

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT (LRPD)
ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2009

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE
2008/2009 Time PERIOD:

1. Water Quality Testing:

A. Water Monitoring: Continued testing that has now been going on for 13 or more years, water samples have again been taken at three locations; at the north, south and approximate mid-point of the main part of Lake Redstone. Sampling is done throughout the year; especially during Spring and Fall water “turnover” as temperature variations occur between upper and lower lake depths. Samples are tested for; Clarity, Phosphorous, Chlorophyll and Temperature Profile. Starting this year, samples are now being taken and tested for Phosphorous from near the top and bottom of the lake. After an upcoming in-depth review of the conclusions of Barr Engineering, this testing protocol may be expanded to include locations in the east and west branches to the north and the basin near the dam to the south.

We want to again recognize and thank the team of volunteers. This includes; Bob Roloff, Nick Ladas and Gary Botsford. Activities of this group are coordinated by Al Baade.

As will discussed later in this meeting, we have now accumulated a significant amount of data that can tell us a great deal about the past and present condition of the water quality in Lake Redstone.

In addition to past actions, as described above, we also asked others, including Joe Lally of the Sauk County Health Department on other testing they could do for us or that we could do on our own. Joe works with a number of other lake groups in the area, especially with respect to “blue-green algae”. After describing what we already do, he was impressed and indicated that we are already doing more than most other lake organizations. He felt there was little we could do to improve, but if other needs come up, he is willing to provide support.

B. WI DNR Planning Grants: As reported at past meetings, during 1996, the LRPD, in conjunction with the WI DNR, conducted a

study of the water already in as well as that entering Lake Redstone through its major tributaries. The results and conclusions were reported in a July, 1997 report written by the DNR's Jim Leverance and John Panuska. It gave us great insight into the condition of Lake Redstone's water at that time.

In 2005, the LRPD chose to re-do that previous study to determine the current water quality and compare it to the previous study. To do this, the LRPD applied for and received two grants, each for \$10,000, from the WI DNR. These are cost-share grants that requires the Lake Redstone Protection District to contribute some of the cost.

After a competitive bid process, the firm Vierbicher and Associates was chosen to both design and conduct the testing protocols. Al Baade is the lead LRPD person on this project. Vierbich experienced problems with their test equipment so this testing was delayed. As noted last year, the data they collected was inadequate, so they collected additional samples at two entry points as the west and east portions of our northern watershed enters Lake Redstone.

To evaluate the data quality, summarize conclusions and draw trends from 1996 to the present, based on a competitive bid process, we selected Barr Engineering. Meg Rattei has led a team to do this and at a recent Board meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District presented us with her team's findings. She is here again today to present what she has learned to all of you. In coming months, the Board will consider her findings and define a plan to take advantage of what we have learned to guide future efforts.

C. High Water Level With Slow/No Wake To Reduce Shoreline Erosion: This issue received a great deal of attention before the flood in 2008 and even more afterward. During the past year, we have recalibrated depth gauges at both the north and south ends of Lake Redstone. During major storm events, water levels will be monitored at both ends for use in advising the Town of La Valle and the Sauk County Sheriff's Department in determining when to declare all of Lake Redstone as SLOW/NO WAKE area.

In addition, in an effort to make everyone aware of when the lake water level is approaching the point of concern, yellow lines have been painted

on the pavement to indicate that when the water reaches those lines, the lake should be considered as SLOW/NO WAKE for its entirety.

2. Shoreline Erosion Control: We have learned of several locations that have been prone to wash-outs as water flushes down from higher ground surrounding Lake Redstone. At this time, we are working with the Town of La Valle to determine which areas need improvement and what the role of the Lake Redstone Protection District should be with respect to these activities.

As noted last year, we are also concerned that the three “model shoreline restoration” projects we sponsored almost six years ago have not done well; especially with respect to the poor results using Coir biologs and the devices used to bond them together. After considerable discussion, until a more effective method is identified, the LRPD Board has developed the position statement to recommend use of “vegetation buffers with plugs of native flowers and plants in riprap”.

