

N4450 County Road A, Cambridge Wisconsin 53523 608-423-4537

Jan 14, 2020

Water Resources Management Specialists WDNR - Fitchburg Service Area Madison WI 53711

Re: LPL169019

To Surface Water Grant Administrators:

The Lake District was given a grant advance of \$4176 against a total request of \$5568. Of that amount, we have spent \$4145.73 in pursuit of the objectives of the grant. We are voluntarily forfeiting the remaining \$1392 in our close out. Below is a summary of what was accomplished under amended Large-Scale Planning Grant LPL169019.

Final Report of amended LPL169019

FROM amended LPL169019:

Summary of Accomplishments:

Information Gathering

We compiled the following assessments that will be incorporated into planning document. Examples of Assessments discovered for updating:

- Ten years' worth of DNR Fisheries' Lake Ripley-specific stocking, netting and Electrofishing assessments
- Ten years' worth of SWIMS data
- CBCW data since program inception on Lake Ripley
- A Lake Ripley Preserve Management Plan (study funded by LRMD, 2012)
- "Assessment of Nearshore Fish Populations in Lake Ripley" (private study, 2012)
- 2011 and 2015 Lake Ripley Macrophyte Inventories (private/public studies)
- "Lake Protection Strategies" update on LRMD Board thinking written by Board member Georgia Gomez-Ibanez and then Lake Manager Lisa Griffin (2016)
- "The Pressure of Society on Water Quality: A Land Use Impact Study of Lake Ripley In Oakland, Wisconsin" by Kyle Whalley and Wei Luo (2017)

I've invested many hours in finding the digital and physical files of these studies that have taken place on Lake Ripley since 2009, and have also relied on LRMD Board members, the county, private contractors, and DNR contacts to locate studies of Lake Ripley and the inlet creek that are available in their records.

Stream Monitoring and Watershed Planning

Accomplishments:

Water quality was monitored on the inlet stream in 2019 at a frequency that closely matched the timing and testing outlined in the application. All data was collected at the stations listed, with some inconsistency of measurement, for a variety of reasons -- from training problems, to equipment failure, to an unexpected inlet creek bank collapse -- at some sites of TSS, turbidity, conductivity, flow and stage.

In order to conduct analysis of the data, the District will need to hire the expertise lost with the previous Lake Manager. The ability to do as the grant suggests – to "generate current phosphorus and sediment loads of the inlet creek" and to "estimate range of loads under different, predicted rainfall events from climate change models and to develop phosphorus and sediment goals for inlet creek and explore management options to meet these goals" are not skills inhouse, and therefore, we will need resources that were not anticipated at the time of LPL619019's writing.

Watershed changes using new GIS data is in the process of being identified with help of Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department's GIS specialist. These are in the process of being updated in table and map form.

Water quality results from the 2019 season will be presented, along with those of the 2020 season, in the updated management plan, newsletters and LRMD meetings. All data from 2019 has been entered into SWIMS. A printout is attached.

Lake Water Quality Monitoring

Accomplishments:

Lake Ripley continued the long-term trend monitoring that has been conducted since the 1990s. It was conducted following the standard Citizen Water Quality Monitoring protocols for Total P, Chl a, Secchi depth and DO/temp profiles at our Deep Hole site. In addition, CWQM volunteers monitored the outlet. Data for all has been entered into the SWIMS database. (Printout attached.) Field meters were calibrated intermittently using proper procedures and necessary calibration solutions. Trophic status has been updated for each year 2010-2019 using WISCALM protocol and will be incorporated into the update Plan.

Two additional sites at the inlet of the lake were not monitored. An early attempt was made but was, frankly, inadvertently, forgotten about. The next grant in the series will accomplish this additional data collection.

Public Perception

Accomplishments:

A public opinion survey was created by a subcommittee of the LRMD Board and the Lake Manager, working in concert with DNR social science staff. Topics included basic demography, perceptions of ecology, human impacts and lake uses. Questions that had never before been asked were also included – e.g. how Property Owners felt about the tax assessment that funds the District, whether they felt there was adequate lake access for those with disabilities, and a whole section devoted to children's perceptions of the lake.

The original grant estimated that it could be written, revised through the DNR social scientist process, mailed and analyzed in 21 hours. The draft underwent ten revisions. More than 38 hours of Lake Manager time was invested in its creation. This is not counting any of the considerable time that subcommittee and Board members invested in it. A best practice that was incorporated, but not foreseen in the original LPL169109, was to distribute the plan to ten "pretesters" and incorporate their feedback before sending the survey to the entire list of Property Owners. This bore fruit, and led to significant improvements. However, it added to the time and expense invested in the process in an unanticipated way.

It was finalized and mailed, along with a postage paid return envelope, to District property owners in the fall of 2019. Five Facebook reminders encouraging completion of the study were posted by the District. Flyers reminding people to fill in their surveys were hung at four prominent places in the District. A copy of the blank survey is attached. As of this writing ~28% of the completed surveys have been returned and are in the process of being analyzed.

