

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

August 4, 2018

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson Chuck Ecklund. Ecklund welcomed the audience and thanked them for making the trip to Mauston High School. He confirmed that notices had been sent out as required by state statute and our by-laws. He asked each member of the LRPD Board to introduce themselves. They were: Glenn Choroszy, treasurer, Paul Burke, Ken Keegstra, secretary, and John Dietz, Sauk County representative. Tom Walters and Ray Demaskie were not present. The total number of folks who signed in for the meeting was 140; the total head count was 166.

2. Election of one commissioner

Tom Walters is not seeking reelection to the board. Mike Mittelstadt was the only candidate who sent in a biography and declared himself a candidate in advance of the meeting. Ecklund asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. Fred Nickel inquired whether candidates nominated from the floor would be allowed to introduce themselves and explain why they are seeking election to the board (similar to the bio distributed for candidates who declared in advance of the meeting). Following an affirmative answer, Fred Nickel nominated himself.

Nickel explained that he had recently retired and purchased property on Lake Redstone. His educational background included an undergraduate degree from UW-Stevens Point in natural resources and graduate work in recreational planning. He served two terms on the Adams County board and recently retired. He has many connections in the DNR and has worked with them on dredging projects in the past. He believes that his experience will help the district as it moves forward on the dredging project.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. It was approved by a show of hands.

Eligible electors completed their ballots; completed ballots were collected by Don McCune and Jim Mercier. They also served as the election committee and counted the ballots.

3. Minutes of 2017 annual meeting -Discuss & approve

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. The motion was approved by a show of hands. (A copy of the approved minutes is available on the LRPD web site- <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org/>).

4. Secretary's Report

Keegstra reviewed the handout entitled "Year in Review" that summarized major LRPD activities over the past year (A copy of the handout is available on the LRPD web site.) He provided oral details on several issues described in the handout.

One major activity is the development of a Whole Lake Management Plan. This is a three-year process that has the goal of developing a plan to improve water quality in Lake Redstone. It is being supported in large part by 3 grants from the Wisconsin DNR. The process will involve 3 phases, each of which will last two years. Phase 1 and 2 began in 2018; phase 3 will begin in 2019. Phase 1 activities focus on the lake. One phase 1 activity is to extend past measurements on water quality by analyzing water samples in more detail. Another activity is a shoreline habitat assessment that will evaluate each property around the lake and make recommendations on ways to improve the shoreline in ways that will help improve

water quality. The data has already been collected and LEAPS will be analyzing the data and providing recommendations over the coming months. Phase 2 activities focus on analyzing the water that flows into and out of Lake Redstone with the goal of creating a nutrient budget for the lake. Phase 3, which will begin in 2019, will take all of the data from past studies, as well as the new data collected in phases 1 and 2, to create a lake management plan using the 9-key element process. The goal is to create a management plan that will prioritize efforts to improve water quality in Lake Redstone and to spell out ways to measure the effectiveness of these efforts.

Efforts to control aquatic invasive species of plants are being pursued using the Aquatic Plant Management Plan that was approved a few years ago. Four bays, Cardinal, Eagle, Mourning Dove, and Swallow, were treated with herbicides in the spring of 2018. Plans to perform manual harvesting in 2018 have been postponed because the levels of Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil are low in Lake Redstone this year. The reason for the low levels of these aquatic invasive species is not known.

Keegstra also described the efforts in the watershed to reduce the entry of sediment and nutrients into the lake. He mentioned the work of Matt Komiskey from Juneau County, who is working with farmers in the watershed to form a “producer-led” cooperative to encourage the use of good conservation practices. He also mentioned the work of Serge Koenig from Sauk County who is working with the McWilliams family to convert their farm from traditional row crops to rotational grazing.

LRPD volunteers were thanked and new volunteers were encouraged to participate in activities that interest them.

Finally, Keegstra reviewed the efforts of the LRPD board to communicate with district electors. The newest method is the free smartphone APP that the LRPD board has developed. It can be downloaded at <https://app.lakeredstonepd.org/>. One major advantage of the APP is that important messages and alerts can be sent to smartphones that contain the APP.

5. Treasurer’s Report with review

Treasurer Choroszy presented a summary of the financial transactions during 2018 to date. The financial transactions over the past year were reviewed by Mike Mittelstadt and Heidi Geils. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer’s report.

6. 2019 Operating Budget

Choroszy presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2019 (sent out with annual meeting notice and available as a handout at the meeting). A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

7. Authorization of the Board to exceed \$10,000 per project without Annual Meeting elector approval while staying within budget

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the board to exceed \$10,000 per project without elector approval while staying within budget. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

8. Presentation on the dredging project.

Cary Dudczak, a volunteer member of the dredging committee, used slides to make the presentation on behalf of the dredging committee. A copy of the slide deck is available on the LRPD web site- <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org/>.

