

## LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

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



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jimmy DeGidio**  
Chair  
(608) 921-1340

**Debbie Kutz**  
Treasurer  
(920) 650-9122

**Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez**  
Secretary  
(608) 423-9898

**Craig Kempel**  
Commissioner  
(608) 423-3605

**Keith Kolb**  
Commissioner  
(414) 659-6293

**Doug Maurer**  
Commissioner  
(608) 515-3976

**Walt Christensen**  
Jefferson County Rep.  
(920) 723-1320

## LAKE MANAGER

**Beth Gehred**  
ripley@oaklandtown.com  
(608) 423-4537

## WEED HARVEST CREW

**Ed Grunden**  
**Richard Moen**  
**Dennis Zick**

## SCIENCE STAFF

**Dwight Osmon**  
**Lianna Spencer**

## FROM THE HELM

### *This Little Red Boat*

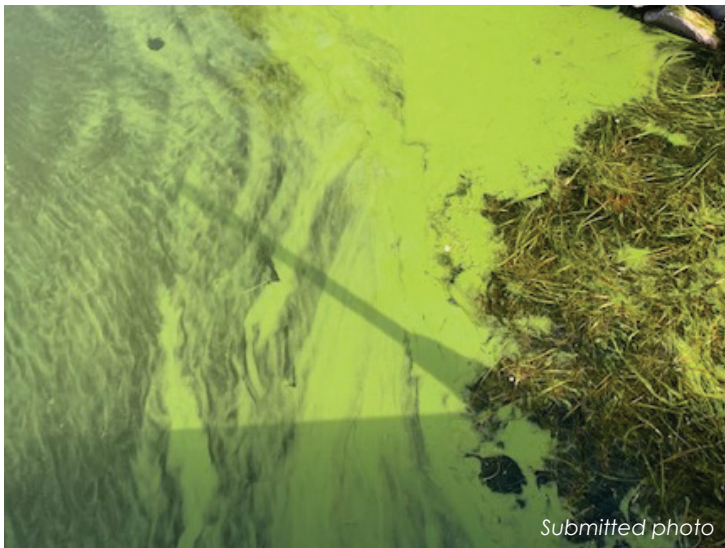
In 2017 the question was asked of me if we could purchase a boat to access Lake Ripley for studying the water conditions and other tasks as needed. I replied that we didn't have a budget for a boat and I would do some checking to see what I could come up with. I then remembered that my father had a fishing boat that we bought a few years back to use on a lake up

north. I asked dad if we were going to take it up north or would he be willing to donate it to the Lake District. He replied, sure you can have it and I know you will make good use of it. Over the summer Craig Kempel, Ed Grunden and Walt Christensen helped with painting the trailer, wired the trailer and replaced the transom and several other needed tasks. The district bought an Evinrude motor for the boat and we were soon on the lake with the fresh look. At the June 2020 district board meeting the commissioners voted to rent a slip on Lake Ripley so we could have a presence on the lake. After a conversation with Mike and Pat Cropp, they referred me to Terry at the Bait Shanty who might be willing to let us dock on their slip. Terry said she was happy to have the Lake District use the slip and this came at a great time for both of us. Having the slip allows us to access the lake on short notice and use the boat even if only one person is available. We will now be able to do lake surveys, weed observations, quick access if there a break down with the harvesting crew, and this now gives the district a presence and visibility on Lake Ripley. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible, and a big thank you to Terry at the Bait Shanty who helped complete the little red boat's final docking place.

*Jimmy DeGidio, Chair*



## BLUEGREEN ALGAE INFORMATION



Submitted photo

### **Bluegreen Algae Blooms -- How to Enjoy the Lake While Staying Safe**

In early July, the Lake District sent a water sample collected along a pier on the north shore of Milwaukee Bay to the State Lab of Hygiene to identify what looked like bluegreen algae, or cyanobacteria. The sample was taken in one foot of water from a site that looked much like the photo above. The lab confirmed that the algae was *Microcystic aeruginosa*, a potentially dangerous bluegreen algae for pets or swimmers.

