

**LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2024, 10 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**

Mittelstadt called the meeting to order at 10 am. Keegstra verified that the meeting complied with open meeting laws.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mike Mittelstadt, Brad Horner, Ken Keegstra, Dave Crockett, Pat Sullivan. Others: Al Baade, Chuck Ecklund, Paul Burke, Ken Kidd, Sue Kidd

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Horner moved approval of the agenda, second by Crockett. The motion was approved.

**4. Approval of minutes for April 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting**

Sullivan moved approval of the minutes from the April 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting, second by Crockett. The motion was approved.

**5. Public Input**

None

**6. Treasurer's Financial Report**

**a. Approve vouchers**

Mike Mittelstadt	Reimbursement WI Lakes Conf	\$ 702.98
Dave Crockett	Reimbursement WI Lakes Conf	\$ 573.98
Pat Sullivan	Reimbursement WI Lakes Conf	\$ 613.39
Brad Horner	Reimbursement WI Lakes Conf	\$ 622.00
Kristin Groth	Editing and production of 2024 Newsletter	\$1,500.00
Krueger Printing	Design & setup for Lake Champion sign	\$ 59.00
Krueger Printing	Print & mail 2024 Newsletter	\$2,675.60
Jewell Associates	Prep of dam permit for WDNR	\$2,210.00
Payroll solutions	Q1 payroll processing	\$ 134.00
IRS	FICA & FUTA expense	\$ 214.52
Hach Company	USB/AC power adapter kit for DO meter	<u>\$ 240.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 9,550.47

Keegstra made a motion to approve payment of the invoices, second by Horner. The motion was approved.

Crockett noted that he had not yet received a bill for renewal of our insurance policy. He received a notice that our agent would be switching us to a new carrier. Crockett attempted to contact the agent but had not yet received a response. He was concerned because our old policy expired in May 2024. Mittelstadt made a motion that Crockett be authorized to pay up to \$3,000 for the premium on the new policy as soon as the bill is received, second by Horner. The motion carried.

**b. Review monthly financial reports**

No questions about the reports that Crockett distributed ahead of the meeting.

### **c. Begin planning 2025 budget**

Crockett distributed a preliminary budget proposal where most expense categories were blank. Mittelstadt reminded the chairs of each committee that they needed to be prepared to fill in the blanks before the June meeting. Keegstra commented that it will be difficult to estimate the budget for aquatic plant management because the 2024 survey results won't be available until late in the year so that we will not be able to estimate the cost of aquatic plant control activities until then. He also mentioned that he is concerned about the declining water clarity and that the district may need to budget for consultant fees to help understand and attempt to correct what is happening in the lake.

## **7. Chairman's Report**

### **a. Update on Martin Meadowlark weir repair project**

Mittelstadt reported that the permit application has been filed with the WDNR and that it is currently in the 30-day public comment phase. Certified letters have been sent to Sauk County, the Town of La Valle, and to the landowner. The project is on course for completion in August.

### **b. Report on Lakes conference**

Mittelstadt reported on several sessions that he attended. One dealt with data management. One part described the new Water Explorer tool that allows users to recover and manipulate data from the SWIMS database. He indicated it is a giant improvement. The session also covered the use of Google drives for storage of electronic records. He intends to investigate the use of a Google drive for storage of LRPD records. He expects that we will need the version that will cost \$150/year because the free version will be too small for our needs. He will report back later with details.

He also attended a session devoted to efforts to update Chapter 33 of the WI statutes, dealing with protection districts. The original version of Chapter 33 was written 50 years ago. The legislature is hoping to deal with some issues that have caused districts operational problems, such as the inability to have a contingency fund or the outdated dollar values for purchases requiring a bid.

Another session dealt with boating ordinances. He reported that the Last Wilderness Alliance is spearheading efforts to address wake boat issues. They have assembled information on the issue including a draft template that local jurisdictions can use (for more information see their website <https://lastwildernessalliance.org/wakesurfing>). Mike Engelson, from the Wisconsin Lakes Association, reported on efforts in the Wisconsin legislature to address both the wake boat issue and the revisions of Chapter 33. He reported that it will be at least a year, and maybe longer, before the Wisconsin legislature takes any action on either issue.

Horner reported that most of his time was spent attending the sessions related to wake boat issues.

Crockett attended sessions focused on orientation for new commissioners and sessions intended for treasurers. He gathered documents with sample policies but reported that our current practices already complied with most recommendations.

