

The Lake Redstone Protection District (LRPD) and dredging committee are pleased to provide this update for the proposed dredging of selective bays of Lake Redstone. We continue to move forward with researching, planning, and preparation as discussed at the 2016 & 2017 August annual meetings. This work is necessary to get to the point of receiving proposals from dredging companies. Once proposals are received, we will know the cost. With this information, an accurate number can be presented to the LRPD taxpayers to vote on whether to proceed or not.

Sediment has been accumulating in Lake Redstone since the lake was first filled in the 1960's. A few bays were dredged in 1983. Ayres Associates has been contracted by the LRPD for engineering assessments, comprehensive dredging engineering, and operations support. Ayres is an Eau Claire, Wisconsin based company, with wide ranging experience in dredging & engineering projects. Ayres sediment investigation documented that accumulation in several bays was or soon will restrict navigation. This would likely reduce property values. Up to 106,000 cubic yards of sediment may need to be removed to restore lake bed depths to 5-6 feet below the normal water surface.

Ayres is contracted to support the LRPD with:

- DNR permit application preparation
- Dredging construction & operations plans
- Spoils (disposal) site design
- Preparation of bid documentation for dredging & review of bid responses
- Construction phase and dredging project coordination with the dredging company

Based on cost and logistics, we have chosen hydraulic versus mechanical dredging for Lake Redstone. This type of dredging essentially vacuums (pumps) sediment and water through pipes to a disposal site.

The DNR permit will cover design of the spoils site, construction of lake water returns from the disposal site, and other dredging logistical work. After LRPD review, the permit will be submitted to the DNR by the second week of March. The DNR review and approval period is expected to take 60-90 days.

In early spring, Ayres will provide the Board with a bid ready package to solicit bids from dredging companies. Bid responses will be received in early June and reviewed by the Board. A dredging company is expected to be selected shortly thereafter. A contract with that company could be signed if taxpayers vote to approve the project later in the summer.

COST & FINANCING

Various financing options are being investigated. Banks and credit unions have been consulted regarding financing for the project. The Board is also investigating the availability of state and local grants to offset the overall cost. At this point we are aiming at a tax levy of the dredging cost to property owners. The timing of the levy and payback period must be in compliance with State of Wisconsin statutes. A finalized proposal for funding and payback plan is expected by the middle of April. Approximate dredging & disposal cost is estimated at \$4,000,000. Financing costs will be additional.

There are two meetings which lake district taxpayers are encouraged to attend. On June 9, there will be a special session covering the dredging project, updates on progress, and a Q&A. There will be an authorization vote of the taxpayers at the 2018 LRPD Annual meeting on August 4. If taxpayers approve the dredging plan, loan papers will be signed for funding and the contract finalized with the dredging company. The time and location for both meetings will be finalized and communicated at a later time.

We are very fortunate to have landowner cooperation which may allow us to utilize a disposal site near the northeast section of the lake. The location of the proposed site, off Heidrich Road, would allow us to avoid significant cost with handling and hauling away the spoils and allow the dredged sediment (spoils) to essentially dry out and settle in place. After a period of time, the spoils would be graded to conform with the landscape.

By August the logical order of bays and timeline for dredging should be determined. This information will be shared with property owners, local marinas, and pier/lift removal providers to coordinate removal of piers/lifts prior to

dredging. Boating and lake access in areas being dredged may be temporarily limited. More information will be available once an agreement is finalized with a dredging company. To minimize impact to boating, dredging will be delayed to begin after Labor Day. Dredging needs to begin as early as possible to allow for completion prior to ice buildup and thus avoiding additional cost to stop and restart the project in 2019. Dredging is expected to continue in October, November, and into December.

There are several initiatives and projects underway to minimize the amount of sediment flowing back into Lake Redstone. These will help us realize the benefits of dredging well into the future. The protection district is involved with various watershed and sediment reduction activities. These include ongoing cooperation with local farmers to enact soil preservation techniques and the healthy lakes grants program. An inventory of culverts leading into the lake is being created with a goal of identifying opportunities to mitigate sediment flowing into the lake. Additionally, many of us can help shoreline stabilization by creating shoreline buffers.

Save these important dates and plan to participate in person!

June 9, 2018 – Special Dredging Information Session – Time & location tbd

August 4, 2018 – LRPD Annual Meeting/ Taxpayer Vote – Time & location tbd

There are also monthly LRPD board meetings which are open to the public on the second Tuesday of the month. Dredging related topics will regularly be included on the agenda. More information for these meetings, as well as project updates, will be posted on the LRPD Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Lakeredstonepd) and website (www.lakeredstonepd.org) and via Lake Redstone Property Owners Association (LRPOA) emails in coming weeks and months. The upcoming Spring Newsletter will also contain information on the dredging project.

MORE INFORMATION