



The Year in Review: August 2025-July 2026

Most activities since the 2025 Annual Meeting, again focused on implementation of the long-term strategic plan called the Lake Management Plan (LMP). It is also known as a “9-Key Element plan.”

This plan, approved by the DNR and LRPD Board in February 2022, guides LRPD plans and activities over 10 years. It guides the annual planning process. The plan is required for any grant applications, such as to the DNR and Sauk County. The complete plan is available on the LRPD website at <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org/>.

Four LRPD committees are implementing the activities outlined in the LMP. Each of the committees is headed by a member of the LRPD board. Volunteers are essential to the implementation of each committee’s activities.

The major activities performed by each Committee during the past year are summarized below.

The **Water Quality Projects Committee** continues to address issues related to aquatic monitoring lake water conditions, aquatic plants, and other projects intended to maintain and improve water quality.

During the past year, monitoring of lake water expanded to include parameters that have not been monitored in the 46-year history of monitoring water quality in the lake. For example, the LRPD is now monitoring the types of algae present in Lake Redstone. In addition, a simple method for citizen reporting of any algal blooms seen has been set up. Unlike what is seen in many other lakes and ponds in southern Wisconsin, algal blooms in Lake Redstone continue to be infrequent and tend to dissipate quickly.

Aquatic plant abundance and types in Lake Redstone continues to be monitored by a consultant each year. In recent years, the abundance of aquatic plants has decreased. This has led to efforts to actually preserve some aquatic plants. While reducing the amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil around docks and in bays is a good thing, plants are indeed a valuable part of a healthy lake. The other places that phosphorus can choose to go are to create microscopic algae which makes green color/reduces clarity, or to create algal blooms.

A second Geese Roundup was performed in June 2026. The LRPD again cooperated with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff to remove 103 more geese from the lake, making a total of 291 geese removed in the last 15 months. Each adult goose produces 3-4 pounds of lake nutrients and e-coli per day.

The **Sediment Control Committee** is charged with monitoring and reducing sediment entry into the lake and taking actions to reduce sediment.

A highly visible and successful action for sediment control is the 2025 Shoreline/Runoff Assessment that was performed by Sauk County, with support provided by the LRPD. All 795 parcels on the lake were rated as Red, Orange, Yellow, or Green, per the DNR Healthy Lakes criteria. Two “Shoreline/Runoff Assessment Workshops” were held in the last year and attended by about 45 property owners.

Owners of all 405 parcels that were rated Red or Orange, received their results either because they were requested, or via a US Mail mailing. In the mailing, they received their results, information as to why they should consider taking actions for themselves and for the good of the lake, resources available to help them, reimbursement information, and an example of a low-cost Lake Redstone project that addressed runoff.

To date, more than 80 property owners have requested free on-site assistance from Mitch McCarthy of Sauk County. He answers questions, advises on potential solutions, and outlines the methods to receive reimbursement. It is noteworthy that most of the people requesting assistance are those with Red and Orange rated properties!

There are three annual activities that are performed by LRPD Sediment Control Committee, two of which are accompanied by members of Sauk Co and the Town of Valle:

1. Inspection of previous “fixes” that were made in runoff improvement projects. The results are usually very good.
2. Evaluations of up to 90 farmer fields in the watershed to see what farmers are using for farming methods is performed in the spring and in the fall. This is called a “Transect Survey.” The desire is to see “no-till” and other modern methods or preventing runoff from their fields.

The percentage of farmers using modern methods has increased greatly especially in the last 5 years, in part through the actions of the cooperative known as the Producers of Baraboo River and Redstone (PBR).

3. An “Annual Drive Around” is performed in the spring to identify or inspect areas of concern on and near the lake itself. The current list contains 12 areas identified as needing action and/or watch. Two examples of the areas needing action are contained in the presentation.

The Education & Outreach Committee is responsible for planning and implementing education and outreach activities identified in the LMP, including:

- The preparation of the annual newsletter: *The Protection Connection*
- Leading the participation of Field Days with Juneau and Sauk County, and the 30+ farmer cooperative called the Producers of Barabo River and Redstone (PBR).
- Participation in workshops such as the Shoreline/Runoff Assessment Workshop this year
- Participation in the preparation of signs, such as the LAKE CHAMPION signs around the lake

The **Plan Integration Committee**: The Plan Integration Committee is responsible for planning, coordination, and monitoring tasks in the LMP. One of the first tasks for the committee was to establish a system for tracking progress toward meeting the milestones associated with implementation of the LMP. The LRPD board holds special meetings twice a year to monitor and discuss planning and budgeting.

The committee is now working on organizing, and placing on a Google Drive, the 1000s of electronic and paper files currently residing in numerous places. Good progress has been made as the structure has been set up and files are being moved over to it.

Because of concerns about the damage to shorelines, lake bottoms, and water quality caused by the operation of boats that produce enhanced wakes, in October 2024, the LRPD proposed to the La Valle Town Board that they consider an ordinance modelled after ordinances passed in dozens of other municipalities around the state. 94 municipalities have now passed an ordinance regulation wake enhancement equipment.

After months of discussion, the Town Board passed an ordinance restricting wake enhancement equipment to a minimum of 400 feet from the shoreline and only between the hours of 10am-6pm. There is no minimum depth of the operation of the wake enhancement equipment in the ordinance. This gap in the ordinance remains an area of concern for the LRPD Board.

The LRPD is always seeking additional volunteers to assist with the implementation of the LMP. Whether your skills and interests lie in lake biology, shoreline protection, electronic or written communications, or organizing paper or electronic files, we welcome anyone who is willing to help with District activities. If you are, or may be, interested in joining one of the committees described above, please contact any board member or email us at **lrpd.board@gmail.com**.

BH July 2026