Bluegreen algae is found in all or nearly all of Wisconsin lakes, and not all of them are dangerous. Weather patterns of high heat and calm winds causes it to rise to the surface, as a bloom. Then, when winds blow steadily in one direction, the algae is pushed toward the shoreline where it collects, often as a swirly, unappealing mass. When the concentration reaches these densities, this localized area should be avoided.

#### **When in doubt, stay out.**

A heavy rain, or shift in the winds, and the natural progression of the life cycle of the algae changes the concentration levels so that an affected site can be safe again within a matter of hours or days. It is not possible for all swimming sites in all lakes to be continuously sampled so education is the best way to minimize risks.

For the past two years, the District has stepped up our monitoring of the inlet stream for total phosphorus, among other measurements. We

are conducting a shorelands & shallows survey on the lake August 3-7, which will document shoreline features including the culverts from which additional phosphorus may be coming. Excess phosphorus in the lake is a key cause of increased levels of cyanobacteria. This survey will create a baseline so that future changes can be tracked.

One thing to keep in mind is that native plants compete with algae for nutrients. If we are too aggressive in our harvest/elimination of healthy lake plants, algal blooms will become more frequent. Excessive removal of aquatic plants around piers will increase the likelihood of algae blooms in the very spaces people spend time in the water.

The District welcomes your help in educating one another about the importance of planning shoreline buffers, switching to native plantings in your yards, reducing the use of phosphate-containing fertilizers on your yards, allowing for longer grass before cutting, picking up animal waste, supporting programs that help agricultural producers reduce nonpoint pollution, and other efforts that, collectively, will help to stem the excess phosphorus that encourages plant growth and algal blooms.



Photo credit – Ed Holroyd

### **Talk About a Rush!**

Our June aquatic plant survey revealed the presence of three plant species that were not earlier documented in our lake. One is the needle spike rush, pictured here. This native, along with the others, increases the diversity of our healthy plant community.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### ByLaws Changes Proposed

Four proposed Bylaw changes are on the agenda for District members to vote on at the annual meeting.

The first proposed change is to make meeting stipends optional for Board members. Currently, stipends per meeting are mandatory. Some board members would like to serve without receiving the stipend. We propose this change:

Board commissioners ~~shall~~ **may** [08-15-20] receive a stipend of \$50 per meeting attended as authorized by Ch. 33.30(4) c [08-22-98] The chair and treasurer ~~shall~~ **may** [8-15-20] each receive an additional \$100 per month stipend. [08-17-02].

Second: there has been a request for increasing the number of commissioners present to constitute a quorum from three to four to reflect the growth of the Board from five members to seven.

33.28 ~~(3) Three~~ **Four (4)** commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. [8-15-20]

Third: In light of the changes that have been enacted under the emergency conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for purposes of increased recruitment of, and flexibility for Board members, allowing remote attendance at Board meetings is being considered. To allow telephone or electronic remote attendance under non-emergency conditions, we point to the rules that would be adhered to to make this transition work more smoothly.

Conduct of Meetings: All meetings of the District shall be conducted according to Roberts Revised Rules of Order. The chair, or a person appointed by the chair, shall serve as parliamentarian. [05-25-91] **Meetings with one or more Board member attending electronically shall follow the rules outlined in Appendix C "Rules for Electronic Meetings" as written in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition, and amended by the Lake Ripley Management District Board. [8-15-20]**

Fourth: There are no provisions in our current bylaws, nor in the Ch. 30 State Statutes, that provide guidance for Board elections that end in a tie. Since this very nearly has happened here in the recent past, Board members would like a process outlined ahead of time to resolve the problem in a way that is acknowledged as workable and un-biased.

