

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2016**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on March 19, 2016. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Board members present at roll call: John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Craig Kempel, Jimmy DeGidio, and Walt Christensen. Also in attendance: Lisa Griffin (LRMD Lake Manager), Rick and Debra Kutz and Kent Brown.

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 November 21, 2015 meeting was reviewed. *Christensen moved to approve the November 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Kempel. Motion carried 7-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed to the Board copies of his treasurer's reports. The reports consisted of the end of year financial statements ending December 31, 2015 and the two month period ending February 29, 2016. The review of the 2015 end of year financial statements included a Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity (balance sheet), a Statement of Revenues and Expenses, Actual-to-Budget/Budget-Remaining Statement, and a General Ledger. The year end adjusted balance sheet showed \$103,487.54 in total current assets, consisting of \$200.00 in petty cash and the remainder in the bank checking account. There were no current liabilities. Equity consisted of \$33,757.27 in restricted funds, a non-restricted fund balance of \$49,207.29, and \$20,522.98 in revenue under expenses. Sabella relayed the circumstances as to why the revenue under expenses accrued, such as a lack of cost share work completed in 2015. Discussion also included areas such as weed harvesting costs, Lake District Preserve costs, and the overall financial standing. Sabella then discussed the two month period ending February 29, 2016. Asset balances included \$200 in petty cash and \$161,686.00 in the checking account. Receipts for the two month period amount to \$81,260.75 consisting of the first installment of real estate taxes, a DNR grant award advance and interest income. Disbursements for the period amounted to \$22,862.10. Sabella noted that two cost-share projects have been completed in this report. It was also noted that preserve work which was scheduled for 2015 was completed and incurred in 2016. Sabella relayed that any questions can be included with next month's meeting. Molinaro commented on the thorough and detailed reports provided by Sabella and thanked him for his exceptional work. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into record. Motion seconded by DeGidio. Motion carried 7-0.*

VI. Lake Manager's Report

- Critical Habitat Designation-draft pending from WDNR
- Ice on occurred January 5, 2016, Ice off March 10, 2016 65 day duration-shortest on record
- Grants and Awards
 - CBCW reimbursement awarded
 - Healthy Lakes Initiative Program grant proposal submitted
 - Additional funds secured for new stand of non-native phragmites, grant reimbursement submitted 3/1/16
- Outreach
 - Winter Ripples disseminated December 2015
- Preserve
 - Trapping occurred Nov 1-Dec 15. Total of 15 males/12 females- 2.5% effort.
 - Fence broken- backed into and damaged
 - Forestry mowed in Woodland 1 and wetland 1 to remove invasive woody species. Box elder thicket removed from Wetland 3.

- Upcoming burn for Upland and wetland areas-Agenda Item
- Cost-share
 - Gabion project completed
 - Sylvan Mounds 1st Edition complete
 - 2 contacts about projects and possible cost-share consideration
- Inlet Stream
 - Secured funding for monitoring total Phosphorus at Hwy 18 site through Water Action Volunteers.
- Other
 - Survey of Lake Point Ltd. easement area for phragmites with Jeanne Scherer (DNR) and Peter Ziegler (EC3)
 - Notified of potential sale of DNR land abutting preserve.
 - Planting review request from Town of Oakland
 - Partner with Friends of GHA, Cambridge Schools, DNR, USFW for purple loosestrife biocontrol program
 - Attended Cambridge Elementary school science fair as VIP, presentation to Environmental Group at school about purple loosestrife biocontrol project

Near-Term Plans

- Plant Inventory analysis/ Plant Management Plan updates/2016 Harvesting permit updates
- Continuation on inlet stream analysis and opportunities
- Spring session of Pontoon Classroom coordination/purple loosestrife biocontrol project
- Convene Cost-share Committee
- Convene Ripley Rewards Committee
- GHA meeting
- AIS Coordinators meeting
- Lakes Convention Presentation
- Spring 2016 Ripples

Sabella moved to accept the Lake Manager's report into record. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible action on Replacement Vehicles

Griffin relayed that the search for replacement trucks continues with assistance from Christensen. An unexplored option not researched at prior meetings was to consider purchasing a new vehicle through the State of Wisconsin Vendornet service. Griffin provided information on costs for new 2016 vehicles through this option. DeGidio commented that monies may be better utilized elsewhere. The types of vehicles to be considered for replacement was also discussed. Comments continued on the type of maintenance that should be included with the purchase of replacement vehicles. *DeGidio moved suspend the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Dodge Dakota. Motion seconded by Christensen.* Discussion on the use needs of the vehicle were discussed to include work use of the preserve and with the weed harvesting program. Discussion continued about the maintenance of any vehicle, the potential for some sort of shelter, and a recap of use needs of the vehicle. *Christensen moved to amend the prior motion to state that the LRMD continues to look for a replacement used truck vehicle up to \$20,000 with the understanding of possible future capital costs. Motion seconded by Sabella. DeGidio called the question. Motion carried 7-0.*