Full results will be in an appendix of the management plan, and summaries will be presented and discussed in the District newsletter and at a Board meeting.

Public Outreach

Accomplishments:

The Lake District sends out three newsletters per year. Two of them, (Winter 18/19 and Spring 19) included articles about the Plan update. Lake Plan Updates have been included as agenda items for the months July – Dec (with the exception of August's meeting which was the Annual Meeting) in the year's monthly Board meetings. During this time the Lake Manager has updated the Board, assembled public, and those watching on the public access channel, of the status of the effort and inviting input and participation when appropriate. Agendas for these meetings are attached. For the months of Feb – June, the plan update was included as part of the Lake Manager's Report, and not given its own agenda item. There have been no special planning meetings.

This final report outlines the accomplishments of amended LPL 169109. These activities allowed Lake Ripley Management District to make significant progress toward an updated management plan. With thanks to all who helped us accomplish these goals, especially the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservationist and our DNR Water Resources Management Specialist.

Beth Gehred, Lake Manager, Lake Ripley Management District and the Lake Ripley Management District Board

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS)

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My Projects Submit Data Reports, Maps, and Documents

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Version 20190523

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS)

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now 50 ▼	entries Fieldwork Start Lab Account Code	Project(s)	Collectors	Status	Field Sample ID		
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	08/21/2019 11:12 FH015	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	08212019		
	08/18/2019 11:30	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	AM 08/17/2019 12:45	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	AM 08/13/2019 11:22 _{FH015}	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	08132019-3		
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Ø 🔝	07/16/2019 10:05 WT068 AM	SCR Long-Term Trend Lakes, Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	SHELBY T ADLER, Beth Gehred, Craig Kempel, Nathan Tennies	COMPLETE	RIPLEY_2019_2		
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	07/14/2019 11:00 AM	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	07/09/2019 12:10 FH015	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	LAKE RIPLEY		
	07/07/2019 12:00	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	PM 07/06/2019 01:45	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	PM 07/04/2019 10:40	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	AM 07/02/2019 01:53 _{FH015}	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	. NA		
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	AM 06/26/2019 11:47 _{FH015}	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches, Lake Ripley Beach	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	LAKE RIPLEY		
	AM 06/22/2019 07:00		Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	AM 06/18/2019 12:14 FH015	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley		COMPLETE			
	PM	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches, Lake Ripley Beach	Data Collectors		LAKE RIPLEY		
	06/11/2019 11:40 FH015 AM	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches, Lake Ripley Beach	Data Collectors		06052019-3		
	06/05/2019 12:30 FH015 PM	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches, Lake Ripley Beach	Data Collectors	ENERG MATERIAL			
	06/02/2019 06:45 AM	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	06/01/2019 06:30 AM	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	05/31/2019 10:45 AM	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Lake Ripley	Richard Moen	COMPLETE			
	05/29/2019 11:10 FH015 AM	Pathogen Monitoring on Inland Beaches, Lake Ripley Beach	Data Collectors	COMPLETE	05292019-3		
<i>₽</i> 3	05/03/2019 10:00 _{PP001}	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole, SCR Long- Term Trend Lakes	Craig Kempel, Beth Gehred	COMPLETE	E 283122		
)	03/29/2019 10:00 AM	Ice Observations on Lake Ripley, Jefferson County	Craig Kempel, ANDREW J SABAI	COMPLETE			
	12/09/2018	Ice Observations on Lake Ripley, Jefferson County	ANDREW SABAI	COMPLETE			
)	10/10/2018 09:30 AM	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	Amanda S Smith, ANDREW J SABAI	COMPLETE			
)	10/03/2018 09:15	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	Amanda S Smith, ANDREW J SABAI	COMPLETE	E		

Welcome to SWIMS

	Fieldwork Start Lab Account Code	Project(s)	Collectors	Status	Field Sample ID
P	09/26/2018 11:00 AM	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	ANDREW SABAI	COMPLETE	
P	09/25/2018 09:30 AM	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	Amanda S Smith, ANDREW J SABAI	COMPLETE	
P	09/17/2018 09:15 AM	Citizen Lake Monitoring - Water Quality - Lake Ripley; Deep Hole	Amanda S Smith, ANDREW J SABAI	COMPLETE	
P	09/13/2018 01:00 PM	LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT: Lake Ripley Management District 2018 CBCW	ANDREW SABAI	COMPLETE	
P	09/11/2018 01:15 PM	LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT: Lake Ripley Management District 2018 CBCW	ANDREW SABAI	COMPLETE	
Showing 11 to 6	0 of 1,378 entries		First Previous 1 2 3 4	5	28 Next Last

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Version 20190523



PROPERTY OWNER OPINION SURVEY

The Lake Ripley Management District is required to update its management plan every ten years. Your input is very important to this effort and will be used to help guide us to protect, manage and improve Lake Ripley.

