

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2014**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on October 18, 2014. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present at roll call: John Molinaro, Mike Sabella, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, Walt Christensen, Craig Kempel, and Jimmy DeGidio. Also in attendance: Lisa Griffin (LRMD Lake Manager), Kent Brown, and Isiah Fischer 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 September 20 meeting was reviewed. Corrections were noted as to the spelling of Board in section IV and also a correction in the spelling of Willerup in the Lake Manager's report. Molinaro discussed the calling of the question that was listed on the minutes under section VIII part A., and informed the board of the error made in procedure when such a motion is made. Molinaro relayed proper procedure when there is a call of the questions is to vote to end discussion which must be passed by a majority vote. If the vote of the majority feels discussion has ended, the call of the question stands and a vote on the original motion is to be made. ***Sabella moved to approve the September 20 meeting minutes with the corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.***

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed financial reports for the end of the third quarter September 30, 2014 to include a Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity, a Statement of Revenue and Expenses, Actual Budget and Budget remaining, the General Ledger, and a transaction listing. As of September 30, asset balances included \$200 in petty cash and \$181,355.14 in the checking account. Sabella relayed there liabilities listed is accrued pension of \$514.80. A total of \$90,962.52 is held in restricted funds, with a fund balance of \$30,624.18. The district holds revenue of \$59,453.64 and projected a larger carry over into 2015. Sabella discussed the down payment for weed harvesting equipment of \$62,000.00 and stated that the first \$10,000 would come out of the current year capital reserve budget and the rest would come from the restricted funds. A statement of Revenues and Expenses was presented to show the 3 month period ending and 9 month period. Revenue for the 3 month period was \$41,695.18. Expenses were reviewed totaling to \$20,741.15 for the 3 month period and \$57,516.73 for the 9 month period. A transaction listing was presented showing the details of individual disbursements. Molinaro relayed to the board that a bill may be received from Attorney Christopher Rogers for a consultation sought on open records laws. ***Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 7-0.***

**VI. Lake Manager's Report**

Activity Highlights

- Willerup Project Complete
- Phragmites Plan approved by WDNR (Susan Graham)
- Completed training for shoreline restoration certification (September 24-25)
- Rain Barrels delivered for Ripley Rewards
- Rain gardens and lakeshore gardens all planted except 1 (conflict on area to be planted)
- Quotations received for weed harvesting equipment
- CBCW final grant payment work submitted
- Weed Harvesting report submitted to WDNR (Susan Graham)
- Toxicity testing completed on Hwy 18 water-no toxicity found- recommend testing again in spring
- Preserve monitoring of muskrat huts/ discussion with Ryan Ellifson (WDNR Conservation Warden)

- Obtained lake and stream monitoring equipment from Dennis McCarthy
- Parcel Report updated and 9 welcome wagon letters distributed

#### Near-Term Plans

- Ripples fall/winter edition: Weed harvesting updates to include challenges and goals, Chemical Treatment vs mechanical treatment, new board member profiles, winter preserve opportunities (tracking), Ripley Reward Highlights: Koi herpes virus, new cost-share opportunities
- CBCW grant application submission
- Follow up on preserve maintenance on winter burn schedule-possible inclusion of Willow removal in wetland 2.
- Schedule Ripley Rewards Program Committee meeting
- Coordination with Patricia Cicero and possible grant support for 2015/2016 plant survey

#### Correspondence/Announcements

- Request for copies of quotations provided to LRMD on weed harvesting equipment purchase by Richard Knauff of Aquatic Weed Harvester Company

Molinaro requested we place Board Member retirement recognition on the agenda for the November meeting. Molinaro requested that we verify that Ty has mowed the fire break on the west side of Hwy A. Molinaro requested that we put Facebook and newsletters on the agenda for the November meeting.

### VI. Old Business

#### **A. Discussion and possible action on Phragmites stand**

Griffin relayed that the Phragmites Management Plan was approved by the WDNR. Griffin discussed recommendations from the WDNR on the timeline of grant submission and the use of volunteers to remove seed heads. Discussion continued on the best management practices to control the invasive plant and the timeframe to implement those measures. Molinaro relayed the homeowners desire to have lake access and that this issue should be on the next agenda due to the complexity of a conservation easement held on that property.

#### **B. Discussion and possible action on Preserve Trapping Permit Applications/ Program Amendments**

Molinaro discussed the calls he received in regard to the denial of the trapping permit. He continued with the history of trapping guidance and the research that went into developing the program. Molinaro recommended amending the wording on the applications and to research best management practices that can be taken to accurately assess wildlife conditions of the preserve. Discussion continued on ecological balance of species and the roles they play in the preserve. Many members of the Board wished that trappers were present at the meeting to state their concerns to the entire board. Sabella commented that he felt the action taken by the board did not follow proper procedure in handling the agenda item listed on the September agenda. Molinaro relayed what action had to be taken if the board wanted to consider the application again. No action taken.

#### **C. Discussion and possible action on Weed Harvester Purchase**

Griffin updated the board on grant paperwork and actions taken to purchase weed harvesting equipment with Aquarius Systems. Information included additional quotations sought, amendments to the contract, timelines, and selling of the old equipment. Kempel recommended follow up on the progress of the equipment is necessary and also asked to determine if the spare parts we have currently in stock will work on the new machine.

### VII. New Business

#### **A. Discussion and possible action on Committee Appointments**

Molinaro recapped the different committees that the Chairman has appointed people to. He relayed changes he would like to see on the Audit Committee. Discussion continued on the weed harvesting committee and the scope of objectives, seats available, and educational opportunities. No new appointments were made to any standing committees.

