

**Lake Ripley Management District  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2012**

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

The Lake Ripley Management District Board of Directors met at the Oakland Town Hall on May 19, 2012. Chairman Molinaro called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Mike Sabella, Gene Kapsner, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, John Molinaro and Walt Christensen. Dennis McCarthy was absent. Also in attendance: Paul Dearlove (Lake Manager), Ed Grunden and Kent Brown.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no public comments concerning issues not already covered on the agenda.

**III. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

Draft minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to approve the 04-21-12 minutes without additions or corrections. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Sabella distributed and reviewed copies of the financial report for the one-month period ending April 30, 2012. Receipts for the period amounted to \$11,206.38. They consisted of \$74.57 in interest income, \$687.13 for plant orders, a \$5,000.00 grant from Enbridge, a \$3,750 grant from Alliant Energy Foundation, and \$1,694.68 in real estate tax revenue. Disbursements totaled \$10,077.85, and generally consisted of staff wages, office and convention expenses, and contractor fees for Preserve-related planning work. A transaction listing was provided showing individual disbursements. Asset balances included \$200.00 in petty cash and \$183,254 in the demand checking account. *Gomez-Ibanez moved to accept the treasurer's report and enter it into the record. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

**V. Lake Manager's Report**

Dearlove summarized Lake District activities since the last meeting. Agrecol plant orders were received and distributed to participating residents. The orders went toward the creation of at least two new rain gardens and two shoreline restorations. Preparations were also made for the upcoming native plant sale hosted by LJ Reas Environmental Consulting. As for landowner cost sharing, letters were sent to 12 targeted property owners who were likely to qualify for federal wetland-restoration grants. The only currently active cost-share project was the Mar-Pohl shoreline. A landscaping plan and contractor bids would be brought to the June board meeting. Preliminary project proposals that may be the subject of committee review included three shorelines, two rain gardens, and one impervious surface (parking lot) removal.

The weed harvesting equipment was to be pulled out of storage next week. Cutting operations and on-the-water operator training would commence shortly thereafter. Ed Grunden and Sabella reported positively on the Aquarius training seminar, which Bruce Crump also attended. The training focused on plant identification, operational safety, and common repairs and preventative maintenance associated with the harvester. Sabella recommended that the weed committee be convened to discuss equipment needs.

Current and planned outreach efforts were reviewed. These included future educational seminars, doing 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' outreach at the public boat landing, and plans for the summer Ripples newsletter. Other planned or upcoming projects included: 1) starting field work on the near-shore fishery assessment, 2) performing another shoreline inventory (piers, boats, condition assessments, etc.), 3) working with UW-Whitewater faculty to survey plant and animal communities at the Preserve, and 4) mowing and spot herbicide treatments to manage weed growth in the new prairie areas.

**VI. Old Business**

- **UW-Whitewater partnership and proposed grant application to create a baseline vegetation inventory and restoration-monitoring guidance for the Preserve**

Dearlove reviewed the status of a partnership with UW-Whitewater research faculty to inventory existing natural communities at the Lake District Preserve. A grant application, due May 25<sup>th</sup>, is being prepared through the Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program. There is no local match requirement. The purpose of the study is to perform baseline surveys of plant, insect, herptile and mammal communities and develop a program for future monitoring, namely to track the progress of ongoing restoration work.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Discussion and possible action on District-related insurance coverage**

Sabella updated the Board on the outcome of a teleconference he and Dearlove had with the District’s insurance agent. The purpose was to review current insurance coverage, premiums, deductibles, carriers, and possible policy changes. Without making any changes, the insurance quote was \$4,415, compared to \$3,700 budgeted for the current year. Most of the increase was due to minimum premiums being increased. Potential policy changes under review, such as increased liability coverage, could add another \$400 to the quote. Discussion followed with no action taken to make any specific changes to existing insurance coverage. *Kapsner moved to get a second insurance quote for price-comparison purposes. Motion seconded by Jacobsen-Brown. Motion carried 6-0.*

In addition, Sabella advised that the District enter into time-specific lease agreement for whenever private boats are used for official business. This would shift liability risk from the individual to the District in the event of an accident. Dearlove offered to draft a lease agreement template for Board consideration.

**B. Discussion on topics and timing of future educational seminars**

The Board and attendees of the recent lake seminar were polled for opinions on future workshop topics. Dearlove said that while a short list of requested topics has been generated, there is no clear winner from an interest standpoint. There was discussion of hosting multiple educational seminars to cover different topic areas. Timing was also discussed, with a preference for May-August. Dearlove said he hoped to survey a larger cross-section of the community for feedback prior to planning any additional seminars.

**C. Approval of \$100 annual subscription for updated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software**

Molinaro noted that Gerry Kokkenen from the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department had provided recommendations on GIS software updates for the District office. Dearlove explained that the original software was purchased with a grant more than 10 years ago, and has reached the point of obsolescence. *Kapsner moved to approve a \$100 annual software subscription for updated GIS capabilities. Motion seconded by Gomez-Ibanez. Motion carried 6-0.*

**VIII. Correspondence/Announcements**

Molinaro informed the Board of a complaint that was received concerning someone removing rocks from the outlet dam. He said DNR has been contacted and is currently investigating the matter. There were no other announcements or correspondence not already covered during the course of the meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Kapsner moved for adjournment at 10:45 a.m. Motion seconded by Christensen. Motion carried 6-0.*

Next meeting: June 16, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Secretary

Date

Recorder: PDD