First he explained that the LRPD board had rejected all three of the bids that were received in late June. The main reason for rejecting the bids was that the cost was too high. In an effort to develop strategies to reduce the cost of dredging, the committee has been discussing the dredging process with our

engineering consultants and with contractors who did not submit bids this time. Cost reductions could likely be realized by providing contractors more time to perform the dredging, more lead time in planning to schedule and perform the dredging project, and more flexibility in locations for disposing of the dredging spoils by securing additional disposal sites that are scattered around the lake.

Dudczak described one possible timeline for the dredging project. He explained that new dredging plans are already being discussed and hopefully will be finalized in time to rebid the project next spring. If the revised bids are acceptable, a vote on whether to fund the dredging project could be taken at a special meeting next spring or early summer. Site preparation and dredging could possibly begin as early as the summer/fall of 2019 or be deferred to early spring of 2020 with dredging occurring during the entire ice-free season.

9. Comments/Questions regarding dredging project

Following the presentation, district electors were provided an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding the proposed dredging project.

A question was asked about whether docks, piers and lifts would need to be removed in locations where dredging was not occurring. Dudczak replied that once a contractor was identified, a schedule would be developed on when and where docks, piers and lifts needed to be removed. He expected that if multiple disposal sites are identified, the restrictions that need to be imposed on the lake use will be minimized.

Fred Nickel commented that he had experience with a dredging project in the past and volunteered to help, when he was available.

Brad Sperry, an engineer, inquired whether it would be possible to raise the level of the lake instead of dredging. Glenn Choroszy responded that many houses close to lake level would be flooded, similar to the flood in 2008 flood.

Frank Pliml commented that although all folks should pay, even transient users, that those benefitting more should pay more. He feels that those with the more expensive lots on the main body of the lake will pay more than those with less expensive lots on the northern bays, even though lots on the main portion of the lake will receive less benefit.

Ron Naylor inquired whether the bids that were received were for all bays or a certain number of bays. Dudczak replied that the bids had multiple options. He noted that while it was difficult to please everyone, the committee was trying to find a compromise between doing a complete job that give relief to those who need it and will last for many years versus holding the costs down to a reasonable level.

A question was raised about alternative sources of funding. Burke responded that the district is pursuing a grant through the state waterway commission. It could provide partial funding for a limited area around a public landing; in our case the county landing near CTH F. Funds have been requested from Sauk County, but no decision has been made and the 2019 budget is still under consideration.

Gale Hackl supports maintenance of a healthy lake but this isn't a private lake. The surrounding area benefits financially from the lake and wondered whether Sauk County could help fund the project. John Dietz explained that the dam is owned by Sauk County and they have spent significant funds recently on dam maintenance. The LRPD has requested an outside agency grant of \$1M from the county. He noted that the county board makes the final decision, but that they would need to justify the expense to the 60,000 residents of Sauk County. Such an expense will need to come from the reserve fund. Increases in the annual budget are capped by the state, so the budget is already tight. The request for an outside agency grant will move through the county planning and zoning committee, who meets next Thursday at 9 am. If residents want financial support from the county, they should come

and make their case. The committee has deferred the request until after the LRPD after the annual meeting.

Fran Raymond asked when the vote on dredging would be held and whether absentee ballots be allowed for those who go south for the winter. The current target for a vote is a special meeting in late spring or early summer of 2019. State statute prohibits absentee ballots at lake district meetings.

A question was asked about alternate funding strategies so that people who benefit more pay more while people who benefit less pay less. Burke explained that state statutes allows for a funding mechanism whereby a review board will evaluate each property and determine the benefit and assign cost. But it is very complicated process that can take years to accomplish and will dramatically increase the costs to fund the process and the associated legal fees.

One person commented that the costs for dredging need to be kept in perspective. She argued that we should all reassess spending priorities. She pointed out that for most lake residents the costs for dredging would be less than a nice dinner once a month. Not a big sacrifice.

Jenny Kozik inquired whether the entire town could pay for the dredging. Choroszy noted that they LRPD only has taxing authority within the district.

Terry Moeller made an analogy between funding the dredging project and funding for schools. She pointed out that all pay for schools even though most of us do not have children in schools at any point in time. She also described a ride to nearby lakes that were largely filled in with sediment and weeds. She said that will be the ultimate fate of Lake Redstone if we don't take care of it.

Paul Pepper inquired how much money has been saved for dredging since the last dredging in the 1980s. Choroszy explained that our levy is \$59,000 per year. We have \$108,000 in our in LGIP account, the required savings accounts for public bodies. We increased levy from \$38k to \$59k a few years ago, but not sufficiently to save for a multi-million dollar dredging project..

10. Introduce new board member

Chairman Ecklund announced that Fred Nickel received 61 votes while Mike Mittelstadt received 65 votes. Thus, Mike Mittelstadt was elected to serve a three-year term on the LRPD board.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.