

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2024

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Mike Mittelstadt. He confirmed that the meeting complied with open meeting laws. Mittelstadt reviewed the proposed agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Al Baade, second by Paul Burke. The agenda was approved. Mittelstadt welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. 31 people completed the voter certificate to receive a ballot.

2. Election of one commissioner

Pat Sullivan, chair of the election committee, announced that the term of one commissioner expired in 2024. Only one candidate submitted a biography in advance of the meeting, i.e., Mike Mittelstadt. Sullivan asked three times whether there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Pat Sullivan made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Chuck Ecklund. The ballots were collected and counted by two members of the election committee, Tom Wagner and Don McCune.

3. Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2023 annual meeting were included in the handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes, and that a draft copy had been on the LRPD website since last September. However, approval of the draft minutes needs to be done by resident electors and landowners of the district. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting was made by Chuck Ecklund and seconded by Gary Rodgers. There wasn't any discussion or questions regarding the minutes and the motion was approved. (A copy of the approved minutes is available on the LRPD web site at www.lakeredstonepd.org).

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report entitled "Year in Review" was included in the handout (A copy of that report is available on the LRPD web site.). Keegstra encouraged electors to read the entire report but provided oral highlights on selected topics. The 2024 report focused mainly on implementation of the 10-year lake management plan that was approved in February of 2022.

The activities described in the plan are divided among 4 district committees, who are responsible for their implementation. This requires the support of many volunteers as well as the cooperation among many partners, including producers in the watershed, staff from Juneau and Sauk counties, staff from the Town of La Valle, staff from the Wisconsin DNR, and staff from the US Geological Survey.

5. Treasurer's Report with results of financial review

Treasurer Dave Crockett reviewed the balance sheet that summarized the district's finances as of July 9, 2024. He explained that the large balance was caused by the fact that part of the grant income for the Martin-Meadowlark project had already been received, but that the project had not yet been completed so the expenses had not been dispersed.

He explained that financial transactions are subjected to external review every three years and that this year the review was performed internally by Don Haas and Heidi Geils.

They found one typographical error that was caused by transposition of two numbers in the report to the board. But the invoice and check were both correct. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report.

6. Proposed 2025 Operating Budget – Discuss and Approve

Treasurer Dave Crockett presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2025 (sent out with Annual Meeting notice and available in the handout at the meeting). He briefly reviewed the expected income as well as the proposed expenditures. Crockett made a motion to “approve the proposed 2025 budget with operating expenses of \$124,200 and an operating expense levy of \$115,200”. The motion was seconded by Tom Wagner. During the discussion, a question was raised about the \$5,000 allocated for goose control. The response was that the details of how these funds would be spent was not yet decided, but the amount was based on a report from another lake where the cost of goose control activities was \$4,000. Another question related to why the proposed budget for Lake Maintenance and Erosion Control and Watershed Improvement Funding remained at \$8,000 and \$10,000 respectively when so little was spent in 2024. The response was that some projects did not work out in the past year, but other projects look likely in the coming year. After this discussion, the 2025 budget was approved with no changes.

7. Reports on recent activities

PowerPoint slides were used during the reports; copies of these slides are available on the LRPD website (www.lakeredstonepd.org).

A. Report on water quality issues

Ken Keegstra summarized selected water quality committee's activities from the past year and some plans for the coming year. The topics included 1. Aquatic plant issues, 2. Update on lake monitoring program, 3. Connection to the stream monitoring program with the USGS, and 4. Impact of geese on water quality.

1. Aquatic plant issues. Because the abundance of plants in Lake Redstone has declined in recent years, the new aquatic plant management plan approved in the spring of 2023 sets a goal to preserve aquatic plants, especially native plants. It also calls for the monitoring, and control when needed, the levels of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). Two types of assays are used to monitor EWM. They are quantitative point intercept surveys that are performed in selected bays each year and a fall shoreline survey which covers the entire shoreline every year. Results from both surveys show that the location and abundance of EWM is highly variable; details of the survey results are available on the LRPD website.

