

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:30 am
Location: Town of La Valle Hall, 324 Hwy 33, La Valle, WI 53941

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order, verify compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

The meeting was called to order by Tom Walters at 10:32 am

2. Roll Call

Tom Walters, Chuck Ecklund, Glenn Choroszy, Tom Happ, Ray Demaskie,
Phone: Ken Keegstra

Audience: Janelle Skoyen, Chris Goodwin, Anders Helquist, Matt Stieve, Paul Burke, Don McCune, Jim Mercier, Jim Kerr

Arrived at 11 am: Sue Graham, Jeff Schure, Geeg Drum

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda; Motion carried.

4. Public Input

Jim Kerr supported the plans to perform dredging, but requested that it be done right.

Tom Walters assured him that all board members are committed to that goal.

5. Review, discuss, and make decisions regarding dredging plans with representatives from Ayres Associates

Based on the detailed agenda that Janelle had prepared, it was decided that further discussions regarding dredging should be postponed until the DNR representatives arrived. Matt Stieve used the 20 minutes of free time to provide an update on the spillway associated with the Lake Redstone dam.

Matt pointed out that Sauk County has retained Ayres to assist with further inspection of the spillway as well as supervision of possible repairs. He explained that the spillway has undergone natural weathering over the past 50 years and that in an effort to slow or stop the weathering, some repairs may be needed. He mentioned that additional studies will be performed in the coming year in order to determine what repairs, if any, are needed. If repairs are needed, it is likely that they will be done in 2018 or possibly not until 2019. One reason for the delays is that dam repairs may depend on the availability of grants from the state, which are awarded in the spring. The repairs could take from 30 to 60 days. Because the repairs may require a significant drawdown of the water levels in the lake, there may be a possibility to coordinate the spillway repairs with possible mechanical dredging activities.

6. Pre-application meeting with representatives from the WI Department of Natural Resources to discuss dredging plans

Once the DNR representatives arrived, Tom Walters began the pre-application meeting by providing some background information. He mentioned that Lake Redstone is an impoundment with a large agricultural watershed. After the lake was formed in the mid 1960s, dredging was performed in the 1980s. Although much has been done to limit sediment entry from the watershed, some areas of the lake again need dredging some 35 years later. He explained the sediment survey that was performed by Ayres in 2016 and pointed out that there

was strong support for exploring dredging options from residents at the district's most recent annual meeting, held in August, 2016.

Following the background from the LRPD board chair, Janelle Skoyen presented the plans that have been developed to date. She followed the outline presented in the detailed agenda she had prepared ahead of time. She first reviewed the results of the sediment survey that Ayres had performed. She also explained the priorities that the LRPD board had assigned to the four regions of Lake Redstone that need dredging.

She explained that the district planned to utilize hydraulic dredging, although if water levels in Lake Redstone need to be reduced to allow spillway repairs, the district may wish to use mechanical dredging in some areas. She also reviewed the sites that the district had identified as possible places to dispose of the spoils. None of these sites are yet confirmed and a determination of which sites will be used will depend upon which areas of the lake are dredged and what methods of dredging are used, as well as obtaining DNR approval of sites relevant to watershed concerns.

Tom Walters asked about phosphate present in the spoils and whether it remained attached to the sediment. Sue Graham indicated that most phosphate should remain attached to the sediment, but she did not know the exact ratio that might go with any water that returned to the lake.

Jeff Shure of DNR said that he is responsible for issuing dredging permits, but that he relies on his resource managers (fisheries, wetlands, etc) and they will have ongoing communications to determine which specific areas are OK to dredge and which should be avoided for specific reason/s.

Two specific concerns Jeff has in dredging narrow fingers relates to how sediment removal might destabilize shorelines and also the impact upon critical habitat.

Chris Goodwin mentioned that Ayres can gather more specific data regarding slope of current sediment and the original lakebed. They will work with the DNR and LRPD as needed/requested.

The possibility was raised of splitting the dredging into two projects maybe a year or more apart, allowing the fisheries time to recover in between and reduce the possibility of algal blooms. Jeff Schure stated this might be an option worth considering. The financial impact of such a proposal was not discussed.

The issue of a timeline was raised and Janelle pointed out that dredging would likely be in 2018, either spring or fall. Chris Goodwin stated Ayres will be doing bedrock survey of the Lake Redstone spillway within the next 30 days, and plans to file a grant application in the fall for work to be done in 2018. If major repairs are needed, a drawdown of the lake water level may be needed, possibly as much as 5 to 10 feet, but maybe only 6-10 inches like the earlier drawdowns. They will not know until the bedrock survey is completed and analyzed.

Jeff Shure stated that a dredging permit is good for 3 years, and can be extended depending on circumstances. He also said that the DNR plans to re-evaluate Lake Redstone in the coming growing season, and after that analysis they would be more prepared to address dredging permit concerns. Both the DNR and Ayres suggested that our permit application should wait until this necessary step is completed.

There was discussion with DNR representatives about priorities for dredging and what extent of navigational impairment and the number of homes impacted would be used to make decisions about where to dredge. There was also discussion about how best to deal with

sensitive areas. Sue Graham said that each critical habitat area is different, with different reasons for being designated a critical habitat area. Thus, each bay will need to be evaluated separately.

The DNR representatives encouraged the LRPD board to continue a dialogue about which areas will be dredged and how to deal with the sensitive areas.

7. Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 6pm, La Valle Town Hall

8. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

KK/April 3, 2017