Please complete one survey per household. Surveys should be returned in the enclosed envelope by

November 15, 2019, Individual responses will be kept confidential, but a summary of the survey results

	byember 13, 2017. Individual responses will be kept confidential, but a summary of the survey results
	I be posted on our website at www.lakeripley.org. If you have questions about this survey, feel free contact us at (608)423-4537 or ripley@oaklandtown.com . Thank you.
² eı	sonal Information
	me properties may have a fluctuating group of users in any given season which may include
	veral generations of an extended family. Please include the full range of people involved at your
	operty so your responses are more meaningful. If you own more than one property, please answer equestions for the property you consider primary.
1116	e questions for the property you consider printary.
	umber of household members/regular guests
Ag	e up to 12 13-18 19-64 65+
Υc	our property
1.	Please indicate where your primary property is located near Lake Ripley.
	☐ Lakefront ☐ Watershed only
	\square Lake District only \square District and watershed
2.	Which type of property do you own near Lake Ripley? Answer for your primary property only.
	\square Residential home (permanent residence) \square Vacant/Undeveloped land
	\square Residential home (part-time residence) \square Business/Commercial
	☐ Agricultural land ☐ Renter
3.	Do you have private (property-deeded) lake-access rights?
	Yes, I own waterfront property Yes, I have property-deeded lake access No O Don't know
Υc	our opinions of Lake Ripley
	How frequently do you visit or use Lake Ripley?
	SUMMER (June-August): Every day \square A few days/week \square several days/month \square Once or less/month \square
	OTHER SEASONS: Every day ☐ A few days/week ☐ several days/month ☐ Once or less/month ☐
	If you are not a lake user, skip to question 11
5.	How would you describe the overall current water quality of Lake Ripley? Please check one.
	Very Poor ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Unsure ☐
4	How many years ago did you first visit Lake Ripley? If less than 1 year, please write 1.
7.	How has the overall water quality changed in Lake Ripley since you first visited the lake? Please check one.
	Degraded Remained the same Improved Unsure I
Ω	Based on your answer above, which of the following answers is the single most important
8.	aspect when considering water quality? Please check only one.
	Water clarity Water level Water color Algae blooms

Smell Other:____

Aquatic plant growth (not including algae blooms) \square Fish kills \square

9.	Overly sparse About right O	s plant make up v verly weedy□ C	- ·	c about water c	juality?
10.	a. How would you describe Lake Riple	ey's level of use o	n summer (Jui	ne -August) WE	EK <u>ENDS</u> ?
	BEFORE 11 am: Low About right		Don't know		
	AFTER 11 am: Low About right	High O	Don't know		
	b. How would you describe Lake Riple	ey's level of use o	n summer (Jui	ne-August) WEE	K <u>DAYS</u> ?
	BEFORE 11 am : Low ☐ About right ☐] High □ O	Don't know		
	AFTER 11 am : Low ☐ About right ☐] High □ O	Don't know		
11.	How would you describe public acce	ss on Lake Ripley	for the followi		_
	A. Boating/Boat fishing Too lit	tle \square About rigl	nt 🗆 Too m		O Don't know
	B. Swimming Too lit	tle \square About rigl	nt 🗌 Too m		Don't know
	C. Fishing from shore Too lit	tle \square About rigi	nt 🗆 Too m	uch 🗌 (O Don't know
12.	Do you feel improvements to facilities with disabilities can access the Lake races are all yes. No O Don't know		c pier and bo	at launch, are	needed so that people
	disability? If yes, please elaborate.	Yes No	□ Don't kno)W	
	If you a	re not a lake user	, skip to quest	ion 18	
14.	How would you describe the local rule	es affecting boati	ng and shorel	ine structures/p	iers on Lake Ripley?
	A. Boating - Inadequate Abou	ut right \square Overly	y restrictive \square	O Don't kno)W
	B. Shoreline structures/piers - Unfair	☐ About right[□ Fair□	O Don't kno)W
15.	How would you describe the level of I Inadequate□ About right□ Over	poating safety and ly aggressive \Box	d conservation O Don't kno		nent on Lake Ripley?
16.	How much does each of the following	<u>currently</u> limit yo	ur enjoyment	of Lake Ripley?	?
	A. Algae	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	B. Native Lake plants	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	C. Invasive lake weeds	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	D. Crowding of boats on lake	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	E. Lake rules	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	F. Access to lake	Not at all	☐ A little ☐	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
	Glitter	Not at all	Δ little [Samewhat	A great deal \square

