

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2010**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board met at the Oakland Town Hall on October 16, 2010. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Mike Sabella, Dennis McCarthy and Gene Kapsner. Walt Christensen was absent. Also present: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager), Debra Kutz, Rick Kutz, Jimmy DeGidio, Kent Brown, Shirley Teske, Laura Payne, Liz Fischer, Randy Hernke, Ann Kisow, and 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 08-21-10 meeting were previously distributed for Board review. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.* Molinaro pointed out that, by statute, the 9/4 Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the electors at the next Annual Meeting.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed the third-quarter financial statements ending September 30, 2010. Handouts consisted of: Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Actual to Budget/Budget Remaining, General Ledger and Transaction Listing. The District's current cash position was shown as \$142,614.16. Total liabilities consisted of \$2,031.32 in accrued federal and state payroll taxes. Equity consisted of \$49,765.00 in restricted funds, a general fund balance of \$62,793.99, and revenue over expenses of \$28,023.85. Third-quarter revenues and expenses were reviewed by category. Sabella noted that the weed-harvesting budget was exceeded by \$2,566 for the year due to an unusual amount of weed growth that had to be addressed. It was also explained that while \$10,000 was budgeted for cost sharing, more than this amount was able to be expended since monies had been set aside and carried over from prior years (including from the Priority Watershed Project grant) to cover existing contracts. Land-rental income related to the Preserve was assigned to general revenues, and could be made available for future Preserve work. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove reviewed his activities since the last regular meeting. This included overseeing the installation of 870' of lakeshore riprap and several tree-drops at the Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp. Board authorization was requested to proceed with the next grant-eligible project phases (i.e., invasive brush control, woodland seeding, and aquatic plantings). A detailed landscape plan and contractor bids were obtained for the Hoiby rain gardens and shoreland buffer. The landowner is now seeking board approval of a cost-share amount so they can proceed with the work. Other landowner cost-sharing news included the completion of phase II shore-planting work for the Alpine Village Condo Association. The Association is considering the installation of aquatic plantings in the spring to fully utilize its remaining cost sharing.

It was noted that weed-harvesting activities had recently wrapped up for the season. The equipment was cleaned, serviced and moved back into off-season storage. A detailed summary report on this year's harvesting program will be prepared for the next meeting. In terms of water quality monitoring, McCarthy was recognized for his fifth year in serving as lead monitor. His volunteer efforts include tracking Secchi clarity, taking temperature/dissolved oxygen profiles, and sending water samples to the state lab for phosphorus and chlorophyll analyses. Dearlove offered to prepare a summary report of this year's monitoring results by the next meeting.

With the fall harvest behind us, work will proceed with the surveying and installation of fence-post boundary markers along the north property boundary of the Preserve. The total cost is estimated to be under \$2,500, and would result in a boundary marker placed every 100'. Once completed, native prairie seeding will commence on the adjoining, 26-acre field in partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR.

A fall edition of the Ripples newsletter is now under production. It should be ready for distribution by early November. In other news, a DNR public hearing was held on 10/1 at the Oakland Town Hall as part of DNR's permit review of the inlet dredging project proposed by Ripley Waters Association. Over 50 people were in attendance. Two pages of written testimony were submitted to bring attention to a number of concerns and unanswered questions. DNR has indicated that its current intentions are to deny the permit application in its present form. It also plans to call a meeting with the applicant and consultant to go over the deficiencies that would need to be addressed if they wish to reapply. It was also announced that, at the invitation of Greg Farnham (Lake Sinissippi Improvement District), a talk was given to several Dodge County lake groups in Beaver Dam, with about 30 people attending. The group has asked that we share our experiences over the last 20 years in managing Lake Ripley.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Review status of Hoard-Curtis Scout Camp project and approve future implementation and reimbursement procedures**

Dearlove summarized the work that was both completed and still planned as part of the multi-phased restoration project, including actual and estimated costs. All project phases were being subjected to the District's standard bidding procedures, and all are eligible for 75% reimbursement under the DNR Lake Protection Grant. He requested board authorization to proceed with the next project phases for which bids had already been received, and to reimburse project expenses as allowed by the DNR grant. He also asked for assurances that the Scout Camp would retain its eligibility to come back before the board to request cost sharing. It was explained that this would not occur until all work was finished and a full accounting of related expenses and revenues was completed by Joel Winn. Based on estimated project costs and reported donations, Sabella estimated a maximum cost exposure to the District of approximately \$1,500. Jacobsen-Brown suggested that the small potential cost to the District was more than outweighed by the benefits that would be gained by the project. Hearing no objections, Molinaro asked Dearlove to proceed with the next project phases as planned.

