

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2023

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 Chuck Ecklund, second by Jim Mercier. The agenda was approved. Mittelstadt welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. 44 people attended the meeting, although only 43 completed the voter certificate to receive a ballot. Finally, Mittelstadt introduced Arthur Watkinson, the DNR Lakes Biologist for Lake Redstone.

2. Election of two commissioners

The term of two commissioners expired in 2023. Only two candidates submitted a biography and declared themselves candidates in advance of the meeting, i.e., Dave Crockett and Brad Horner. Mittelstadt asked three times whether there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Jim Mercier made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Don Haasl. The ballots were collected and counted. Both Crockett and Horner were elected unanimously. Mittelstadt announced that Paul Burke was retiring from the board and thanked him for his years of service.

3. Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2022 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 2022 Annual Meeting was made by Marcia Mercier and seconded by Chuck Ecklund. 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 2023 report focused mainly on the activities pursued to implement the 10-year lake management plan that was approved in February of 2022.

Pursuing these activities will require cooperation among many partners, including the producers in the watershed, staff from Juneau and Sauk counties, staff from the Town of La Valle, staff from the Wisconsin DNR, staff from the US Geological Survey, and many volunteers from within the district. Along these lines, Keegstra thanked the many LRPD volunteers who helped during the past year. He encouraged new volunteers to participate in activities that interest them.

5. Treasurer's Report with results of financial review

Treasurer Paul Burke drew attention to the budget sheet that provides a summary of the financial transactions during 2022 and 2023 to date. He reported that financial transactions

are subjected to external review every three years and that this was the year for an external review. The review was performed by MBE CPAs in Reedsburg, and they reported no errors or areas of concern. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report.

6. 2023 Proposed Operating Budget – Discuss and Approve

Treasurer Paul Burke presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2024 (sent out with Annual Meeting notice and available in the handout at the meeting). He briefly summarized two projects that needed elector approval because they exceeded the \$10,000 threshold. The first was a project to repair a weir above Martin-Meadowlark Bay that was damaged in the 2018 floods. This project will be paid for by a combination of grants from the Wisconsin DNR and Sauk County with about 25% of the costs coming from the LRPD budget. Engineering for the project has been completed and the project will be bid this fall with construction expected in 2024. The second project is tributary monitoring aimed to determine the amounts of sediment and phosphorus that enter the lake from three minor streams at the ends of Eagle, Swallow, and Martin-Meadowlark bays. This project will be funded in part by a cost share from the US Geological Survey, by a grant from Sauk County and about a third from the LRPD budget. Burke made a motion to “approve the proposed 2024 budget with operating expenses of \$232,035 and an operating expense levy of \$110,936”. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ecklund. After a brief discussion, the 2024 budget was approved with no changes.

7. Progress on implementation of the Lake Management Plan

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

A. High level overview

Mike Mittelstadt provided a high-level overview of the lake management plan. He emphasized that implementation of the plan will involve adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in three areas: the watershed far away from the lake, the riparian areas surrounding the lake and within the lake itself. He also described the two new *ad hoc* committees, Plan Integration Committee and Education & Outreach Committee that will supplement the two standing committees that already exist, i.e., the Water Quality Projects Committee and the Sediment Control Committee. He emphasized that plan implementation will require close cooperation with several partners as well as the involvement of many volunteers. He encouraged those interesting in helping to join one of the committees that will be pursuing plan implementation. Finally, he provided a brief description of the transect survey activity that began in 2022 and will continue for 10 years. The surveys will document changes in land use and agricultural practices in the watershed with the goal of encouraging BMPs.

B. Education & Outreach activities

Brad Horner provided a brief review of the Education & Outreach activities performed in the past year. He reported on the “Take a stake in the lake” event which was held on June 3, 2023. He described activities planned for the coming year that includes a “Shoreline Showcase” to demonstrate what can be done to improve shorelines around the lake. He also described the new reimbursement program that the LRPD intends to operate to supplement the Healthy Lakes program run by the DNR and the shoreline improvement grants available from Sauk County. By combining these three programs, the hope is to encourage property owners to improve their shorelines in ways that will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into Lake Redstone.

C. Sediment Control Activities

Pat Sullivan provided a summary of the Sediment Control Committee activities from the past year and plans for the coming year. One important update was the acquisition of a DNR grant to repair the damaged weir above Martin/Meadowlark Bay, as described above in the budget discussion. He explained the system that the committee established for prioritizing projects that need attention. He also illustrated the new maintenance plan and record-keeping system that is used to track existing and future sediment control devices. Finally, he described the 3 projects that will be pursued in the coming year.

D. Water Quality Issues

Ken Keegstra summarized the water quality committee's activities from the past year and plans for the coming year. The district's aquatic plant management plan was updated. Surveys performed during update revealed that plant abundance in Lake Redstone has decreased significantly over the past 10-15 years. Thus, one goal of the updated plan is to protect native plants. He also summarized the results from 40 years of monitoring water in the lake, which showed that Lake Redstone is slightly eutrophic. While there has been some variation, the situation has remained about the same for almost 40 years. Finally, he described the results obtained from the stream sampling project over the past 2 years. The two years gave similar results with most sediment and nutrients coming during storm events. The largest amount of sediment comes from the ungauged area, the areas close to the lake where water enters the lake directly and not via the two major inlet streams. In the inlets that were measured, the east branch of Big Creek contributed more sediment than the west branch of Big Creek. When phosphorus was monitored, the ungauged area again contributed the largest quantity. Within the inlets that were measured, the west branch of Big Creek contributed more phosphorus than the east branch of Big Creek. More phosphorus entered Lake Redstone in each year than left the lake via the exit stream, indicating that progress in controlling phosphorus entry is needed.

8. Question and answer session

Dave Kuschman asked about whether the water was safe for swimming; he was assured that Lake Redstone was safe for swimming. So far Lake Redstone has not experienced blue-green algal blooms, which is the problem that creates concerns for swimming and causes beaches to be closed in Madison lakes. Kuschman also questioned whether concerns about lake water quality was connected to ground water used for drinking. No one was able to provide an answer to this question. Dane Trodahl commented that he was concerned about enforcement of no-wake zones. Because this is an issue for La Valle police, the discussion was brief. But it did lead to a discussion of the concern caused by boats that produce large wakes, including disturbing bottom sediment at depths not seen in earlier years. Arthur Watkinson commented that it is a common problem in lakes throughout Wisconsin, and elsewhere He noted that this issue has received considerable attention, but no solutions.

9. Adjourn

Following the question-and-answer session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.