

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting, Friday, November 22, 2019 @ 10:00 am
Location: Room B24, West Square Building, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI.

Minutes

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

Mike Mittelstadt called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He confirmed compliance with opening meeting laws.

2. Introductions

LRPD: Mike Mittelstadt, Pat Sullivan, Paul Burke, Ken Keegstra, John Dietz

Sauk County: Melissa Keenan, Serge Koenig, Gus Johnson, Matt Stieve

Juneau County: Dustin Ladd, Sarah Fleck

DNR: Patrick Oldenburg, Sue Graham, Nathan Nye, Andrew Craig

Others: Dave Blumer, Richard Fish, Chuck Ecklund, Brian Daug, Keegan Johnson (USGS)

3. Approval of Agenda

Keegstra made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Burke. Motion carried.

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 2019 activities (15 minutes)

Keegstra summarized LRPD activities over the past year using a handout with photos. The summary covered damage to the Meronek Meadows berm and plans to repair it, the dredging project, and the applications to FEMA to provide financial assistance with both projects. The summary also covered the progress toward development of a lake management plan, including lake sampling associated with phase 1, stream sampling supported by the phase 2 grant, and the plans to produce the 9-key element plan during the coming year as part of phase 3. The management of aquatic plants was briefly presented, including plans to measure the impact of dredging on plant populations in the lake. Interactions with producers in the watershed were described, including the field day held on July 30th. Efforts to identify and deal with erosion sites around the lake were also described. Finally, the plans to encourage property owners to utilize grants from the healthy lakes program were described.

B. Sediment and Nutrient Runoff (45 minutes).

The experience of dredging has emphasized the importance of preventative control measures to limit sediment (and nutrients) from entering the lake. The LRPD has divided the efforts into three sources that require different strategies: 1. Sediment from the watershed that enters the lake via streams. 2. Local runoff that enters at gullies around the lake during rain events. 3. Runoff from lakeside properties.

1. Sediment from the watershed that enters the lake via streams (15 minutes).

a. Update from Dustin Ladd on the producer-led cooperative within the watershed.

Dustin described the activities that were pursued by producers in the watershed using funds from the grant that they obtained. This includes cover crops and shared manure fields. He described the edge-of-field monitoring station and indicated that it had been activated only a few times during the year.

b. Update from Serge Koenig on activities within Sauk County.

Serge briefly reviewed his efforts to work with producers in the watershed, including his continuing efforts to work with the McWilliams family, who own a farm near the lake.

c. Are there opportunities to do more by using the CREP program (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)?

Both Dustin Ladd and Serge Koenig indicated they are aware of the program, and use it when appropriate. They also indicated that the amount of land that is eligible is small, so neither county emphasizes this program.

d. What other activities should be considered?

Dave Blumer gave a brief review of the preliminary stream sampling results from both 2018 and 2019, including 2 storm events. The data are preliminary because these are raw results from the State Lab of Hygiene; Dave has not yet included the flow information to get the total load of nutrients and sediment. More complete analysis will be performed during the winter.

2. Local runoff that enters at gullies around the lake during rain events (15 minutes).

a. There are several locations where water and sediment enter the lake during rain events, e.g., the bay between Sac court and the Fox court boat landing? What strategies exist for dealing with such locations? How can the LRPD partner with local property owners, the Town of La Valle, and Sauk County to address these locations?

Dick Fish described the situation with “bay 26” and the severity of the sediment problem. Dave Blumer described an example of a lake up north that had a similar problem, where they were able to install an engineering solution that allowed water to enter the lake while keeping sediment out of the lake. Sue Graham mentioned that Mirror Lake had similar problems, so we might want to see how they handled them. Pat Oldenburg pointed out that the DNR has grant programs that could help implement such solutions, and that the LRPD would be eligible to apply for them once the lake management plan was in place. Others pointed out that such solutions are expensive and can be implemented only in selected locations. Serge Koenig said that once water is present in a culvert the battle has been lost. He suggested that the real solution was to have conditions upstream that allowed the water to be absorbed into the soil. This means working with property owners who own the land that is higher than the culverts and gullies.

3. Runoff from lakeside properties (15 minutes).

a. The Healthy Lakes Grants Program run by the WDNR offers property owners funding, up to \$1000 to pursue one of 5 “best practices”. But property owners usually need assistance in defining potential projects. Are there local resources, either from Sauk County or private vendors who can provide this assistance?

Sue Graham mentioned that the DNR maintains lists of available vendors who can help property owners. She suggested that we should contact Pat Goggin, or other members of the healthy lakes team. Serge Koenig said that he had the expertise to help local property owners plan projects, but did not have the time to spend much effort on such activities. Another possibility was to get someone from the lake to enroll in the 3-day seminar that helps train people about the healthy lakes practices. It was suggested that maybe one of the local landscaping services would be willing to send one of their staff to the healthy lakes training seminar with the hope that it would increase their business.

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

The Lake Redstone Protection District has a WDNR grant to support the preparation of a whole lake management plan via the development of a 9-Key Element plan for Lake Redstone and its watershed.

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

Dave Blumer pointed out that the original grant application described contributions from both Sauk and Juneau County staff. So the plans already include cooperation with them.

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

Andrew Craig indicated that he would be available to help. One part of his job was to help lake districts around the state that are preparing 9-key element plans. He indicated that another part of his job was to review the plans that once they are submitted to the DNR for approval. He indicated that it is much better if he is not seeing the plan for the first time when he is reviewing it for approval. He also noted that the submitted plan also needs approval from an EPA official who works out of Chicago. Andrew has

established a good working relationship with the EPA person, so that when he approves the plan, there is a good chance that EPA will also approve it. Andrew offered to return at a later time to meet with Dave Blumer and others from the LRPD to discuss the details of preparing the 9-key element plan. Patrick Oldenburg again mentioned that once the lake management plan is in place and has been approved by the DNR and EPA that the district will be eligible to apply for grant funds that will provide financial assistance with some of the projects described in the lake management plan. He mentioned that some of the larger grants can provide substantial financial assistance. The largest grants can be up to \$1 million over 3 years.

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

Gus Johnson responded that there would be opportunities to coordinate with the activities associated with the Baraboo River watershed project.

D. Other Issues, Questions or Concerns

Nathan Nye mentioned that the DNR will be doing a fish survey in Lake Redstone in 2020. These surveys are done once every 10 years.

5. Next LRPD board meeting: December 10, 2019, 6 pm at La Valle Town Hall

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

KK 11/25/19