### **B. Review project plan and contractor bids for purposes of approving a cost-share amount for the Hoiby rain gardens and shoreland buffer at N4376 Friedel Ave.**

Dearlove distributed a detailed landscaping plan, a summary breakdown of the three contractor bids, and a written statement from the landowners regarding their contractor preference. The proposed plan consisted of four different rain gardens and a shoreland buffer, with quotes ranging from roughly \$25,000 to \$36,000. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the scope and objectives of the project. Kapsner and others questioned the cost-share eligibility of some of the landscaping elements, and particularly whether some of the hardscaping features were necessary for stormwater control. Given the much larger scale and cost of the project relative to what was originally anticipated, board consensus was that more time was needed to review and consider the plan. Molinaro said he also wanted to verify how much cost-share funding was available in relation to projects already in the pipeline. *Sabella moved to continue discussion until the next meeting, and to require that the landowners be present to answer any questions. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

### **C. Discussion and possible action on the Board's position with respect to the inlet dredging proposal**

Molinaro explained that a number of inquiries had been received from community members who wanted to know the board's position on Ripley Waters Association's inlet-dredging proposal. Comments were invited from the board and those in attendance, particularly to the question of whether the board should be taking a formal position before the DNR completes its permit review. This led to considerable discussion involving a host of questions and concerns about the proposed project, mostly related to its extensive scope and the associated environmental-impact risks. The consensus opinion was that there were too many unaddressed questions and concerns to warrant the District's endorsement, including potentially unacceptable and irreversible impacts to a critically sensitive area of the lake. Also noted was that such a project had not been identified as a need in any prior management plan.

*Jacobsen-Brown moved that the board not support the project as currently presented. Motion seconded by McCarthy. During discussion, Gomez-Ibanez requested that the board not rely strictly on the DNR when seeking expert advice on potential project impacts. Sabella felt DNR should be asked to investigate and respond to some of the District's key questions of concern before the board formulates any final positions. Kapsner questioned the completeness of the permit application based on what he heard at the public hearing, and felt it was appropriate to withhold a position of support until sufficient information was provided on which to base a decision. Molinaro moved for consideration to amend the original motion to add that board support of the*

*project will not occur until all the District's questions and concerns are addressed to its full satisfaction. Motion seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 6-0. Molinaro then moved to approve the amended motion, and was seconded by Kapsner. Motion carried 6-0.* Molinaro instructed Dearlove to draft a letter to DNR that he could sign. The letter would state the board's position with respect to the currently proposed project, and would include a list of questions and concerns that would need to be addressed before the board could reconsider its position.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Consideration of committee recommendations related to the following proposed cost-share projects: 1) repair of previously cost-shared shoreline riprap located at N4306 Alpine Village Ln.; and 2) replacement of seawall with shoreline riprap and vegetative buffer at W9376 Ripley Rd.**

Molinaro reviewed the outcome of the cost-share committee meeting that was held on 10/7 at the Oakland Town Hall. Participants included committee members Molinaro and Jay Settersten, as well as Dearlove as technical advisor and recorder of the meeting minutes. Copies of the minutes and site photographs were distributed for board review. While three proposed shoreline projects were originally reviewed by the committee, one landowner (Ann Kisow) had subsequently asked to be dropped from consideration. For the two projects still under consideration, Molinaro indicated that the scores were sufficient to be recommended for 50% cost sharing.

N4306 Alpine Village Ln.: The 75-ft. shoreline, owned by Randy Hernke, was a cost-shared riprap project completed in early 2002 under the old DNR grant. It was subsequently damaged by ice push that resulted in shifting of the rock and bank heaving. Damages were considered significant and not the result of landowner negligence. The proposed repair work scored 9 out of 20 possible points, exceeding the 8-point minimum eligibility threshold. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to approve the project for cost sharing, with a cost-share amount to be determined once the landowner submits bids for board review. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0.*

W9376 Ripley Rd.: An approximately 35-ft. section of shoreline, owned by Tom Lindelof, is showing evidence of erosion due to a collapsed concrete seawall. The proposal is to remove the collapsed seawall, replace it with riprap, and install a shoreland buffer between the installed rock and Ripley Rd. The project scored 12 out of 20 possible points, exceeding the 8-point minimum eligibility threshold. The project failed to meet the threshold without the buffer. *Kapsner moved to approve the project for cost sharing, with a cost-share amount to be determined once the landowner submits bids for board review. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0.*

**VIII. Correspondence**

- 9/15/10 letter from Attorney Chris Rogers to Larry and Carol Aschbrenner informing them of their legal obligations to maintain the recently-installed grass waterway as per our signed contract.
- 9/16/10 letter from Dearlove to Roy Hagemeister in response to a request for detachment from the District.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Kapsner moved for adjournment at approximately 11:15 a.m. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 6-0.* Next meeting: November 20, 2010 at the Oakland Town Hall (9:00 a.m.).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD