

# LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 10:00 am

### MINUTES

#### **1. Call meeting to order, verify compliance with the Open Meeting Laws**

Mittelstadt called the meeting to order at 10am. He verified compliance with open meeting laws.

**2. Roll Call:** Mike Mittelstadt, Brad Horner, Pat Sullivan, Ken Keegstra     On zoom/phone:  
Dave Crockett, Al Baade

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Horner made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Sullivan. Motion passed.

#### **4. Hear and discuss reports from each committee on lake management plan activities**

Ahead of the meeting, Mittelstadt provided each committee chair an Excel spreadsheet that listed the activities assigned to their committee. Each chair completed their 2023 progress report prior to the meeting and distributed the updated spreadsheets to other board members. Each chair reviewed their progress report during the meeting leading to discussion about many of the points and in some cases suggestions for edits to the spreadsheet. The chairs will update the spreadsheets based on the discussion. The revised spreadsheets will be archived electronically on a Google drive maintained by Mittelstadt.

##### **A. Water Quality Projects Committee-Keegstra**

Keegstra reported that the stream sampling project with USGS was completed in 2023 with 3 years of data. This sampling should be repeated at the end of the 10-year plan, probably in 2029 or 2030 to monitor progress in the watershed. The tributary monitoring program described in the plan was modified and is being performed in collaboration with the USGS in 2023-2024, along with a dozen LRPD volunteers.

The lake monitoring program continued in 2023 in a manner similar to earlier years. The data was all placed in the SWIMS database maintained by the WDNR. Based on discussions that Keegstra, Sullivan and Baade had with Arthur Watkinson (DNR) and Richard Lathrop (retired DNR limnologist), the sampling program will be modified in 2024 at the deep hole and the middle site to include total phosphorus and iron at several levels in the water column. The goal is to evaluate the status of the so-called "ferrous wheel" in Lake Redstone. This will require a larger budget for analyses by the State Laboratory of Hygiene and some new equipment (a vertical van Dorn sampling device).

An updated Aquatic Plant Management Plan was completed in May and was approved by the WDNR. It will cover the next 5 years and the plan should be updated again in 2028. No treatments were performed in 2023 to control invasive species. Surveys were completed to determine whether control measures are needed in 2024. This decision needs to be made in December 2023 or January of 2024.

Although hypolimnetic withdrawal of phosphorus-rich water during the summer months was discussed no actions or decisions were made. Discussions with Richard Lathrop encouraged us to study lake conditions in more detail before making decisions. No progress was made on

evaluating the level of internal loading in Lake Redstone, but the issue will be revisited in 2024. The lake response model in the original plan was not updated in 2023. The committee will see if Pat Oldenburg (WDNR) can help with this item in 2024.

### **B. Sediment Control Committee-Sullivan**

Sullivan reported that gullies/ravines at the ends of Martin-Meadowlark, Swallow and Eagle bays were being monitored in a program joint with the USGS. Other gullies and areas of concern are still under consideration.

A grant from the WDNR and from Sauk County were obtained to repair one of the weirs in the valley above Martin-Meadowlark Bay that was damaged in the 2018 floods. The project is scheduled for 2024. Unfortunately, the WDNR grant funds to make repairs above Chickadee south had to be returned. However, the landowner is still interested in making improvements on water flow from the land and discussions are continuing. It will likely not be possible to perform these improvements with grant funds, but the landowner seems committed to moving forward.

Work on beach clubs has been given lower priority because of the difficulty of working with multiple owners. Mittelstadt suggested that the district contact 14-Mile Watershed Group because they also have beach clubs and have plans to deal with them in the coming years. Sullivan will investigate this possibility.

Efforts to identify areas that would benefit from grassed waterways is continuing and the hope is to move forward with some areas in 2024. Efforts to improve shorelines of properties around the lake is moving forward, aided greatly by the Sauk County staff who are helping to identify areas of need and to implement improvements.

Transect surveys begun in 2022 were again implemented 2 times (spring and fall) in 2023. Mitch McCarthy from Sauk County is essential to this program but is aided by LRPD volunteers. The surveys are providing encouraging data that producers in the watershed continue to implement helpful BMPs.

The program to monitor existing sediment-control structures that was established in 2022 continued to operate in 2023 with photographs on the status of various structures being archived for comparison in future years.

The committee continued to work with the WDNR to utilize the stream power index (SPI) to identify areas of concern in the watershed with the goal of identifying remedial actions that can help fix some of the areas of concern.

### **C. Ad hoc Plan Integration Committee-Mittelstadt**

Mittelstadt reported that the edge-of-field monitoring stations that were installed several years ago by the Discovery Farms have been removed. The program monitored 2 farm fields in the watershed. The quantities of sediment and nutrients running off from both sites were extremely small. All fields in our watershed should be that good.

The committee is working with Mitch McCarthy from Sauk County and Dustin Ladd from Juneau County to track the changes in the various BMPs that are identified in the 9-key element plan (cover crops, no-till practices, rotational grazing, etc). This might be an area for assistance from the new employee who will be hired with the new grant. There was also some discussion

of whether the changes in BMPs could be monitored via satellite imaging in cooperation with the WDNR who is trying to do this statewide.

Mittelstadt is considering ways to identify a new consultant who can help us with implementation of the 9-key element plan, especially with integrating and understanding the large quantities of data that are being gathered. Funds have been added to the district budget for this purpose.

#### **D. Ad hoc Education and Outreach Committee-Horner**

Horner reported that the shoreline improvement workshop is now available on the LRPD website with no plans to hold in-person workshops. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to hold in-person workshops periodically, maybe every 3-4 years.

He also reported that the “Take a Stake in your Lake” workshop was held in June. While the turnout was less than expected, most participants found it useful. One indicator of its success is that Sauk County reports that about a dozen Lake Redstone property owners have signed up for Healthy Lakes grants in 2024. The discussion led to a suggestion that similar events should be held every year, with topics and/or formats changing on a rotating basis. The committee will explore this idea.

Another possibility for an educational activity is to utilize some time at the district annual meeting in August. One possibility is to return to the practice done in the past of having one invited speaker give a longer presentation on a selected topic that would replace the more recent practice of having 10-minute updates from each committee.

Horner raised the question of how the committee should pursue the task of engaging property owners whose shorelines need improvement. The discussion resulted in several ideas, including one that the committee should identify a certain number of properties that need attention and then have Mitch McCarthy, or other Sauk County staff, contact them to explain the resources that are available to help with improving their shoreline. The committee will explore this and other ideas.

Finally, there was a discussion about the possibility of engaging with other lakes in Sauk County about how to tackle problems of mutual concern. Possibly Sauk County staff can assist with exploring this idea.

#### **5. Discuss and make needed adjustments to assignment of Appendix I tasks**

No adjustments were identified beyond deciding which activities to emphasize in the coming year and which ones should be temporarily postponed.

#### **6. Other issues related to implementation of lake management plan**

It was agreed that the board should generate a list of activities that could be presented to Sauk County as areas for assistance from the new grant-supported employee. It was agreed that each committee chair would send a list to Mittelstadt before the December board meeting. The combined list will be discussed and prioritized at the December meeting.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm when all business was completed.

**KK/December 8, 2023**