3. Sediment Run-Off Control: As reported previously, significant sediment plumes have been observed coming off the western side of the northern watershed during major storm events. During discussions with a couple engineering groups and the Natural Resources Conservations Service (NRCS) with whom we've partnered for watershed improvement activities in Juneau County, a suggestion was made that we might be able to spot sources of sediment from above, so we have initiated a small project with a small local airplane company to fly over the area and take pictures before and shortly after a major storm. This effort has begun and we have obtained “before” pictures. We are now waiting for a heavy rainfall event to take “after” pictures.

4. Aquatic Plant Management: We continue to use the Aquatic Plant Management plan for Lake Redstone that was written, revised and approved by the DNR a few years ago for guiding contractors we hire to spray herbicides to control growth of exotic and nuisance levels of native Aquatic Plants. This plan considers use of Lake Redstone by both property owners as well as visitors for a variety of activities, including fishing and boating.

As done in past years, we solicited bids and awarded a contract to a commercial sprayer certified to do this work. The contractor first

surveys the lake for plant growth and then, under the direct guidance and control of a representative of the DNR, will spray the herbicide(s) as allowed by the DNR person in conformance with our permit approved by the DNR.

The flooding in 2008 caused a significant decrease in Aquatic Plant growth. Discussions with the sprayer after the initial survey was completed resulted in the decision to not spray at all. We notified the DNR of this decision and requested and received a refund of the money, \$845, paid to them for our permit.

In early June of this year, 2009, the initial spraying was completed. It has been reported that there are significantly fewer Aquatic Plants than in past years, especially in the shallower bays in the northern part of the lake; the area that has given the most problems in past years.

5. Electorate Communication Links:

A. The “LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION CONNECTION NEWSLETTER”: We continue to publish our newsletter twice a year. In general, we've received good comments, but encourage everyone to continue to offer suggestions on how we might improve our efforts in this area and also for additional topics of interest that should be included in upcoming editions. We feel this newsletter offers the Board not only a way to communicate to everyone what is being done for everyone around the lake, but also offers us an opportunity to educate about topics pertinent to maintaining the health of Lake Redstone.

B. The Lake Redstone Protection District Web-Site (www.lakeredstonepd.org): This is a new effort that is just getting underway. Our thanks go to Priscilla Bondhus and her grand-daughter for getting this site up and running. There is still not much on it, but we look forward to it becoming another integral method to communicate with everyone. We would also like your input on what you would like to see included on this web-site.

6. Sauk County Activities:

A. Steel Septic Tanks: As many of you are already aware, there is a major effort by Planning and Zoning to identify and have replaced steel septic tanks; many of which are failing. There well over three hundred of these in the area. Planning and Zoning people are pushing

very hard to get this done. I'm told they have notified many of our residents and have requested action or, at least, a plan and timing for the desired action. Failure of these steel septic tanks are a threat to both the water quality of Lake Redstone and to the health of our residents. Planning and Zoning has requested our support of this effort.

B. Manure Storage Program: After a number of years in the planning, this effort is getting underway. We applaud this effort that should reduce the farm run-off that is detrimental to Lake Redstone.

7. Unresolved Flood Issues:

A. LRPD/Town of La Valle Property On Mourning Dove Bay: The Board has spent considerable effort on this project during the past year. After a review with representatives of the DNR and Sauk County Planning and Zoning, the apparent approval to fix the problem was not given to the project. As a result, we have teamed with the Town and La Valle to award a contract, based on competitive bids by three companies to General Engineering to design two plans to complete the repairs. The first primary plan was to remove the sediment flushed down into the bay and return the site to be similar to its original state. An alternate plan was also developed to leave the sediment in place and simply stabilize the site as it currently exists. Prior to today's meeting, at the Board's request, General Engineering solicited bids from contractors to do the work. Five bids were received and will be discussed by other speakers later in this meeting.

Pending approval by the Town of La Valle Board, the Lake Redstone Protection District Board plans to cost-share this project with the Town of La Valle. In addition, we are hoping to receive some financial support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and, perhaps, the State of Wisconsin.

