expenses, rather than recurring operational costs. In addition, the intention was to use already available funds before asking for a tax increase. Kutz also received clarification on the type of expenses that could be covered by the capital reserve and land acquisition fund.

The budget hearing wrapped up with a weed harvesting report by operator Ed Grunden and related discussion. No changes to the proposed budget were recommended. *McCarthy moved to adjourn the hearing at 8:40 a.m. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary
Recorder: PDD

Date

**LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2013 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	2011 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2012 JAN-JUNE <u>ACTUAL</u>	2012 JAN-DEC <u>ESTIMATED</u>	2013 PROPOSED <u>BUDGET</u>
Revenues:				
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$ 118,775	\$ 79,127	\$ 118,320	\$ 118,320
Grants		10,855	10,855	
Interest Income	448	431	826	
Carryover				680
Use of Unrestricted Funds				17,500
Restricted Funds, Net		<11,517>	<11,679>	
Other	294	500	500	
Total Revenues	<u>119,517</u>	<u>79,396</u>	<u>118,822</u>	<u>136,500</u>
Projects:				
Landowner Cost Sharing	2,368	7,463	14,238	5,000
Weed Harvesting	9,086	2,376	7,500	10,560
Lake District Preserve	5,113	1,985	4,500	14,750
Special Programs	676	65	250	250
Operations:				
Staff Payroll/Fringes/Taxes	67,038	34,769	69,950	70,620
Insurance	4,558	5,191	5,191	5,220
Legal Counsel	0	0	1,000	1,500
Dues & Conferences	992	830	1,400	1,400
Office & Community Outreach	5,596	2,082	6,282	7,300
Contingency	2,463	970	3,200	3,200
Commissioner Stipends	4,600	2,100	4,750	4,900
Rent	1,800	900	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land/Equipment Acquisition	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Total Disbursements	<u>114,290</u>	<u>58,731</u>	<u>130,061</u>	<u>136,500</u>
Balance	<u>\$ 5,227</u>	<u>\$ 20,665</u>	<u>\$ <11,239></u>	<u>\$ --</u>

Restricted Funds:	Capital Reserve, Land & Equipment Acquisition	F.K. Elson Memorial	Friends of the Preserve	Preserve Restoration & Development
Est. Balance (12/31/11)	\$ 61,838	\$ 206	\$ 2,020	\$ 2,244
Additional 2011 activity:				380
Increase				
Decrease				
Final Balance (12/31/11)	61,838	206	2,020	2,624
2012 Est. Additions	10,500		150	
2012 Est. Interest	300	1	10	13
2012 Est. Expenditures				(1,515)
Est. Balance (12/31/12)	<u>\$ 72,638</u>	<u>\$ 207</u>	<u>\$ 2,180</u>	<u>\$ 1,122</u>