

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2021

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Mike Mittelstadt. He confirmed that notices had been sent out as required by state statute and our by-laws and that the meeting was in compliance with open meeting laws. He welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. He explained that the time and place of the meeting was changed in 2021 because of COVID concerns, but he hoped that the next Annual Meeting could be held at the La Valle town hall. 29 people completed the voter certificate.

2. Election of one commissioner

The term of one commissioner expired in 2021. Only one candidate has submitted a biography and declared himself a candidate in advance of the meeting, i.e., Mike Mittelstadt. Mittelstadt asked three times whether there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Al Baade made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Pat Rego. The motion passed unanimously. Richard Fish made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the declared candidate, but Mittelstadt indicated that state statute mandated that a secret ballot be used. The ballots were collected and counted. 28 votes were cast for Mittelstadt.

3. Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2020 annual meeting were pages 3-4 in the handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes, but that the residents of the district needed to approve them. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting was made by Don McCune and seconded by Sue Burke. There was no discussion or questions regarding the minutes and the motion was approved unanimously. (A copy of the approved minutes is available on the LRPD web site at www.lakeredstonepd.org).

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report entitled "Year in Review" that summarized major LRPD activities over the past year was included as pages 5-8 of the handout. (A copy of this report is available on the LRPD web site.) Keegstra provided oral highlights on selected activities summarized in the report.

One activity was the replacement of the Meronek Meadows berm with 3 rows of rock gabions. These were installed in October of 2020. Reimbursement from FEMA has been approved and the first part of the reimbursement funds were recently received.

Work on the lake management plan was delayed by COVID, thus plan preparation continued into 2021 but should be completed by the end of the year. The plan will provide a roadmap for lake improvement activities over the next 10 years and will allow the district to apply for grants to support these activities. Activities in the remote regions of the watershed will involve cooperation between the district and farmers in the Lake Redstone watershed. The farmers have created a cooperative that has a Facebook page (*Producers of the Lake Redstone Watershed*) and they have secured grant funds to support their activities to implement conservation practices on their lands. Activities in the portions of the watershed closer to the lake will involve the newly formed sediment control committee as well as cooperation with district property owners in an effort to limit runoff from their properties.

Keegstra drew attention to the ongoing methods used by the LRPD board to communicate with district electors, including the district web site, the annual newsletter, the district Facebook page, and the app for smartphone users.

Finally, he thanked the many LRPD volunteers who helped during the past year. He encouraged new volunteers to participate in activities that interest them.

5. Treasurer's Report with results of financial review

Treasurer Paul Burke drew attention to the budget sheet that provides a summary of the financial transactions during 2020 and 2021 to date. He reported that financial transactions are subjected to external review every three years; the CPA review was done last year. Thus, transactions from the past year were reviewed by a committee consisting of Don Haas and Heidi Geils. They reported that the financial books were in good order. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report.

Chairman Mike Mittelstadt described 2 other documents provided in the handout packet that provided information on the finances over the past year. One was a dredging summary that provided the status of the finances associated with dredging. (A copy of this document is available on the LRPD web site.) He emphasized the efforts made by the board to keep dredging costs down and to reduce the cost to taxpayers. For example, almost \$300,000 of funding was secured from other sources, including \$200,000 from Sauk County. In addition to not spending the entire amount that was approved in 2019, the board refinanced the dredging loan thereby saving almost \$40,000 per year in interest costs. The second document that he reviewed was a balance sheet showing the status of district finances as of July 1, 2021.

6. Nonlapsible fund for maintenance of erosion control devices

Mittelstadt explained the rationale for creating the nonlapsible fund. First, state statutes prohibit lake protection districts from having a reserve fund unless the reserve fund is specifically designated for maintenance of capital items such as sediment control devices. However, the board does not have the authority to create such a fund. Rather it can only be created by district electors at an Annual Meeting. Thus, Mittelstadt made the following motion: "I move that the Annual Meeting create a nonlapsible fund pursuant to Section 33.30 (4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes to be known as the Lake Redstone Watershed Protection Fund to finance capital costs and costs of operation of equipment used to control runoff, including weirs, field samplers and related equipment and to authorize the Board of Commissioners to expend money from the Fund to protect and enhance the water quality of Lake Redstone." The motion was seconded by Pat Broesch. Following a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously via a voice vote. The funds currently in the LGIP account, created by earlier LRPD boards, will now be called the Lake Redstone Watershed Protection Fund.

