

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2012**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on October 20, 2012. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present: Walt Christensen, Dennis McCarthy, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Mike Sabella and John Molinaro. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (LRMD Lake Manager); Rick Kutz, 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 08-25-12 minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed and reviewed copies of the third-quarter financial statements ending September 30, 2012. Handouts: Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity (Balance Sheet); Statement of Revenues and Expenses; Actual-to-Budget/Budget-Remaining report; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. The balance sheet showed total current assets of \$166,480.51 and total liabilities of \$2,941.79 in accrued pension and payroll taxes. A pre-payment of state payroll tax withholding showed up as a negative \$68.00 under liabilities. Equity consisted of \$65,173.36 in restricted funds, a general fund balance of \$63,413.56, and revenue over expenses of \$34,951.80. As expected, weed harvesting expenses for the period were over budget by almost \$4,800. Board approval will be sought in November to make a transfer of unrestricted funds to cover the added harvesting costs. *Jacobsen-Brown moved to accept the report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

V. Lake Manager's Report

Dearlove summarized his activities since the last regular meeting. Handouts included his lake manager report; phone logs; end-of-season weed harvesting summary; water quality monitoring report; summary findings from the 2012 shoreline inventory; and correspondence related to a cost-share contract affecting the Kolb property. It was noted that many of these items would be covered in detail later in the agenda.

Reported activity highlights related to: weed harvesting operations; Ripples newsletter; September budget hearing and Annual Meeting; ongoing fishery-research collaborations and a related \$3,000 DNR grant award; lake-wide shoreline inventory; new entry sign for the Preserve; \$3,100 in County Conservation Aid to support Preserve forestry mowing; May 2013 seminar in partnership with Formecology; summer internship accomplishments; and updates on proposed cost-share projects, including a shoreland-restoration initiative involving the Willerup Bible Camp.

VI. Old Business

A. End-of-season weed harvesting and water quality reports

Dearlove distributed and reviewed detailed summaries pertaining to weed harvesting and water quality monitoring, including historical data comparisons. Before the equipment was removed for repair and winterization in late September, a record 168 dump truck loads of plant material had been harvested. Hours of operation, number of loads harvested, and program expenses reached their highest levels due to the severe summer drought, low lake levels and exceptional water clarity. Cutting locations, general weed-growth conditions, and equipment-repair challenges were all reviewed. Gratitude was extended to the harvesting crew for all its hard work, and to Christensen for his contributions in addressing mechanical difficulties.

Next, plot graphs were reviewed showing long-term water quality trends for standard Trophic State Index (TSI) parameters and bacteria. Summer mean water clarity for 2012 was a record 10.9 feet, compared to a historic summer mean of 6.3 feet. The mean total phosphorus concentration was 21 µg/L, which is consistent with the historic average and below the 24 µg/L target value. Chlorophyll *a* concentration, a measure of algal production in

the water column, was 4.9 µg/L. This value was below the target and historic mean values. Bacteria levels were another source of good news, with mostly safe and below-average readings reported throughout the summer. Overall, the data indicate a comparatively good water quality year for Lake Ripley.

B. Presentation of findings from the 2012 shoreline inventory

Dearlove distributed a report summarizing the findings of the 2012 shoreline inventory. Intern Jeanne Scherer was recognized for her role in collecting and helping to analyze the data. The purpose of the inventory was to document the general condition of the lakeshore, help identify current problems and opportunities, and provide a baseline to track changes in shore conditions over time. Compared to a 1993 assessment identifying 31% of the lakeshore as moderately to severely eroding, evidence of shoreline erosion was now much harder to find. Since 1993, the District has protected or restored 6,261 feet of shoreline. Also reported were percentages of the overall shoreline represented by different types of land cover, development and habitat features.

VII. New Business

A. Mike Rumpf request to place beehives in the Lake District Preserve

Molinaro received a request from Mike Rumpf to place one of his honeybee hives in the Preserve to help pollinate the prairie plants. The proposed location was on the west side of Highway A near a group of oak trees. If approved, Molinaro said a letter would be sent to Mr. Rumpf to confirm the arrangement and any stipulations. He said Rumpf had agreed to first get permission from the neighbors, and that the District would not be held responsible for any theft or damage. *Kapsner moved to approve the request to place a beehive in the Preserve. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

B. May 2013 community workshop on shoreline enhancement and lake-friendly landscaping

Instant polling was conducted to identify preferred seminar topics and formats for 2013. Based on those results, the District will be partnering with Madison-based Formecology to host a seminar on sustainable landscaping and shoreline enhancement. The two-hour event is tentatively scheduled to follow the May board meeting (10:30-12:30 on Saturday, May 18, 2013).

C. Purchase of used digital camera

Dearlove offered to loan or sell (at discount) one of his digital cameras to replace the District's camera that had malfunctioned. Sabella said the current camera has a broken part that would cost \$70 to replace. Pricing information and specifications for a Nikon CoolPix L18 camera were distributed for consideration. The camera was in good working order and currently retails for \$120. *Sabella moved to purchase the used digital camera for a cost not to exceed \$50.00. Motion seconded by McCarthy. Motion carried 7-0.*

Jacobsen-Brown left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

VIII. Correspondence/Announcements

A. Letter from Wisconsin DNR confirming \$3,000 grant award to determine feasibility of restoring native, nongame fish populations in Lake Ripley

B. Communication with Keith Kolb concerning shoreline cost-share contract requirements at N4452 Park

- 9/4 letter from Lake District attorney Chris Rogers outlining restoration requirements
- 10/12 letter from Jefferson County Zoning confirming agreement with the landowner that the property would be brought back into compliance before the end of the growing season

C. Communication with Jim Blank, outlet property owner, regarding trespass and maintenance concerns related to the dam

Dearlove reported that Mr. Blank agreed to a meeting with District and Town officials to discuss the situation with the dam. Plans were to meet at the Oakland Town Hall once Mr. Blank determined his availability.

In other announcements, Kapsner indicated that the Town will be purchasing a multi-media projector. He asked if the District might be interested in using the equipment and cost sharing its acquisition. Sabella said he was in favor of working out some kind of agreement. Molinaro offered to put the issue on the November meeting agenda for further discussion.

IX. Adjournment

Kapsner moved for adjournment at 10:27 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.

Next meeting: November 17, 2012 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD