

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

August 1, 2015

The Mission of the Lake Redstone Protection District is to protect and rehabilitate the water quality of Lake Redstone for its residents and the public.

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District called to order @ 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Jim Mercier. Mercier introduced members of the LRPD Board. (Present: Mercier, Drum, Keegstra, Happ, Johnson, Demaskie, Choroszy) Al Baade (consultant) and Dave Blumer (consultant)

2. Election of one commissioners (nominations from floor)

Tom Walters only candidate at this time. Mercier asks if there are any other nominations from the floor (3 times); Motion by Chuck Ecklund, second by Nick Ladas to close the nominations. Motion carried. Motion to cast unanimous ballot by Fred Zietlow, second by Chuck Ecklund. Motion carried.

3. Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting – discuss and approve

Drum asks for questions/changes from last year's Annual Meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Chuck Ecklund, second by Nick Ladas to accept the August 2, 2014 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. Secretary's Report

Drum's report printed as a handout: 2015 Year in Review

Drum points out several items of importance: APM Plan (5-year plan) working with Dave Blumer, LEAPS, Inc. Blumer has been instrumental in early bay treatments. PI (point intercept) surveys have been done post-treatment, but no results have been received. People in the treated bays are pleased and hopeful. We are interested in seeing the statistics and if this will be a good program for us. This is a new program for us and we welcome any input on how the owners on the particular bays think the early bay treatment is going. One other item of importance is our partnership with Juneau County on the northern watershed. We've worked on slowing some water flowage – just having completed five berms (rock chutes) on the northern waterway. Good poster on display showing how each of us can work on water flowage.

5. Treasurer's Report with Audit

Audit completed approximately one month ago. Books in good order, all balances, no problems. Every third year we will have an outside audit conducted.

6. 2016 Operating Budget – discuss and approve

Choroszy: nothing has changed as far as the numbers from 2015 to proposed budget for 2016. One question with minus sign on the budget (-23,333.43). This is the money left over this year – money that hasn't been spent to date this year. LGIP monies left – approximately \$100,000. The LRPD has received approximately \$4,000 from raise of tax levy. Motion to approve 2016 operating budget by Bob Roloff, second by Chuck Ecklund for a total of \$99,500. Motion carried.

7. Authorization of the Board to exceed \$10,000

Motion to authorize the LRPD Board to exceed \$10,000 by Nick Ladas, second by Dave Starin. Motion carried.

8. Lake District Update

A. Aquatic Plant Management Program: Ken Keegstra

Brief history: Various surveys since 1989 have been done. Species kinds have gone up slowly from 10 (1989) to 16 (2012). We have two invasive species we're trying to control. We hired Dave Blumer (then with SEH, since then he's left the company and began his own company, LEAPS) to generate an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan. Keegstra explained the process for the grant with the DNR. The APM Plan has been approved and is available on the LRPD website.

Major components: The APM is a working document. It's our plan, but subject to revision. It's a tool for the LRPD to guide plant management actions. It's a document required by WDNR to continue aquatic plant management. The plan will allow us to continue to do effective plant management. Educational activities (Lakefair) and plans for managing the aquatic plants. We want to enhance diversity of native plants and control the levels of nuisance plants (especially around piers and swimming places) by whole bay treatments in early spring, manual harvesting and herbicide spot treatments.

Activities 2015/2016

Whole-bay treatments experimental and still being evaluated by WDNR. First treatment done in Mourning Dove Bay 2013. Martin/Meadowlark and Swallow bays were treated early 2015. These were both contained bays and we were able to concentrate the treatment. Point Intercept (PI) surveys done prior to treatment – this is a test done to evaluate the amount of nuisance weeds. This is done 72 times in one bay. Plant species were recorded. We have done PI surveys for Cardinal, Oriole, Tanager, Chickadee bays so far this spring.

Manual harvest and herbicide spot treatments have been used on Lake Redstone for several years. This is temporary relief. If we stay on this for five years, we hope to make significant relief. Manual harvest requires permit: LRPD has filled out one permit application, which covers all property owners who request permission to manual harvest. Keegstra presented a map on sensitive area and other types of critical habitats areas.

Questions: Al Baade: you can use manual harvest, but it must be removed from the lake. It cannot just be tossed aside to float away. Zietlow asked: Are there other options to control aquatic plants? Keegstra said there were, but explained some of the reasons we chose the current methods.

Swallow Bay: lots of water lilies – is this a problem? In general, they are good for the lake, but anything in access isn't good. We are aware of this. When EWM is eliminated, other plants will take over. Keegstra feels if you manual harvest water lilies, it's ok – as long as it is sparingly done.

Have we tried to introduce new species? We have not. APM talks a bit about this. The DNR would most likely need to be involved with this.

B. Watershed Improvement

Drum: We have worked with John Wegner who has some watershed issues on upper part of the watershed which have impacted the area around Hopi Court (big runoff). Some work has been done and Drum feels the work done has helped somewhat. Working on sediment ponds on Martin/Meadowlark. Some trees were removed to maintain the integrity of the berm. A series of four sediment ponds is in place to help filter the water into Martin/Meadowlark. This was done in the 1983 – one of the earlier LRPD workings. Erosion repair has been done around one of the weirs. Drum feels EWM very hard to distinguish from coontail. Coontail is firmer (likens to a Brillo pad). Coontail is native; EWM not native. When treatments are done, we are targeting EWM and the treatments are not affecting the coontail very much. So . . . when EWM is removed, we might see an increase of the coontail. Lily pads and coontail important for water filtration AND fish habitat. Mercier: we have had two meetings each year with Sauk and Juneau Counties to work together to help with biology studies on Lake Redstone.

C. Dredging

Mercier: a committee was formed after last year's Annual Meeting. They've looked at different types of dredging with several companies. It's a very long process. The DNR has the final word of what is allowable. The Dredging Committee has put together an RFP (Request for Proposal) to have a sediment survey done around the lake. We will do testing of any water that is 10' deep or less. During sediment testing, we want to find out what minerals are in the sediment. We will then send out an RFP to dredging companies to see what costs in parts of the lake would be. Possibly just a few bays will be done or the whole lake could be dredged. It's most likely it will be less expensive if the whole lake is done. If this is done, the sediment could be pumped three miles away from the lake. If the project is done, it wouldn't be until 2017 or 2018 at the earliest. The lake was dredged in 1981-1982 and done from shore with backhoes. Other than cost, are there any downsides? Are fish and aquatic plants affected? We aren't sure. One concern Keegstra has is if all shallow areas are dredged at the same time, it will remove many of the plants. Phosphates will still be in the water – this could result in algal blooms. Mercier has read

where a couple of companies have gone in and reintroduced native plants into the water system. Would there be additional survey of high-sediment bays? Two farms are on board to cooperate with the watershed project. Happ and Drum have monitored major streams coming into the lake. Now they are looking at 'feeders' into main streams. More and more data is being collected to help look at the sediment coming into Lake Redstone. Drum: one of the things we've talked about are the culverts. We're mapping them and pinpointing ones that are problematic. We'd like to put rock chutes in behind the problematic culverts.

D. Lake Management Plan

Keegstra: progress report. We are at the beginning stages of total Lake Management Planning that will deal with all aspects of the lake, including phosphates and sediments. This is a bigger task than an APM Plan and it will take us some time to complete the plan. We are talking with our lake scientist, Dave Blumer. We need to take stock of all plans and evaluate what info we have and what we still need. What has worked in the past, what hasn't worked in the past? Keegstra points out the 1981 studies that will be looked at. Another 1997 study was done, as well as 2009. Some of their suggestions have been implemented, some haven't. Will we dredge every 25 years or will we try to manage inflow of sediment, so we won't have to dredge for 50 years? Phosphate levels are high and this isn't necessarily a good thing. What can we do to prevent phosphate entering the lake and what can we do to get the phosphate currently in the lake out of it? Keegstra hopeful this is the year we can get started and we'll keep constituents informed of our progress.

E. Lakefair

Happ thanks all committee members who helped with the 2015 Lakefair. We had our first Lakefairs in 2013, none in 2014. Most of the 40-45 vendors we invited came this year. 2013 about 150 people were in attendance, this year we had over 300 people in attendance. Thanks to Dutch Hollow for allowing us to have our Lakefair at their clubhouse. We have it there because they are closer to the water than the La Valle Town Hall building. We're always looking for more volunteers! Thanks to Tom Walters for all the heavy lifting and moving he did to help with the Lakefair setup. Recreation, Education and Conservation are the headliner for the Lakefair. Happ presented a great video of the 2015 Lakefair. Kids & Mentors Outdoors donated fishing poles for children to fish (and they got to keep the fishing poles). Next Lakefair June, 2017. It was fun and everyone seemed to have a good time!

Mercier: we budget roughly \$100,000/year for all the projects. Most of the time we don't use the money because we apply and get grants from the DNR.

9. Introduce new board members

Tom Walters is the new Commissioner. Thanks to Geeg Drum for her years of service!

10. Public Question and Answer

Dave Starin: Culverts fill up, there is uncontrolled runoff into the lake. No one wants to clean these out – town workers, etc. Once they fill up, they aren't doing their job. Most of these are on private property. Mercier suggests a pressure washer be used to blow the dirt/sediment out. Happ: shared the cost with his neighbor to install culverts. Catch basin fills up and to wash it out, the stuff inside goes right down into the lake. They shoveled theirs out and removed the sediment.

Kingfisher is shallow and weedy. Kingfisher is a narrow bay with a wide mouth. The herbicide might diffuse out of it. Possibly a summer spot treatment or manual harvest might be best in this bay. It's 'on our radar'. If you have a concern about your bay, please tell us.

Fish population – specifically shad. Good or bad? Tom Walters: They are still here. Gary Herritz says shad have had positive impact on size and number of gamefish: bass, pike, muskies. Shad have a 3-year life cycle. Herritz has said they're not bad for the fishing population. Tom Wagner: he feels it's really helped the fish – they are much heavier for their length.

Chuck Ecklund: whole lake management plan development. There's not one 'single' solution to the lake problem. What timeline do we see as completion for the whole Lake Management Plan? Keegstra: we will work together with the DNR, as they will ultimately be the ones approving our plan. As for the timeline, we are thinking of two separate steps 1. Pre-step: collection of data and then 2. We can apply for DNR planning grant to

hire consultants to help us develop the plan. This will probably take a year. In total, the whole lake management plan could be done in 2-3 years. It needs to be done in stages. Keegstra feels DNR will not be a big hurdle as far as dredging is concerned. He's more concerned about getting the funding. Dredging is not a grant-permissible activity!

Drum: comments about working closely with the DNR. They are our partners and they oversee what we can and cannot do via state regulations. They are having major staff cutbacks. The DNR did the whole bay treatments and have done the PI survey results. All research will be cut down to a minimum because of the cutbacks.

Is there a possibility of large retention area by County F? Mercier: no. Projects with Juneau County does affect amount of sediment coming under County F. There's ongoing concern and discussion. Wetlands are doing their job until a heavy rainstorm. Mercier had talked about a weir at County F, which will allow water to flow. If there WAS a heavy rainstorm the weir could stop 50% of flooding. He was told County F couldn't be used as a dam; however, this was done at County A in Lake Delton. He agrees with sediment ponds being used. The biggest share of sediment is coming between Clark Road and County F. Drum: one of the reasons we've been given as to not putting in a dam is the fisheries. There's good fish habitat in this area. Because they are wetlands, they are regulated much different and stronger. We're working at the head of this problem rather than at the end point at County F.

Ladas: do town /county reps have anything to say? Nathan Johnson RCCP funding is to restore the Baraboo River watershed. Five more years they'll be doing similar projects – Lake Redstone is part of this watershed. Engineers in Sauk County can do many things that the DNR does not need to be involved in.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Ecklund, second by Wally Hutt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Meixner
Recording Secretary