

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting, Monday, November 12, 2018 @ 1:00 pm

Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairman Chuck Ecklund. He verified that the meeting complied with open meeting laws.

2. Introductions

Chuck Ecklund, Mike Mittelstadt, Ken Keegstra, Al Baade, Glenn Choroszy, Serge Koenig, Melissa Keenan, Sam Paterson, John Dietz, Dave Blumer, Dick Fish, Dustin Ladd, Gus Johnson, Bill Christansen, Paul Burke, Sue Graham, Matt Stieve, Rick Antin, Dan Ystad, John Andringe (the last three folks were from the 14 Mile Creek Watershed in Adams County).

3. Approval of Agenda

Burke made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Choroszy. Passed

4. Discussion with representatives from WDNR, Juneau Co., and Sauk Co. regarding the following issues/questions (but not limited to them):

A. Brief review of 2018 activities (10 minutes)

Chuck Ecklund provided a brief overview of the major activities from the past year, including a brief review the lake management planning grant and an update on dredging plans. He also summarized some of the damage that had occurred as a result of the August/September flooding.

Dave Blumer made a quick presentation on the activities of the whole lake management planning grant, including the stream sampling, lake sampling, and a brief summary of the results of the shoreline habitat assessment. One important, but not surprising, conclusion from the stream sampling studies is that most of the sediment entered the lake in the large rain events that occurred in August and September. Dave noted that it will be important to repeat the stream sampling in 2019 because 2018 was such an unusual year with respect to rainfall in the watershed.

B. Watershed--Sediment and Nutrient Runoff (30 minutes).

1. Is runoff the main contributor to poor water quality? What other factors impact water quality?

Both Sue Graham and Serge Koenig replied that lots of things can impact water quality. Jeff Schure could not attend the meeting, but sent email responses to some questions. In response to this question he responded that: "Runoff is main contributor, but resuspension of sediment can also be a contributor. Eroding lake shore can also be a contributor."

2. Update from Matt Komiskey on the producer-led cooperative within the Lake Redstone watershed. Matt Komiskey has left his job with Juneau County and has return to his position at the USGS; he was not able to attend the partners meeting. Dustin Ladd is taking over the position with Juneau County and will be involved with the producer-led cooperative that Matt helped to form. Dustin will assist the producers with achieving their goals and in implementing the activities supported by the grant that they just received.

3. Update from Serge Koenig on conversion of land containing row crops to rotational grazing.

Serge Koenig gave a brief summary of the conversion from row crops to rotational grazing land that has been occurring on the McWilliams farm. He reported that they have converted about a quarter of their 80-acre farm and hope to convert their entire farm in the future. He will continue to work with them as they make the transition. There was a brief discussion about how to expand these efforts to other parts

of the watershed, although the conclusion was that there were no simple answers. During the discussion Serge Koenig said that conversion to rotational grazing is the best form of soil conservation, no-till is second best and cover crops is third in effectiveness at preventing erosion.

4. What is needed to remove sediment from existing sediment ponds, e.g., above Swallow bay? What DNR permits are needed? Are any county permits needed?

Jeff Schure indicated in his email that DNR permits may be required to remove sediment from the existing ponds. He sent a link to a DNR website that provides information on criteria to consider when deciding whether a permit is needed. However, the permits may be a smaller concern than the costs of removing the sediment from the existing ponds. One conclusion from these discussions is that this is a major undertaking that will require extensive advance planning.

5. What is needed to allow construction of new sediment ponds above places where sediment is entering the lake, e.g., the bay between Sac court and the Fox court boat landing? How can we systematically identify locations where sediment ponds should be constructed?

Again Jeff Schure indicated that DNR permits will be required if the new ponds will be connected to a waterway, or will be within 500 feet of a waterway. He recommended that any new ponds should be higher up in the watershed and away from a waterway to avoid the need for a dam plan approval. Serge Koenig argued against spending considerable time and expense on such erosion control structures. He argued that a better strategy is to put our efforts into encouraging and supporting soil conservation efforts such as no-till agricultural practices, cover crops, and conversion to rotational grazing.

C. Whole Lake Management Plan (~ 20 minutes).

1. How can Sauk County and Juneau County contribute to creation of the management plan?

They are both participating in phase 2, stream sampling activities, and hopefully will help with analysis of the data. It was not clear what else they could do at this point in the process.

2. Other than the provision of funds via the grant, can the WDNR assist efforts to prepare the plan?

The DNR has a specialist, Andrew Craig, who is an expert on the development of a 9-key element plan. Sue Graham will find out whether he is available to provide advice or other assistance in the preparation of our plan that is supported by a DNR grant.

3. Are there opportunities to coordinate with ongoing efforts to protect and improve the Baraboo River watershed, e.g., the new RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) activities?

Yes. According to Gus Johnson, the coordinator of the project. The original RCPP grant is nearing completion and all of the funds have been committed. But he said that the new RCPP is just getting started. Most of the funds will go toward no-till and cover crops. He would be happy to have some of the funds used on lands within the Lake Redstone watershed. Even when the RCPP funds expire in a few years, there are still NRCS funds available to help farmers with soil conservation practices.

4. One grant-supported activity is to reduce runoff from shorelines around the lake. What local resources are available to help these efforts?

The Healthy Lakes program from the DNR provides resources, but requires effort on the part of the LRPD to coordinate the grants. Most homeowners require assistance from local experts who can help them decide what grant-supported activities are appropriate and provide assistance with project design (and implementation in some cases). Al Baade suggested Lisa Reas (<https://www.ljreas.com>) who runs a consulting business near Green Lake. She worked with the LRPD a number of years ago.

D. Dredging Considerations (~ 30 minutes).

1. Does anyone have advice about how we can reduce the costs of dredging?

Sue Graham suggested that one way is to reduce the number of bays that are dredged, focusing on those that are most problematic. This led to a brief discussion of why this is not favored by the district in that we may lose the support of folks whose bays are not dredged.

2. We are currently focused on identifying multiple sites for spoils disposal? Is this a valid strategy? Are there suggestions for how best to implement it? Are there other cost-reduction strategies that should be pursued?

All seemed to agree that this could be helpful.

3. Are there federal, state or WDNR resources that can be used to help cover the costs?

There seems to be very few such resources. Sue Graham mentioned that the Army Corp of Engineers used to help with dredging. She did not know if that was still true. The closest office is probably at Rock Island, IL. We could contact them and ask

4. Are there Sauk County resources that can be used to help cover the costs?

There was a brief discussion of whether Sauk County could contribute to the cost of dredging and how this might occur. John Dietz again said that providing county funds would require approval by the county board and that they would have questions about whether it was in the best interest of the entire county. He suggested that one avenue might be to put an advisory referendum question on the ballot for spring elections. If it passed, it would provide evidence to the county board that it had wide support.

E. Other Issues, Questions or Concerns

5. Next LRPD board meeting: November 13, 2018, 6 pm at La Valle Town Hall

6. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

KK 12/6/2018