This language would therefore be added:

**33.30 (f). In the event of an exact tie for a contested seat, and after the procedures for recounts have been either voluntarily forfeited or exhausted, a member of the election committee will flip a coin to determine the winner of the seat. In a tie where there are more than two tied candidates for one seat, a member of the election committee will have the candidates draw straws with long straw winning the seat. If either of these becomes necessary as outlined under this paragraph, the secretary shall note the action in the meeting minutes. [8-15-20]**

### Budget Hearing

August 15, 2020

9 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall  
N4450 County Road A  
Cambridge

### Annual Meeting

Immediately following budget hearing  
Oakland Town Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
- III. Nomination of Board candidates-  
Statements of Candidates, and Election –  
Two open positions  
(Names on Ballot: Craig Kempel, Keith Kolb, Tim Lorden)
- IV. Chairman's report
- V. Treasurer's report
- VI. Authorization to use unrestricted funds, capital reserves, or other financial strategies to purchase land available that is beneficial to the preservation of Lake Ripley
- VII. Approval of the budget and tax levy
- VIII. Approval of changes to the LRMD ByLaws (see changes in side bar)
- IX. Tabulation of vote and election of board members
- X. Results of election read to attendees.
- XI. Adjournment

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

Immediately following Annual Meeting  
Oakland Town Hall

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Election of Board Officers
- III. Adjournment

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

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

	<u>2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2020 BUDGET</u>	<u>2020 JAN- JUNE ACTUAL</u>	<u>2020 JAN-DEC ESTIMATED</u>	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$121,626	\$122,715	\$84,360	\$122,715	\$152,665
Interest Income	1486	1500	460	580	324
Carryover	18,695	30,689		16,140	17,903
Authorized use of unrestricted Funds	<u>6000</u>	<u>4500</u>		<u>4500</u>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>147,807</u></b>	<b><u>159,404</u></b>	<b><u>84,793</u></b>	<b><u>143,935</u></b>	<b><u>170,892</u></b>
<b>Operations:</b>					
Landowner Cost Sharing	6453	15,000	721	721	15,000
Weed Harvesting	5894	10,550	1,742	10,550	10,800
Preserve Restoration/Management	10,387	6,000	1,482	5,000	9,000
Staff Payroll/Fringes/Taxes	62,203	71,304	32,470	71,304	73,542
Insurance	6656	7,400	6,996	6,996	7,500
Legal & Accounting	1046	4,000	630	4,000	3,000
Dues & Conferences	1256	2,950	1,198	1,465	4,000
Office & Community Outreach	10,277	11,000	6,173	10,638	11,600
Commissioner Stipends	5450	5,400	2,600	5,400	5,400
Rent	1800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land/Equip Acquisition	15,000	15,000	11,868	15,000	25,000
Miscellaneous & General Lake Mgmt.	5071	8,000	165	8,000	3,750
Special Programs	174	1,000	100	200	500
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>131,667.00</u></b>	<b><u>159,404.00</u></b>	<b><u>67,945.00</u></b>	<b><u>141,074.00</u></b>	<b><u>170,892.00</u></b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b><u>\$16,140</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,848</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,861</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

#### THE LRMD HAS NO INDEBTEDNESS

#### LAKE RIPLEY PROTECTION FUND

##### Restricted Fund:

Estimated Balance (12/31/19)	\$40,863
Additional 2019 Activity	
Increase	13,186
Final Balance 12/31/19	54,049
2020 Estimated Activity	
Interest Earned	116
Increase	59,500
<b>Estimated Balance 12/31/20</b>	<b>\$113,665</b>



## BOATER RULES/NEW PROCEDURES FOR BOARD ELECTIONS

### ***Safe and Respectful Recreation on the Lake***

These comments from the public opinion survey and from recent phone calls to the District have caught our attention.

"Recently noise and the number of anchored, 'partying' boats on the northwest end has been hugely problematic."

"Would love to see more communication of lake rules for boaters."

"Please remind boaters to take off slowly from piers."

"Ask boaters to use the channels cut for them when leaving their piers, where applicable. Though it may not be the straight line to open water, using the channels decreases the amount of prop chop that then floats to and clutters shorelines."