Sullivan attended several sessions focused on watershed issues. He was impressed by the number of examples, including from LRPD, where relations between producers and lake districts were good.

**c. Report on spring DNR hearing in Baraboo**

Mittelstadt reported that the DNR has issued a report that describes the opinions gathered from the state-wide listening sessions, including the one held in Baraboo. The report also includes the input that was received from the on-line survey. Mittelstadt will prepare a message to send out via our email list to inform lake residents of the availability of the report.

**d. Schedule special meeting for June**

The special meeting to review the progress and plans regarding the lake management plan should be held before our June regular meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 11. It was decided to hold the special meeting on Tuesday, June 4 at 10am at the La Valle Town Hall. Mittelstadt reminded the chairs of all committees that they should have plans for 2025 activities, including budget recommendations, ready for the June 4 special meeting. These budget estimates can then be used in preparation of the 2025 district budget proposal.

**8. Secretary's Report**

**a. Discussion of draft agenda for Annual Meeting**

Keegstra distributed a draft agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting ahead of the May LRPD board meeting. The discussion of the draft led to several suggestions for alterations of the first draft. Keegstra will incorporate the suggestions and generate a second draft agenda for consideration at the June board meeting.

**9. La Valle Town Representative: Demaskie**

No report.

**10. Sauk County Representative: Kinsman**

No report. The question was raised whether Kinsman was still the Sauk County representative following the recent elections. Mittelstadt will inquire.

**11. Committee Reports**

**a. Lake Management Plan Integration Committee**

No report.

**b. Water Quality Projects Committee**

**i. Discussion and decision on 2024 lake monitoring program**

Keegstra briefly described additional lake monitoring proposed for the summer of 2024. First, he indicated that the normal monitoring would continue to be performed in 2024. While the DNR pays for some of the monitoring at Deep Hole, continuing this program will cost the LRPD \$741. In addition, based on the recommendation of Richard Lathrop, Keegstra proposes that the district perform analysis of iron levels and total phosphorus levels in the water column at Deep Hole and the middle site. The purpose of these measurements is to understand whether the so-called "ferrous wheel" or "iron cycle" is operating in Lake Redstone. Lathrop said he will help us interpret the data. This extra sampling will cost \$1,041 in 2024. Finally, Lathrop recommended that the district should measure various forms of nitrogen and inorganic phosphate (ortho phosphate) in surface water. The purpose is to determine whether nitrogen or phosphorus is limiting for algal growth in Lake Redstone. Again, Lathrop indicated that he would help interpret the data. The cost of this additional sampling will cost \$882. In addition, the implementation of this regime will require volunteers to deliver the samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for the ortho phosphate assays to be valid.

Keegstra made a motion to approve the extra sampling regimes at a total cost for all 2024 sampling of less than \$3,000, second by Horner. The motion was approved.

Keegstra reported that the parts ordered from Hach to repair the dissolved oxygen meter had fixed the problem. A new meter will not be needed.

Sullivan reported that he intends to perform the 2024 CBCW program with 2 inspectors. Because both inspectors can provide more hours than last year, he will be able to meet the 2024 goals with the 2 inspectors.

**c. Sediment Control Committee**

**i. Update on field day on local farm in the watershed-joint with E&O**

Sullivan and Horner reported that the event will be called “Conservation Night” and will be held on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Planning for the event is coming along well, with Mitch McCarthy and Jenn Schneidermann from Sauk County and Dustin Ladd from Juneau County making important contributions. The next planning meeting will take place next week on the McWilliams farm and this meeting will address some important remaining issues for implementation of the event.

**ii. Report on maintenance inspections**

Sullivan reported that maintenance inspections were performed, and that the gully survey was completed. No maintenance issues were found but some gulleys will need to be monitored during 2024. Transect surveys in the watershed will be performed in mid-June.

**d. Education & Outreach Committee**

**i. Update on 2024 newsletter**

Horner reported that the newsletter was mailed.

**ii. Report on reimbursement requests for 2024 shoreline improvement**

No reimbursement requests have been received but it is still early in the season.

**iii. Shoreline signs**

No requests for shoreline signs have been received. Mitch McCarthy reported that the number of projects for shoreline improvement using Sauk County and healthy lakes funding decreased from 12 to 7. Some folks had trouble finding a landscaper to perform the work or learned that the project would cost more than anticipated.

**12. Agenda items for June 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting**

Annual Meeting preparation, next draft of 2025 budget proposal, budget for conservation night

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm when all business was completed.

**KK/May 27, 2024**