16. continued - How much does each of	the following <u>cu</u>	<u>ırrently</u> limit	your enjoyment	of Lake Ripley?
H. Quality of fishing	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
I. Carp	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat 🖸	A great deal \square
J. Shoreline construction/development	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
K. Conflicts with other users	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
L. Water levels	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
M. Zebra mussels	Not at all \square	A little	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
N. Pier-related issues	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
O. Canada geese	Not at all \square	A little	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
P. Noise	Not at all \square	A little 🗌	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
Q. Swimmer's Itch	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
R. Other:	Not at all \square	A little □	Somewhat \square	A great deal \square
17. For each of the following activities on Lak Give a 0 if you do not do them, 1 = not im	portant to you,	2 = of some	importance, 3 =	very important.
			-	
	ning		noreline fishing	
	ing/speedboatir		ailing/windsurfing	
	past-times		alking/biking aro	
Visiting Lake District Preserve Visiting			e skating/Ice ho	
-	y gatherings		oserving wildlife_	
Paddling/canoeing/stand up paddleboo	ara	En _j	joying peaceful I	moments
18. How is your "quality of life" affected by liv	ing on or ownin			?
	Positively affect	cted \square	O Don't know	
Negatively affected \square Neutral \square	Positively affect following as far	as contribut	ing to your "qua	lity of life" as a local
Negatively affected Neutral	Positively affect following as far but don't know, c	as contribut heck unsur	ing to your "qua	
Negatively affected Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you A. Safe water quality Not imp	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, contant Som	as contribut theck unsure ne importa	ing to your "qua e.	portant□ Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you A. Safe water quality Not important Not importa	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, contant Some cortant Source Some cortant Source	as contribut theck unsure ne importar e importar	ing to your "qual e. nce□ Very im	portant Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you A. Safe water quality Not important Not importa	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, of portant Som portant Som portant Som portant Som	as contribut theck unsure ne importar e importar ne importar	ing to your "qual e. nce Very im nce Very imp nce Very im	portant□ Unsure O portant□ Unsure O portant□ Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you have a safe water quality Not important Not imp	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, of portant Some portant Some portant Some portant Some portant Some	as contribut theck unsure ne importar e importar ne importar ome impor	ing to your "qual e. nce Very im nce Very imp nce Very im rtance Very in	portant Unsure O portant Unsure O portant Unsure O mportant Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you have a safe water quality Not important Not imp	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, of portant Some portant Some portant Some portant Some important Some important Some	as contribut theck unsure ne importar ne importar ome impor Some impo	ing to your "quale. nce Very im nce Very imp nce Very im rtance Very im rtance Very i	portant Unsure O portant Unsure O portant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you have a safe water quality. Not import the safe water quality is not import to safe water quality.	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, of cortant Some cortant Some cortant Some important Some important Some important Some important Some some some some some some some some s	as contribut theck unsure ne importan ne importan ome impor some impor	ing to your "quale. nce Very im nce Very imp nce Very im rtance Very im rtance Very i	portant Unsure O portant Unsure O portant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O
Negatively affected Neutral 19. What value do you place on each of the property owner? If it does not apply or you have a safe water quality. Not import to be a safe water qu	Positively affect following as far ou don't know, of cortant Some cortant Some cortant Some important Simportant Some important Some important Some some some some some some some some s	as contribute theck unsure the important ome important ome important ome important ome important ome important of Some i	ing to your "quale. nce Very implice Very implice Very implication Very implication Very intence Very intended Very	portant Unsure O portant Unsure O portant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O mportant Unsure O portant Unsure O

