

**Lake Ripley Management District
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2015**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on April 18, 2015. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present at roll call: John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Walt Christensen, Craig Kempel, and Jimmy DeGidio. Jane Jacobsen-Brown was absent. Also in attendance: Lisa Griffin (LRMD Lake Manager), Rick and Debra Katz, Ryan Ellison and Pearl Wallace (WDNR), Isaiah Fisher of Cambridge Cable TV 98, and Tristan McGough of Cambridge News.

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 January 10th meeting was reviewed. *Christensen moved to approve the January 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Kempel. Motion carried 6-0.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Sabella distributed to the Board copies of his treasurer's report. The report consisted of the fourth-quarter and yearend adjusted financial statements ending December 31, 2014 and also 1st quarter 2015 financial statements. Documentation included Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Equity (balance sheet); Actual-to-Budget and Budget-Remaining reports; General Ledger; and Transaction Listing. The yearend adjusted balance sheet showed \$122,426.13 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 \$73,218.84 in restricted funds, a non-restricted fund balance of \$13,124.18, and \$36,083.11 in revenue under expenses. Sabella relayed the circumstances as to why the revenue under expenses accrued, such as a change in Lake Manager salary, issuance of \$17,500 from unrestricted funds, and preserve items not completed in 2014. First quarter balance sheet showed \$218,317.39 in total assets, consisting of \$200.00 in petty cash and the remainder in the bank checking account. Equity consists of \$105,218.84 in restricted funds, \$49,207.29 in non-restricted funds and \$63,891.26 in revenue under expenses. Sabella relayed that any questions can be included with next month's meeting. Molinaro commented on the thorough and detailed work provided by Sabella and thanked him for his exceptional work. *DeGidio moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Gomes-Ibanez. Discussion included a question by Christensen as to if we were receiving discounts on our U.S. Cellular bill. Sabella commented that we are. Motion carried 6-0.*

VI. Lake Manager's Report

Activity Highlights

- Kyle Whalley hired as Lake and Watershed Conservation Intern, Lianna Spencer hired as Clean Boats, Clean Waters intern, additional interest from a student for non-paid intern but college credit.
- Trapping program amendments/contacts
- Discussion and research on zoning violation at Ripley Road address
- Update Master parcel list and sent out 4 welcome wagon packets
- Researched changes to State Statute 33.28 on municipality Board commissioner appointments and proposed budget impacts (agenda item)
- Lake Ripley preliminary selection for pilot lake level monitoring program
- Contacts for the weed harvesting equipment/vehicle issues (agenda item)
- Town of Oakland Meeting 03/17/2015 to discuss cold storage and rental agreement (agenda item)
- Monitoring
 - Lake Monitoring training April 8
 - Tree fall conditions

- Grants and Awards
 - Phragmites control grant advance payment received
 - Seed heads removed 03/19-03/20/2015
 - Increase of weed harvesting equipment cost-share WWC portion of \$2,948.57
- Outreach
 - Attended Cambridge Elementary School Ecology Club as a guest speaker
 - Press release for Phragmites and Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant
 - Ripples Spring edition compilation ongoing. Items to be included: new invasive species, phragmites control, fish survey results, DNR pier and boat lift information.
- Preserve
 - Request for bids for work to be completed in 2015 and 2016
 - Site visits for woodland burn
- Cost-share
 - Homeowner and DATCP partner contacts on gabion project (Ripley Road) April 9

Near-Term Plans

- Internships begin in May
- Stream Monitoring training May 9, Cambridge
- Request from Jefferson County zoning to discuss NR115 (Shoreline Protection) standards and implementation
- Follow up on preserve maintenance
- Lakes Convention April 23-25, John Molinaro as guest speaker, Craig Kempel also attending
- Continue outreach for Healthy Lakes Initiative and possible inclusion with Ripley Rewards
- Complete paperwork for Stream monitoring grant, weed harvesting grant
- Weed harvesting equipment and staff coordination and training

VI. Old Business

To allow for discussion of item C with DNR Wardens Ryan Ellifson and Pearl Wallace, item C was addressed first.

A. Discussion and possible action on Board Member Retirement Recognition

Molinaro requested that recognition items be allowed at the discretion of himself and Lisa with inclusion of anyone else who has an interest. There was no interest in a perpetual plaque at this time.

B. Discussion and possible action on Monogram Apparel

Molinaro relayed his intention of attire to be worn at events identifying themselves as LRMD members. Sabella offered a nametag option that may be utilized at many different events instead of multiple shirts for different occasions. DeGidio requested that shirts purchased with LRMD funds be made in the U.S.A. Design recommendations were proposed. Harvesting crew shirts costs could be taken out of weed harvesting funds. Volunteers and weed harvesters would have similar t-shirts and Board members would be given professional attire to wear.