2. Lake monitoring program. Local volunteers and WDNR staff have been monitoring lake water for more than 40 years. Despite efforts throughout the watershed to reduce runoff into the lake, the phosphorus levels in Lake Redstone have remained relatively constant over the past 40 years.

3. Stream monitoring activities with USGS. The LRPD has cooperated the USGS over the past 3 years to evaluate the quantities of phosphorus and sediment that enter Lake Redstone via the east and west branches of Big Creek. These efforts led to a good baseline of information that will be used in the future to monitor progress toward further reducing phosphorus and sediment from the northern parts of the watershed. Another important conclusion from these studies is that the ungauged area, the region around the lake that includes some smaller streams plus the lawns and shorelines, is a significant contributor to the sediment and

phosphorus entering Lake Redstone. The small streams around the lake are being monitored in 2024. The Education and Outreach committee is leading efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients coming from lawns and properties around the lake.

4. Impact of geese on water quality. There is evidence that the presence of too many geese have a negative impact on water quality in lakes and ponds. Recent surveys reveal that the number of geese on Lake Redstone is increasing. Efforts in the coming year will explore methods to reduce the numbers of geese on Lake Redstone.

B. Report on conservation event

Pat Sullivan and Brad Horner provided a review of the conservation event that was held on July 26, 2024 with 164 people in attendance. The event was held on the McWilliams Farm near the Section 11 boat landing. Participants included lake residents, producers in the watershed as well as staff from Juneau and Sauk counties. The event featured three exhibits: 1. The rainfall simulator where Mitch McCarthy illustrated the importance of native plants in reducing erosion. 2. An exhibit on rotational grazing where Serge Koenig and Erin VanGrinsven, from McWilliams Farms, illustrated the importance of this conservation strategy to protecting soil health and reducing erosion. 3. A soil health demonstration involving a soil pit where Dr. Jamie Powell explained the importance of earth worms and deep-rooted plants in allowing for water infiltration into soil. She also explained the importance of soil microorganisms in maintaining soil health. In addition to these exhibits featuring professional staff, the LRPD had an exhibit that explained options for property owners to reduce erosion on their shorelines.

8. Introduce new board member

Pat Sullivan announced that Mike Mittelstadt had been unanimously elected to serve a third term on the board. He also mentioned that 2 board seats will become open in 2025 and that neither incumbent intends to seek another term.

9. Question and answer session

Don McCune asked whether the decline in plant abundance and the current water quality issues were related to dredging. Mittelstadt indicated he knew of no connections. Keegstra noted that all bays were assayed for plants before dredging and many afterward with no noticeable impact on plant life. Mittelstadt noted that only 10% of lake surface was dredged, mainly in bays near to the shore, while 90% of the lake was not dredged. Keegstra noted that water quality issues have a complicated set of reasons including stirring up sediment from shallow portions of the lake by powerful engines and wake boats, internal loading of phosphorus from sediment, too many geese, and possibly other issues not yet identified.

Terri Moeller commented that she is seeing more outdoor showers and homes that dump gray water onto their shoreline and wondered whether this impacted water quality issues. Horner commented that LRPOA handout included a recommendation for soap to be used in outdoor showers. (Note: In follow up investigations, the LRPD board learned that dumping gray water into the lake violates county regulations; all gray water must go through the septic systems. Sauk County is responsible for enforcement of these regulations. Any observed violations should be reported to Sauk County. On the other hand, outdoor showers are legal, but if soap is used, care should be taken to use the proper soaps.)

Marsha Mercier thanked the board members for their passion for lake improvement. She also commented that during rain events the water in the west arm of Lake Redstone turns

chocolate brown from the sediment entering from the west branch of Big Creek. The USGS studies confirms that big rain events are the major problem for sediment entry.

Al Schlinsog inquired whether the chocolate plume caused health concerns because of bacteria in the water. Because no microbial testing has been done, an answer could not be given. The water quality committee discussed whether to add microbial testing of lake water but decided against it because microbial concerns are transient and disappear quickly.

9. Adjourn

Following the question-and-answer session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

KK- 8-6-24/8-30-24

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