21.	What species of fish do ye	ou like to catch on La	ake Ripley? Pleas	e check all tha	ıt apply.	
	Largemouth bass \square	Yellow Perch \square	Carp	Walleye	Other	
	Smallmouth bass \square	Bluegill/Sunfish \square	Northern Pike	Crappie /	All fish species \square	
22.	How would you describe	the current quality of	fishing on Lake I	Ripley?		
	Very poor \square Poor \square	Fair \square Good \square	Excellent \square	O Don't	know	
23.	What types of watercraft	do you currently use	on Lake Ripley?	Please check o	all that apply.	
	Jet ski ☐ Sailboat ☐	Canoe/kayak/	stand up paddle	board Ro	wboat/paddleboat \square	
	Jet boat ☐ Motorboat	with 25 hp or less \square	Motorboat with	greater than 2	$5\mathrm{hp}\square$ Pontoon \square	
	$\ \square$ Do not use watercraft	on Lake Ripley - Go	to question 26			
24.	Do you use your watercro	aft on waters other the	an Lake Ripley?	Yes No No .	- Go to question 26	
25.		ning routine after usir	g your watercraf	t on waters oth	er than Lake Ripley? Please	
	check all that apply.	ors lov Plant materia		Drain bilge□	Rinse boat \square	
	Remove aquatic hitch-hik					
	Powerwash boat□ App	ly bleach□ Air dry	boat for 5 or mo	re adys 🗆 Do	o not clean boat 🗆	
26.	How concerned, if at all,	are you about the eff	ects each of the	following may	have on Lake Ripley?	
	A. Overuse of lawn fertiliz	zers/pesticides	No concern \square	Some concern	n□ Big concern□ Unsure	(
	B. Overuse of agricultura	I fertilizers/pesticides	No concern \square	Some concern	n \square Big concern \square Unsure	C
	C. Non-native, invasive p	olants/animals	No concern \square	Some concern	$ \Box $ Big concern \square Unsure	(
	D. Loss of lake habitat fo	r desirable fish/birds	No concern \square	Some concern	n \square Big concern \square Unsure	(
	E. Weak erosion controls	on construction sites	: No concern \square	Some concern	n□ Big concern□ Unsure	(
	F. Climate Change		No concern \square	Some concern	\square Big concern \square Unsure	C
	G. Over-crowding on the	lake	No concern \square	Some concern	$ \Box $ Big concern \Box Unsure	(
	H. Groundwater depletic	on	No concern \square	Some concern	n \square Big concern \square Unsure	C
	I. Lake-rule violations		No concern \square	Some concern	\square Big concern \square Unsure	(
	J. Uninformed public abo	out lake health	No concern \square	Some concern	$ \Box $ Big concern $ \Box $ Unsure	C
	K. Lake-level fluctuations		No concern \Box	Some concerr	\square Big concern \square Unsure	(
	L. Poor land-use planning	9	No concern \square	Some concerr	\square Big concern \square Unsure	C
Yo	ur opinions of Lake Di	strict services				
27.	How informed do you fee	l about issues affecti	ng Lake Ripley aı	nd its manager	ment?	
	Not at all informed \square	Somewhat informed	☐ Well inform	med \square		
28.	Which of the following do	you use to obtain in	ormation about I	.ake Ripley?		
	Ripples newsletter \square Fac	cebook/social medic	posts At	tend Lake Distri	ct meetings \square	
	Cambridge Cable TV \square	Cambridge News	articles \square Lak	e District websi	ite 🗌	
	Community workshops/e	vents Friends an	d neighbors \square	don't seek info	rmation on Lake Ripley \square	
29.		ble landowners may benefit Lake Ripley (

	ow do you feel	about the followir	ng Lake Distri	ct efforts?			
Α.	Landowner cos	t sharing for eligible	projects	Oppose \square	Neutral□	Support \square	Unsure O
В.	Landowner pr	oject design/perr	nitting help	Oppose \square	Neutral□	Support□	Unsure O
C.	Mechanical w	veed harvesting		Oppose \square	Neutral□	Support \square	Unsure O
D.	Water quality	monitoring		Oppose \square	Neutral□	$Support \square$	Unsure O
E.	Control of invo	asive plants/anim	als	Oppose \Box	Neutral \square	Support \square	Unsure O
F.	Maintaining L	ake District Preserv	⁄e	Oppose \square	Neutral	3 Support □	Unsure O
G.	Clean Boats, Cl	ean Water educati	on	Oppose \Box	Neutral	Support □	Unsure O
Н.	Pursuing fundi	ng through grants		Oppose \square	Neutral□	Support \square	Unsure O
I.	Acquisition of	conservancy are	as	Oppose \square	Neutral \square	Support \square	Unsure O
J.	Lake research	to diagnose prob	olems	Oppose \square	Neutral□	Support \square	Unsure O
K.	Lobbying for lo	ake-protection po	olicies	Oppose \square	Neutral \square	Support \square	Unsure O
L.	Holding public	meetings/forums		Oppose 🗆	Neutral	3 Support □	Unsure O
m	naintain propert	ional property tax y considered imp 0\$25	ortant to imp	roving the water	quality of	Lake Ripley?	
e:	ndowment func nd water quality ot at all likely \square	y of Lake Ripley? Not too likely	se and main	tain property co	nsidered in	nportant to imp	donation to an proving the Preserve Very likely
34. A	ny other though	nts to share?					

Volunteer opportunities with the Lake District allow for a chance to learn about lake, creek and land management. If you are interested in helping, sharing your skills, and learning, call us at 608-423-4537 or email ripley@oaklandtown.com. Thank you for participating!

Survey for kids only (12 and under)

(If child is young, please complete for them with their responses. Please include grandchildren!)

What fun do you enjoy in or near our lake? (Check all that apply).

Swimming	Boating
Swimming off a pier	□ Canoeing/kayaking
\square Swimming off a raft	□ Sailboating
\square Swimming from a boat	□ Paddleboarding
Swimming at Ripley Park	□ Water-skiing
Swimming from shore	□ Tubing
	□ Riding in a speedboat
	□ Riding in a pontoon
Fishing	Other stuff
☐ Fishing from pier	□ Looking for frogs & other creatures
\square Fishing from shore	□ Watching birds
\square Fishing from boat	□ Watching boats
	□ Watching the sky
	□ Drawing/writing
If you could tell or show the Lake Manager or visiting Lake Ripley, what would it be?	