Here are some reminders of Lake Ripley boater rules:

No person shall operate a motor boat or personal watercraft faster than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of any shoreline, or within buoyed restricted areas. Restricted areas include portions of South Bay and Milwaukee Bay.

No person shall operate a motor boat faster than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of piers, docks, rafts, and marked swimming areas. No person shall operate a personal watercraft faster than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of another personal watercraft, boat, pier, dock, raft or marked swimming area.

While there are no rules preventing boats from congregating in an area, or playing loud music, or disregarding channels cut for navigation, now you have heard that these actions are causing some of your neighbors to enjoy their time on the lake a little less.

Please act with empathy, courtesy and common sense while enjoying the lake, for others living in or around the lake.

### ***New Procedures for Board Elections***

The District is modifying the way elections will be held during this Annual Meeting in response to precautions for the COVID-19 pandemic and to Wisconsin Legislature-mandated changes made to statutes governing lake district elections.

According to State Statute, voting for Lake Districts must be done in person, for a limited time during an annual meeting, and by secret ballot. According to precautions for COVID-19, people would vote remotely or via electronic means to avoid proximity. In order to conduct an election that is both according to statute and safe, the District is asking that members who wish to attend the annual meeting and vote be prepared to wear masks, practice social distancing, and be flexible in anticipating a voting procedure that may take place partially in the parking lot.

Three candidates are running for two seats on the Board. Incumbents Keith Kolb, N4452 Park Road, and Craig Kempel, W9103 Ripley Road, are both up for re-election as commissioners. Tim Lorden, N4409 Beach Drive, is also running. Lorden served on the Board, as Secretary, from 1994-2001.

Each candidate will give a statement about themselves at the annual meeting, prior to the vote. Written statements from each candidate can also be found on the District website at [lakeripley.org](http://lakeripley.org).

### ***This Least is the Most***



Photo credit – John Lyon

The Least Darter was found in the lake during our June Near Shore Non-game Fish Survey. This fish was last found in the lake in 1975. The scientists that confirmed the finding considered it an indication that Lake Ripley still offers healthy habitat capable of supporting a diverse food web.

## ANOTHER LOOK AT LAKE PLANTS

### *Falling in Love with Lake Plants* By Lianna Spencer, Lake Researcher

I used to believe it was the water itself that drew me to lakes and oceans. But as I grew older, it became clear that the mystery of what was living underneath that beautiful dark water was the real lure. How did things survive down there? What is in there that attracts so many animals from far and wide? These questions pushed me to dive deeper in the world of limnology and marine biology.

Believe it or not, life can survive beneath the water in large part because of submerged aquatic plants! That's right; the plants you may see as nuisances are providing essential dissolved oxygen needed for the life you see teeming in and around the water.

A lot of people see these plants as weeds that are in their way of swimming and boating; but I see fascinating, diverse, necessary aquatic plants. Aquatic plants play many important roles within the lake's ecosystem. These range from filtering runoff that enters the lake, serving as important habitat for fish and invertebrates, providing a food

source for many animals including fish, waterfowl and mammals, providing the oxygen necessary for any organism to survive.

Without these aquatic plants, bass, walleye and bluegill would lose their main food source, their habitat and life-providing oxygen. Mallards, loons, mergansers and other waterfowl would lose the seeds and foliage they love to eat. Blue herons and sandhill cranes gravitate to lakes because of the good hunting grounds for small fish and macroinvertebrates which call the plants their home.

However, there are two invasive plants in Lake Ripley: Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. These characters provide ecosystem services such as habitat for fish and insects, providing food for waterfowl and can provide shade. But, if left unmonitored and uncontrolled, these invaders could soon dominate our lake's plant community and negatively alter the entire ecosystem. Cherishing the native, healthy plants while monitoring and slowing the spread of any invasive plants should be one of the focuses of the admirers and users of the lake.

