

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2019

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Mike Mittelstadt. He welcomed the audience and thanked them for making the trip to Mauston High School. He confirmed that notices had been sent out as required by state statute and our by-laws. Mittelstadt announced that he was requesting one change to the agenda, i.e., to move item 10 on the original agenda, proposed changes to by-laws, up to number 8 and move the original items 8 and 9 down to items 9 and 10 respectively. A motion was made by Rick Waniger to approve the revised agenda and seconded by Don Haasl. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote. The total number of folks who signed in for the meeting was 60. The total number of votes cast was 64.

2. Election of two commissioners

The terms of two commissioners will expire in 2019. Only two candidates have submitted biographies and declared themselves candidates in advance of the meeting. They are: Ken Keegstra and Pat Sullivan. Mittelstadt asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Ecklund made a motion to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the two declared candidates. The motion was seconded by Marcia Mercier and passed unanimously.

3. Minutes of 2018 annual meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2018 annual meeting were available as a handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes, but that the residents of the district needed to approve them. A motion was made by Tom Wagner and seconded by Terri Moeller to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. (A copy of the approved minutes is available on the LRPD web site-www.lakeredstonepd.org).

4. Minutes of the 2019 special meeting-Discuss and approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2019 special meeting were available as a handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes, but that the residents of the district needed to approve them. A motion was made by Fred Zietlow and seconded by Sue Burke to approve the minutes of the 2019 Special Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. (A copy of the approved minutes is available on the LRPD web site-www.lakeredstonepd.org).

5. Secretary's Report

The handout entitled "Year in Review" that summarized major LRPD activities over the past year was reviewed (A copy of the handout is available on the LRPD web site.) Keegstra provided oral details on several issues described in the handout.

One major activity is the development of a Whole Lake Management Plan. This is a three-year process that has the goal of developing a plan to improve water quality in Lake Redstone. It is being supported in large part by 3 grants from the Wisconsin DNR. The process will involve 3 phases, each of which will last two years. Phase 1 and 2 began in 2018; phase 3 began in 2019. Phase 1 activities focus on the lake. One phase 1 activity is to extend past measurements on water quality by analyzing water samples. Another activity is a shoreline habitat assessment that will evaluate each property around the lake and make

recommendations on ways to improve the shoreline in ways that will help improve water quality. The data has already been collected and Dave Blumer from LEAPS (Lake Education and Planning Service) will be analyzing the data and providing recommendations during Phase 3. Phase 2 activities focus on analyzing the water that flows into and out of Lake Redstone with the goal of creating a nutrient budget for the lake. Phase 3, which began in 2019, will take all of the data from past studies, as well as the new data collected in phases 1 and 2, to create a lake management plan using the 9-key element process. The goal is to create a management plan that will prioritize efforts to improve water quality in Lake Redstone and to spell out ways to measure the effectiveness of these efforts.

Keegstra also described the efforts in the watershed to reduce the entry of sediment and nutrients into the lake. He mentioned the Lake Redstone Watershed Field Day that was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. It included a visit to the farm of Brian Daug's to view one of the two edge-of-field monitoring sites that were installed with support from Discovery Farms. The farmers in attendance described their work using cover crops and no-till agricultural practices. Following a lunch, when LRPD board members could visit with producers who operate farms in the watershed, the group used 5 pontoon boats to take a tour of Lake Redstone to look at sedimentation issues and view the dredging operations.

Efforts to work with residents around the lake to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff were briefly mentioned. Brochures on shoreline buffers and the healthy lakes program were available.

Keegstra reviewed the efforts of the LRPD board to communicate with district electors, including new methods that have been put in place to communicate dredging information. He also reviewed methods that residents can use to communicate with the board.

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

6. Treasurer's Report with review

Treasurer Glenn Choroszy presented a summary of the financial transactions during 2018 and 2019 to date. He reported that financial transactions over the past year were reviewed by Don Haasl and Heidi Geils and they reported that they found no issues. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report. Choroszy also summarized the proposed 2020 budget.

7. Approval for repairs to Meronek Meadows

Paul Burke made a presentation describing the damage that was done to the berm at Meronek Meadows. He also summarized the plans that were created to produce a new system to prevent sediment from entering the lake during normal rains as well as during future floods. The system will involve a series of barriers made with stone gabions that will allow water to move to the lake, but will prevent sediment from being carried with it. The sediment that is retained in area behind the stone gabions will need to be cleaned out periodically.

Paul also reported that the LRPD had applied to FEMA for financial assistance in paying for the repairs. The request for reimbursement has been submitted to FEMA and has been cleared through 6 of the 7 levels of review. A final decision on the request is expected in the coming months. Assuming it is approved, FEMA will reimburse up to 75% of the cost of making the repairs. The state of Wisconsin will provide up to 12.5% of the cost of the repairs and the LRPD is responsible for the remaining 12.5% of the costs.