B. Dam Problems and Repairs: Last fall, the DNR confirmed that the possible problems with the Lake Redstone dam are real and it must be repaired. Since the dam is owned by Sauk County, it is their responsibility to fix it. Early this year, they awarded a contract to Ayres Engineering to examine both the Lake Redstone and the Mirror Lake Delton dams. They were to examine both dams, develop a risk analysis for both and develop plans to repair both. Initially, Sauk County had money to repair only one of them, the Delton dam. However, that

scenario may have changed. Later in this meeting, we have a speaker who will give us an update of the current situation.

8. DNR Designation of Lake Redstone As A “Critical Habitat”: After attending numerous meetings and lengthy discussions with the DNR and amongst all of us last year, there have been even more since we discussed it at last year's meeting. Another speaker will be discussing this item in greater detail. However, the following summary lists the key activities of the LRPD Board during the last year:

A. The first key item is that Attorney's have advised both the Town of La Valle Board and the Lake Redstone Protection District Board, that the DNR has the legal rights to do what it has done. They advised the Town of La Valle to not take any action, but to let the LRPD Board take the lead.

B. The Lake Redstone Protection Board met with the DNR at one of the DNR regional Board meetings to discuss our views.

C. Two higher level DNR representatives came to two meetings of the LRPD Board to listen to our concerns and tell us the view of the DNR. These people were; Lloyd Eagan, Regional Director for the South Central DNR Region and Ken Johnson, Water Leader for the South Central DNR Region. Key comments at these meetings were:

1) After Chapter 30 was changed to a broadened interpretation of the meaning of “protection of public rights”, the original “sensitive area” designation was changed to “critical habitat”. The DNR is now also learning exactly what this means.

2) The CH designation requires greater scrutiny for permits.

3) They admit the DNR did not communicate this well.

4) The CHR should be considered a resource for recommendations.

5) Lake Redstone is the first and is a “guinea pig”. The report is being revised .

6) The DNR will review the process and come back to review its impact after one year.

7)The revised report changed some of the recommendations, Table 1 on “Impact” and Appendix A.

8) There is an Impact Table on p.11 for all 20 CH sites.

9) The “public rights” allows the DNR to look 300' off shore, not just 75', especially for grading operations.

10) Ken Johnson noted that he remembered when riprap was routinely allowed, but new studies show it is detrimental to lakes.

D. Mercier, Frank and Ladas learned of a meeting to discuss a new Critical Habitat designation of the Chain of Lakes in Waupaca. After arriving early, they traveled the area and met with several people who are active in lake activities and learned that they were not aware of the meeting or knew little about it. After talking with us, cell phones came out and a fairly large group was organized to attend the meeting with the DNR. At the meeting, several of them asked the DNR reps why they were not told of this meeting. The DNR response was that area people had been contacted, but some of those people were present and indicated they had not been contacted about the meeting.

9. Review of Electorate Survey Done With Assistance of the UW-Extension in Baraboo: The intent of this activity was to do a check on ourselves to see if we'd done what we'd hoped to accomplish by doing the survey. In general, several desirable things have been done in the last couple years. This includes; 1) Improved communications with the newsletter and web-site, 2) Control of exotic Aquatic Plants, 3) Reduce nutrients entering lake through support of steel tanks and manure management program, 4) Education through the newsletter and 5) Reduced sediment through the Timmons Road project and dredging discussions with the DNR and contractors. 6) It was noted that in the past the annual turnover of Lake Redstone residents has exceeded 5%, so we must continue to repeat many of our communications.

Lastly, let me repeat comments we've made in that past; that all of us on the Lake Redstone Protection District would truly appreciate receiving input from any of you regarding your thoughts on improving Lake Redstone. It may be something we've already considered and plan to follow-up on or it may be something new. Please contact any of your seven Commissioners or call me, Warren Frank, at 608-985-7455. We would love to hear your thoughts on our current activities, perhaps a suggestion to do something better or, perhaps, something that has not yet been identified, but which needs attention and action to fix it. We also encourage your involvement at any of our meetings or to work on any of our projects.

Submitted by: Warren Frank, Secretary, Lake Redstone Protection District, August 1, 2009