C. Discussion and possible action on Trapping permit application/Program Amendments

Molinaro commented on the inception of the trapping guidelines. A review of the differences in water vs. land trapping and the types of traps used was discussed. Additional information on dog proof traps, and their use was included. Christensen asked whether a special meeting was to be conducted for review of these amendments. Molinaro suggested that a wildlife review be conducted first to guide any amendments made. Sabella commented that we should consider the source of the funds used to purchase preserve lands when modifying any program amendments. He also asked for clarification that if we are to adopt DNR rules that the DNR would be able to monitor and enforce the area, as opposed to more restrictive rules if the LRMD placed them. Ryan stated the DNR can only enforce DNR trapping rules. It was requested that members make notes and questions that can be addressed in the future and that we move forward with seeking assistance from DNR wildlife professionals or UW-System graduate students in conducting a baseline analysis of trappable species in

the preserve. This analysis will then be used to gauge any amendments considered. Both Warden Ellifson and Warden Wallace were thanked for their presence at the meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion and possible action on Board Meeting Frequency

Molinaro discussed the statutory requirement of the Board to hold quarterly meetings. Molinaro requested that the Board review the frequency of meeting to determine the best schedule that meets the needs of the district without unnecessarily meeting during low activity times. DeGidio relayed his preference that a call to Board members goes out prior to gauge any agenda items that would be addressed at an upcoming meeting. Molinaro requested this item be addressed at the next Board meeting after Board Members had some time to review the matter. No action was taken

B. Discussion and possible action on Replacement of Dump Truck/Dodge Dakota

A discussion on the need to replace two pieces of equipment, the Dodge Dakota which is no longer drivable, and the ageing GMC dump truck, commenced to discuss the most immediate needs of the district. Ed Grunden relayed his comments on the size of the replacement dump bed and also the needs for hauling equipment to the site daily. He also commented that a contractor could install and remove the harvester each year for about \$500.00 per year. Recommendations on a replacement dump truck would include a 4500 or equivalent, 10 foot dump box, and gas engine with no prior snow removal work. Sabella relayed our financial standing. Molinaro requested that the replacement pickup truck have 4 wheel drive. Discussion on the sale or removal of the Dodge Dakota with a preference made to see if there is any trade in value. *DeGidio moved defer the purchase of a dump truck for a minimum of one year and reevaluate our options earlier in the season. Motion seconded by Sabella. Motion carried 6-0. DeGidio moved to authorize the purchase of a newer pickup truck with a purchase price not to exceed \$15,000.00. Motion seconded by Sabella. Discussion included Sabella's comment to not want to purchase a used piece of equipment and potential issues, but preferred a new vehicle that could serve multiple purposes. DeGidio amended his motion to include a warranty. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

C. Discussion and possible action on Town of Oakland Rental Agreement

Molinaro relayed the Town of Oakland motions made at their March 17th meeting, to continue our rental agreement of \$150.00 per month. He continued explanation on our expiring agreement on December 31, 2015. The Town moved to provide cold storage space for the weed harvester on the trailer, shore conveyor, and dump truck, for an annual charge of \$700.00, with the ability to review the terms annually. *Sabella moved to accept the Town of Oakland's offer of cold storage rental of \$700.00 per year. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

D. Discussion and possible action on Legal Representation

Molinaro discussed our legal representation as a twofold approach. For Lake District statute items William O'Connor services those item, but for other items we used more local representation such as Chris Rogers. Rogers has retired from his practice and there is a need to find additional representation. Molinaro relayed concerns over conflict of interest with local lawyers. Recommendations were made to contact Chad Buehler and Westrick for rates and availability.

E. Discussion and possible action on Draft Letter Concerning State Budget Proposal, State Statute Chapter 33.28 revisions, and Trolling Changes

Molinaro reviewed the draft letter to Senator Naas. *DeGidio moved to send the letter. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.* Updates to State Statute and possible trolling allowance were also discussed.

F. Discussion and possible action on Wetland Land Acquisition

Molinaro discussed a 2 acre parcel that was offered for donation from area landowners. Zoning considerations and the importance of the space to the water quality of the lake were also considered. Sabella voiced his concerns over a preapproval of accepting a property without holding a special meeting to discuss other details including maintenance of the property. *DeGidio moved to pursue the donation of this parcel if a proposal is brought to the Board. Motion seconded by Kempel. Discussion continued with Sabella commenting that a quorum could be held within the required open meeting guidelines and should be considered on a larger capital item such as this. Motion carries 5-1 with Sabella opposing.*

IX. Correspondence/Announcements

- 03/31/2015 Trapping guidelines review received from WDNR

- 04/13/2015 Workers Comp plan letter
- 04/13/2015 Letter from WDNR stating an increase in state portion of weed harvesting equipment cost-share by \$2,948.57.
- 04/13/2015 Questionnaire for June renewal of insurance

X. Adjournment

Sabella moved for adjournment at 11:45 a.m. Motion seconded by DeGidio. Motion carried 6-0.

Next meeting: May 16, 2015 (9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary Date
Recorder: LAG