Following the presentation, Paul made the following motion:

Shall the Lake Redstone Protection District, Town of La Valle, Sauk County, Wisconsin, be authorized to:

1. Borrow pursuant to Chapter 33.31 of the Wisconsin Statutes in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the purpose of repairing the breach at Meronek Meadows, with the understanding that the loan will be repaid with funds from the FEMA reimbursement.
2. Enter into contracts with lowest responsible bidder for completion of the repair project.

The motion was seconded by Chuck Ecklund. During the brief discussion, one question was what will happen if the FEMA funding is not approved. Paul responded that the repairs will not be put out for bids until we have assurance that the FEMA reimbursement has been approved and we know the level of the funding available. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

8. Proposed changes to LRPD by-laws- Discuss and approve

Al Baade presented the proposals to change the LRPD by-laws. He noted that the board was performing a thorough review of the by-laws and that additional “house-keeping changes” would be presented next year. Two changes are being proposed this year.

The first is a proposal to change the limit for short-term lending. Article V, Section 9 of the current by-laws reads: “The Board may exercise its authority to borrow money when in temporary need (Sec. 33.31) but in any one calendar year the amount borrowed shall not exceed \$50,000.” The proposal is to change the level of permitted borrowing from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The level for temporary borrowing was last changed in 1995, when it was changed from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Because of the increased cost of performing projects that has occurred over the past 24 years, the board feels it is time to raise the level again. He cited the example of the repairs to Meronek Meadows. He noted that while we expect FEMA to provide most of the funds for this project, that they will provide reimbursement only after the project is completed. Thus, the board may need to borrow money to pay the contractor while waiting for reimbursement from FEMA. Al stated that this is only an example of the types of expenses that might need borrowing in future years, because approval for the Meronek Meadows borrowing was already approved in item 7.

The second proposed change is to the levels of compensation for LRPD board members. This issue is covered under Article VI, Section 7 of the current by-laws. The levels of compensation were last changed in 2002, 17 years ago. The current levels of compensation and proposed changes were summarized. All board members are provided \$40 for attendance at each posted meeting; the proposal is to change this to \$50/meeting. In addition, the chair is provided \$40 per month of added compensation. The proposal is to change this to \$200 per month. The treasurer is provided with an additional \$100/month; the proposal is to change this to \$150/month. The secretary is provided with an additional \$200/month; the proposal is to change this to \$250/month.

Voting on both proposals was performed by secret paper ballot. Residents were instructed to complete their ballots that were provided at check in. The completed ballots were collected by the members of the elections committee-Don McCune, Tom Wagner, and Jay Kolb. They counted the ballots over the next 30 minutes and reported the results to chair Mike Mittelstadt, who announced the results at the end of the meeting.

9. 2020 Operating Budget

Choroszy presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2020 (sent out with annual meeting notice and available as a handout at the meeting). A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Rick Waniger and seconded by Tom Wagner. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

10. Authorization of the Board to exceed \$10,000 per project without Annual Meeting elector approval while staying within budget

A motion to authorize the board to exceed \$10,000 per project without elector approval while staying within budget was made by Jim Mercier and seconded by Chuck Ecklund. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

11. Update on the dredging project

Cary Dudczak, a volunteer member of the dredging committee, used slides to make a presentation on behalf of the dredging committee. A copy of the slide set is available on the LRPD web site- <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org/>.

He first reviewed the actions that have been taken since the May 18 special meeting. Briefly, the board secured a loan to pay for dredging and signed a contract with the dredging company. The dredging company has secured the required permits, mobilized their dredging equipment and begun dredging. Unfortunately, they experienced some delays during start up, including some delays in acquiring some permits and weather related damage to the off-loading site. These delays have put the contractors behind schedule, but they expect that dredging should proceed at a regular pace from here on. They provided a revised schedule showing that they expect to be done by early December. Cary also reviewed ongoing efforts by the board and the dredging committee to secure financial support for the cost of dredging that will lead to a reduction of the tax levy needed to pay for the dredging.

12. Comments/Questions regarding dredging project

Following the presentation, district electors were provided an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding any of the topics covered in the meeting. Numerous people, mainly from Mourning Dove and Oriole bays, asked questions about the dredging schedule. They complained that the schedule delays caused them to not be able to use their docks and boats for much longer than was originally planned. They were particularly critical of the lack of reality and accuracy of the schedules released by the contractors. For example, the schedule released yesterday indicates that dredging will be completed in Mourning Dove bay on Monday, August 5 when workers have told at least a couple of residents that they will be dredging in Mourning Dove bay all of next week. Mike Mittelstadt explained that he continues to emphasize to the contractors that they must provide accurate and realistic schedules.

13. Announce results of the proposed by-law changes

Chairman Mittelstadt announced that the proposal to change the level for temporary borrowing received 51 yes votes and 7 no votes. The proposal to change the compensation level for commissioners received 57 yes votes and 7 no votes. Thus, both proposals exceeded the required 2/3 majority to approve by-law changes and were approved.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.