Vol. 25, No. 3

Winter 2018-2019

LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

Oakland Town Hall N4450 County Rd. A Cambridge, WI 53523 (608) 423-4537 ripley@oaklandtown.com www.lokeripley.org





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Andrew Sabai (608) 423-4537

WEED HARVEST CREW

Dick Langer Ed Grunden Bruce Crump Richard Trailer

. FROM THE HELM.

As I take a break from plowing snow from the storm that just dumped 8 inches of light fluffy snow and the winds start to kick up I thought it would be a great time to start the Chair report. At the January LRMD Board of directors meeting we discussed how to better inform the local residents of the work we do to protect Lake Ripley. As we meet with neighbors to the east of the inlet creek, it was brought to my attention



that residents outside the Lake District don't receive the Ripples newsletter and don't always know about the work the management district does. When the Lake District was formed, the boundary closely followed the Oakland town sanitary district. But the actual boundary for the Lake's watershed is a much larger area, and this boundary was identified to show how the water runoff flows to Lake Ripley. Since some of the work that the board has identified to help with run-off is in this area, outside of the Lake District, but within the watershed, the board felt that it was important to inform these residents of the work we do through the newsletter. Since we are meeting with them and asking for cooperation to do work around the inlet creek, we all felt this would be a great educational piece for them to enjoy. We also discussed how can we better educate and inform the residents of the village of Cambridge. Again, these residents are outside the Lake District and most of them outside the watershed. The board agreed to pilot a mailing of the Ripples newsletter starting with the spring addition and gather input from the residents of the Village. We will report on this data and decide next steps in the months to come. I feel the more we can educate everyone who can have an impact and who uses Lake Ripley for recreation will benefit Lake Ripley and all of us in the long run.

As the Lake Ripley Preserve walking trails become more and more popular with residents, we ask that a few simple rules be followed so all can have a great experience while enjoying this beautiful getaway. Please pickup your animal waste and deposit it in the waste station near the beginning of the trail. (...continued page 2)

Looking Forward to 2019

continued from page 2

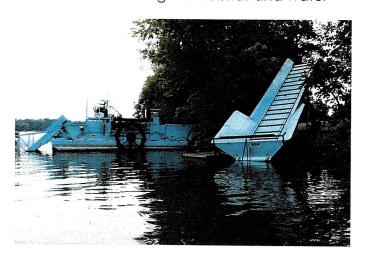
A 8x12 foot floating raft will be built and covered with dead wetland vegetation to mimic natural nesting habitat. Decoys will be placed on the raft to encourage the birds to nest, but it might take a few seasons before the birds establish a colony. If successful, this would be the first such structure used by Forster's Terns on a small pond that I am aware of



Forster's Tern chick hiding in wetland vegetation.

Weed Harvest

The LRMD has been operating a weed harvester on the lake since the 1990's to assist with navigation, and control invasive species, while at the same time balancing the habitat and water



Lake Ripley's weed harvester and offload conveyor.

quality benefits that our native "weeds" provide the lake. The District operates this harvester under a permit granted by the DNR. The permit is restrictive in where, when and what we are allowed to cut. In 2019 we are in the process of applying for a new permit that will allow us more flexibility in cutting navigation lanes.

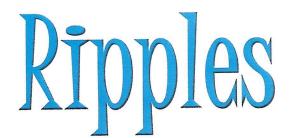
We will still not be able to cut navigation lanes for individual piers due to limitations of our equipment, and because this would lead to cutting too many beneficial plants. Aquatic plants provide many habitat and water quality benefits, and having too few plants would have negative effects on water quality and the sportfish populations. In 2018 the District purchased a GPS unit with the help of a small-scale lake planning grant to help make our harvesting process more efficient and improve our aquatic plant management program on the lake.

Management Plan Update

Every ten years we update the Lake Ripley Improvement Plan. This document is a comprehensive management plan that helps guide the LRMD, DNR, Town of Oakland, Jefferson County and other partners to manage Lake Ripley and its watershed. In the coming months there will be public meeting, and a user survey to obtain feedback from the public, to better guide lake management.

Lake District Preserve

This spring at the Lake District Preserve, weather permitting, we will be conducting a prescribed burn at one of our prairies. Fire is a natural, and important management tool in America's grasslands. It will help control woody vegetation and promote the growth of native prairie vegetation. The district burns only sections of the prairie at a time, so that undisturbed areas will be available for nesting birds, and there will be less damage to the native insect populations, like pollinators. Many other small projects such as: trail cameras, bird box monitoring, trail maintenance and other forms of habitat management are also planned, or in progress for 2019.