7. 2022 Operating Budget – Discuss and Approve

Treasurer Paul Burke presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2022 (sent out with annual meeting notice and available in the handout at the meeting). He briefly summarized some of the changes in the budget that led to an increase of the levy for the operating expenses to \$84,400. A motion to approve the proposed budget, including the increased levy, was made by Richard Fish and seconded by Don McCune. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Proposed changes to LRPD Bylaws-Discuss and vote

Al Baade explained the rationale for the major revision of the LRPD Bylaws. Briefly, he noted that the bylaws have been updated periodically as state statutes change. After consulting with an attorney with expertise in lake districts and Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 33, it was decided to make major revisions to the LRPD Bylaws to create a set of bylaws that will survive longer. One way to accomplish this goal is to remove all references to the state statutes because the district needs to follow them and to limit the bylaws to issues not covered by state statutes. A copy of the revised LRPD Bylaws was included in the handout and is available on the LRPD website.

Baade divided the changes to the LRPD Bylaws into 3 general categories. The first was additions to the bylaws that the district is already doing. This category contained 6 items. Some examples of items in this category are: 1. Add the Sediment Control Committee and their responsibilities; it is currently an ad hoc committee. 2. Require 2 signatures on checks paying district bills. The second category of changes was to add new practices to the bylaws; this category had 3 items. Examples include: 1. Require a financial review by a CPA for all projects over \$500,000, e.g., the dredging project. 2. Requiring

those who wish to vote at a District Annual Meeting or Special Meeting to sign a voter eligibility certificate. The third category of changes were deletions from the current bylaws. There were 4 items in this category. Examples include: 1. All paragraphs describing items covered in Chapter 33 of State Statutes were deleted. 2. The Committee and Project Coordinator Volunteers committee was eliminated. Following Baade's presentation Tom Wagner made a motion to approve the revised bylaws. The motion was seconded by Pat Rego. It passed unanimously, exceeding the 2/3 majority required by the current LRPD Bylaws.

9. Brief summaries of recent activities

Some of the activities pursued during the past year were summarized in three short presentations by board members. These discussions provided a chance for electors to ask questions about current activities as well as plans for the future.

A. Shoreline Improvement Workshop

Brad Horner provided a brief review of the Shoreline Habitat Assessment that was performed as part of the Lake Management Plan. He then reviewed the workshop that was held on June 25th to provide information for property owners who were interested in improving their shorelines. Those property owners at the Annual Meeting who attended the workshop were asked to provide advice about future workshops, which led to a brief discussion.

B. Sediment Control Activities

Pat Sullivan provided a summary of the Sediment Control Committee's goals and activities. The committee has organized their activities around 3 goals: 1. Maintenance and repair of existing sediment control devices. 2. Partnership with others needed to reduce sediment; these partners include the Town of La Valle, extension staff from Sauk and Juneau counties, and landowners in the watershed. 3. Focus on pollution control projects. Following a description of the 3 goals, Sullivan gave some examples of activities that fall under each goal.

C. Aquatic Plant Management

Ken Keegstra summarized the district's efforts to manage the levels of aquatic plants in Lake Redstone. He emphasized that aquatic plants are an important part of a healthy lake ecosystem, so the goal is to manage plant populations, especially invasive species, such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, while maintaining healthy populations of native plant species. An important aspect of plant management is to survey Lake Redstone to provide information on where invasive species and other plants are located. He described the types of surveys performed over the past few years. With respect to control activities, most efforts have focused on early spring herbicide treatments in selected bays of the lake. Eight different bays have been treated since 2013, some multiple times. In 2021 the district tried a different strategy and engaged a company that provided divers to manually remove milfoil from along the shoreline in the main body of the lake. This led to a discussion about options for milfoil control in future years.

10. Final comments

After all questions were answered, Ray Demaskie, the La Valle Town Board Chair, asked to make a few comments. He said that the La Valle Town Board is considering changes to the boating rules on Lake Redstone. One change is to move the distance from shore that is required for wake boats that are creating a large wake, e.g., during wake surfing. The proposal is to move the distance from the current 100 feet from shore to 200 feet from shore. Those who are interested in supporting or opposing this change should attend La Valle Town Board meetings to express their opinions.

11. Adjourn

Following the discussions associated with the 3 presentations, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

KK- 8.15.21