B. Discussion and possible action on Employee Evaluation Form

Feedback was received from Board Members on changes to be made to the Employee Evaluation Form. Each modification was reviewed by the board. Molinaro requested that all modifications be presented to the board at the next meeting for their approval.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action on Preserve/ Restoration Proposals

Griffin discussed bids received for spring preserve work. Discussion included the range of prices received for bids. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the low bid. Motion seconded by Kempel. Motion carried 7-0.*

B. Discussion and possible action on Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative

Information was provided to Board members about the Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative group seeking support in their efforts to reduce shoreland zoning impacts passed by current legislation. It was noted that only lake associations are included within the group membership. Molinaro commented that as a level of government the district may choose to manage what the group is doing but did not feel we should commit support at this time. Sabella commented on the groups engagement of a lobbyist and whether this serves the purpose of our Lake District. LRMD will continue to monitor the group's efforts.

C. Discussion and possible action on the Meeting Schedule.

Molinaro relayed his concern over the lack of meeting over past few months, but that he felt it did not impact district initiatives. Sabella inquired whether there were things discussed in this meeting that could have occurred earlier in the year. The following dates were scheduled for the upcoming meeting: April 16, May 14, June 18, July 16, Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting August 20, September 17th.

IX. Correspondence/Announcements

- 11/23/2015 via Town of Oakland, Notice of zoning violation for W9259 Ripley Rd.
- 11/23/2015 CBCW 2015 grant reimbursement check \$1,518.75
- 11/23/2015 Annual membership renewal for Rock River Coalition
- 11/23/2015 A gift of *Through the Looking Glass* plant guide from Wisconsin Lakes
- 12/03/2015 Notice from WDNR for final report and reimbursement request due date for inlet stream monitoring
- 12/06/2015 Notice from WDNR on 2016 CBCW Grant Award
- 12/07/2015 Receipt of Deed Recorded Notice for Sylvan Mounds 1st Addition
- 12/09/2015 Conservation agreement for Keating
- 12/21/2015 Review of landscaping plan submitted to Jefferson County Zoning on enforcement issue
- 12/21/2015 Letter from Dr. Kenton Stewart, University of Buffalo, requesting ice on date
- 01/04/2016 Notice from WDNR on increase of funds for phragmites control
- 01/07/2016 Letter sent from LRMD to property owners on non-native phragmites determination
- 01/18/2016 Trapping harvest report provided by Travis Olson
- 01/19/2016 Inquiry from Fidelity Land Title, Ltd. on special assessments
- 01/26/2016 Letter receipt of membership donation to the Rock River Coalition
- 02/10/2016 Text Amendments to Repeal and Recreate Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance notice
- 02/10/2016 Department of Revenue annual request to verify property boundaries
- 02/18/2016 Letter from the Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative relating to shoreland legislation changes-AGENDA ITEM
- 02/18/2016 Letter of thanks from Cambridge Elementary School for attending the science fair
- 02/18/2016 Second review of landscaping plan submitted to Town of Oakland on enforcement issue
- 03/01/2015 Letter to landowners inquiring on commitment to cost-share program projects (Dovgin, Gephart, Perry)

Announcements: Molinaro notified the Board that Jacobsen-Brown will not seek reelection in August. Jacobsen-Brown relayed how honored she felt as a member of this Board and how pleased to be a part of the work that the Board has accomplished.

Christensen notified the Board that he is running in a contested election and if not elected would be ineligible to serve as the County Representative of the LRMD Board.

Sabella provided information of our cash position. Stating that if we spend up to but not over the amount of 2016 budget, and excluding our restricted fund balance, the District has approximately \$60,000.00 unrestricted funds to use.

Christensen commented on the Dodge Dakota and the deteriorating frame. He may have someone interested in it.

Sabella commented that the Town of Oakland rain garden maintenance agreement expired in 2015. A copy will be provided to Board members for discussion at the April 16th Board meeting.

Kempel commented that the elevation of his boathouse floor was measured and will be used in his continued monitoring efforts.

X. Adjournment

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

Next meeting: April 16, 2016 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary
Recorder: LAG

Date