Spring 2019 Vol. 26, No. 1

LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

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LAKE MANAGER

Beth Gehred (608) 423-4537

WEED HARVEST CREW

Bruce Crump Ed Grunden Craig Kempel Bill 7ibell



TROM THE HELM

he Lake Ripley Management District wishes Andrew Sabai, our Lake Manager for the past 16 months, best wishes in his next position with a private environmental firm. During Andrew's time as Lake Manager he provided us with a wealth of new understandings of the workings of our preserve and inlet creek. He was able to help us connect the dots of how the health of the land, wetlands and inlet creek had a direct bearing on the health of the lake. We are pleased to be able to keep him on as a project manager to see out a grant-funded project to re-meander



some straight stretches of the inlet creek. With each bend of a creek, phosphoruscarrying sediment has a chance to slow in pools to sink to the bottom, or to catch on banks and get hung up. This prevents this nutrient from making its way into Lake Ripley, which is a good thing.

Andrew thanked the Board on his last full-time day for all he was able to learn and do as Lake Manager, and we thank him back for his dedication and skill reading the needs of the wetlands and lake. Good-bye full-time, hello part-time, Andrew.

In the few weeks that we had to plan for Andrew's leaving, the Board was fortunate to find an excellent candidate for a Lake Manager (and accepting a limited term employee position as the Lake Ripley Management board pilots this new idea) to step into the position and make for a smooth transition during these busy spring months. Beth Gehred, an environmental educator and program coordinator with a background in non-profit management, was able to job shadow Andrew for almost two weeks and is now flying solo.

Like every one of our Lake Managers, Beth will develop her own style of management. She already has expressed her feelings that the Lake Ripley Management District and watershed, and the creatures that depend on the habitats within, are not separate communities, but one. You will hear more from her inside this issue. Improving the health of the lake, and the people and insects, birds, fish and animals that are part of the watershed is a vision that she shares with the Board.

Stop by the office and meet Beth, or you may see her around the Lake or collecting water quality data in the Preserve. She lives in nearby Fort Atkinson. She is happy to hear from you if you are curious about volunteer opportunities, as well. Maintaining the Lake, Preserve and their biodiversity, is a job she cannot do alone.

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair

Lake Plan/Board Nominations

Board members serve in many ways

Consider running for the Lake Ripley Management Board. Two seats will become vacant when the terms end of long-time treasure of a treasurer Mike Sabella, and Mike Doman. Thanks to both for great service. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot, let us know soon by sending a written request by email or US Post to ripley@oaklandtown.com or N4455 Cty Road A, Cambridge. Voting will take place at the Annual meeting, scheduled for Aug 17.

Lake Ripley Planning Matters

The LRMD has received a Lake Management Planning Grant of \$5,568 and technical assistance from the Wisconsin DNR to help with large scale planning.

The Lake Ripley Management Plan, officially titled the Lake Ripley Improvement Plan – A Condition Assessment and Strategy for Protection and Rehabilitation was written in large part in 2009 by Lake Manager Paul Dearlove, updated by Lake Manager Lisa Griffin in 2015, and now, at age ten, will benefit from the knowledge gained from completed projects and incorporation of emerging areas of concern.

Lake Ripley faces many challenges: algae blooms, sedimentation, development pressures, and conflicting lake uses. The lake also faces some management uncertainties: a changing climate, landscape, and lake uses. The Lake Ripley Improvement Plan is being updated to meet those challenges.

The LRMD can best effect change through education and direct action in the watershed. This project provides the needed update and additional data in order to drive management decisions for the long-term and inform the public during the project period.

A strong document, it is by design flexible enough to rise to new challenges. The LRMD staff and Board members have been very active in collecting data and devising and implementing plans since 1991.

This new planning process will continue these efforts while taking District projects to the next level. Recent runoff events and data collection on the inlet creek show that while some improvements have been made in the watershed, the greatest current threat to water quality and lake habitat enters through the inlet stream.

Gathering more data will help us assess the situation, design watershed improvements that will protect water quality, and improve fish and wild-life habitat. We will also develop a plan for how to evaluate the efficacy of these improvements. Future monitoring will be outlined in the new management plan and allow the use of adaptive management to further improve future projects.



Board member and volunteer monitor Craig Kempel conducting a Secchi test in the lake.

Look for a public opinion survey that addresses a wide variety of ecological and human use issues some time in the fall/winter of 2019. Your input will help us prioritize management decisions.

In addition to the guidance that a flexible, structured plan document provides, increased grant opportunities are available to lake organizations that produce them. This will improve our financial ability to preserve and enhance Lake Ripley's water quality, its fish and wildlife communities and its overall ecological health.



Lake Ripley Management District Meeting of the Board of Directors July 20, 2019 9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes of June 15, 2019 meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence
- VI. New Business
 - a. Subscriptions and enrollments
 - b. Lake Management Plan update survey
 - c. Discussion and possible action on prior service liability for the pension plan
 - d. Discussion and possible action on proposed 2020 budget

VII. Old Business

- Discussion and possible action for signage to thank donors to the District
- b. Discussion and possible action on applying for a grant to control phragmites
- c. Discussion and possible action of Cost Share funds transfer
- d. Discussion and possible action Cost Share Projects
- e. Closure on Project Manager position and performance*
 - Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1) (c)] considering performance evaluation data of employee
- f. Discussion and possible action on land purchase**
 - i. **Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e)] negotiating the purchasing of public properties
- g. Enter open session. Discussion and possible action on closed session items

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

Original posted this 17th of July, 2019 at Hering's Lake Ripley Inn, Lake Ripley Café, Oakland Town Hall, and the Jefferson County website (www.jeffersoncountywi.gov). Published in Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent newspaper on the 18th day of July, 2019. After going to press, item VI. C added.



Lake Ripley Management District Meeting of the Board of Directors September 21, 2019 9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes of July 21, 2019 Board meeting and Aug 17, 2019 Special Meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence
- VI. New Business
 - a. Lake Management Plan update
 - b. Discussion and possible action on scheduling District Board meeting dates, times and locations for calendar year 2020
 - c. Discussion and possible action for use of leftover 2019 intern budget
 - d. Discussion and possible action for changes to the Employee Benefits Plan Document
 - e. Discussion and possible action on creating policy to recognize volunteers for their service
 - f. Discussion and possible action on creating policy for Board members doing work for the District

VII. Old Business

- Discussion and possible action on submission of a DNR Early Detection and Response Grant application for *Phragmites australis* control
- b. Discussion and possible action on land purchase*
 - i. **Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e)] negotiating the purchasing of public properties
- c. Enter open session. Discussion and possible action on closed session items

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

Original posted at Hering's Lake Ripley Inn, Lake Ripley Café, Oakland Town Hall, and the Jefferson County website (www.jeffersoncountywi.gov). Published in Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent newspaper on the 19th day of September, 2019.

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Lake Ripley Management District Meeting of the Board of Directors 9:00 A.M., October 19, 2019 Oakland Town Hall N4450 County Road A Cambridge, WI 53523

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes of September 21, 2019 Board meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence
- VI. New Business
 - a. Lake Management Plan update
 - Educational Spotlight Michael Engleson, Executive Director,
 Wisconsin Lakes Association, on issue advocacy

VII. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on policies for paying Board members for District work outside of their scope as Board members and recognizing volunteers
- b. Update and possible action from the Endowment and Land Trust Committee on the establishment of an MOU with the Cambridge Foundation to create a designated fund
- c. Discussion and possible action on land purchase*
 - i. *Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e)] negotiating the purchasing of public properties
- d. Enter open session. Discussion and possible action on closed session items

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

Original posted at Hering's Lake Ripley Inn, Lake Ripley Café, Oakland Town Hall on October 11, 2019. Posted to the Jefferson County website (www.jeffersoncountywi.gov). Scheduled to be published in Cambridge News newspaper on the 17th day of October, 2019.



Lake Ripley Management District Meeting of the Board of Directors November 16, 2019 9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall N4450 County Road A Cambridge, Wisconsin 53523

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes of October 19, 2019 Board meeting and October 29, 2019 Special Meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence
- VI. New Business
 - a. Lake Management Plan update
 - b. Resolutions for submission of DNR grants with upcoming deadlines
 - c. Discussion and possible action on submission of private grants for land acquisition.
 - d. Discussion and possible action on creating policy for Board members doing work for the District
 - e. Discussion of a potential Oakland Town ordinance regarding large wakes and heavy ballasts

VII. Old Business

- a. Update on Legislative Action Alert
- b. Discussion and possible action on land purchase*
 - i. **Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e)] negotiating the purchasing of public properties
- c. Enter open session. Discussion and possible action on closed session items

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

Original posted at Hering's Lake Ripley Inn, Lake Ripley Café, Oakland Town Hall on November 7, 2019. Posted to the Jefferson County website (www.jeffersoncountywi.gov). Scheduled to be published in Cambridge News newspaper on the 14th day of November, 2019.

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Lake Ripley Management District Meeting of the Board of Directors December 21, 2019 9:00 A.M. at Oakland Town Hall N4450 County Road A Cambridge, Wisconsin 53523

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approve Minutes of November 16, 2019 Board meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Lake Manager's Report and Correspondence
- VI. New Business
 - a. Lake Management Plan update
 - Discussion and possible action on Policy for provision of employee field/safety clothing
 - Discussion and possible action on organizational membership dues for Rock River Coalition, Wisconsin Lakes, and North American Lake Management Society
 - d. Discussion and possible action of draft job postings for District summer field technician and grant-funded LTE researcher

VII. Old Business

- a. Update on Legislative Action Alert
- b. Discussion and possible action on land purchase*
 - i. **Meeting may enter Closed Session [as per per §Wis. Statute 19.85 (1)(e)] negotiating the purchasing of public properties
- c. Enter open session. Discussion and possible action on closed session items

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

Original posted at Hering's Lake Ripley Inn, Lake Ripley Café, Oakland Town Hall on December 16, 2019. Posted to the Jefferson County website (www.jeffersoncountywi.gov). Scheduled to be published in Cambridge News newspaper on the 19th day of December, 2019.