

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2025

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Mike Mittelstadt. He confirmed that the meeting complied with open meeting laws. Mittelstadt reviewed the agenda and proposed an amendment to allow each commissioner candidate to speak for 3 minutes. Mittelstadt made a motion to approve the amended agenda, which was seconded and approved. Mittelstadt welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. 100 people completed the voter certificate to receive a ballot.

2. Election of 2 commissioners

Mittelstadt announced that the term of two commissioners expired in 2025 and neither were seeking re-election. Four candidates submitted a biography in advance of the meeting, i.e., Matthew Haerter, Tom Heneghan, Robin Hoffman, and Jane Mahoney. Mittelstadt asked three times whether there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. Chuck Ecklund made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Jana Burg. The four candidates were then given 3 minutes each to address the voters and explain their reasons for seeking a seat on the board. Following the presentations, the voters were instructed to use ballot #1 to vote for two of the four candidates. The ballots were collected and counted by one member of the election committee, i.e., Don McCune and two additional volunteers, i.e. Chuck Ecklund and Sue Walters, because two members of the election committee were not available.

3. Minutes of 2024 annual meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2024 annual meeting were included in the handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes twice, and that a copy of the draft minutes had been on the LRPD website since last September. However, approval of the minutes needs to be done by resident electors and landowners of the district. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting was made by Dick Fish and seconded by Jim Mercier. There wasn't any discussion or questions regarding the minutes and the motion was approved. (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" was included in the handout (A copy of that report is available on the LRPD web site.). Keegstra encouraged electors to read the entire report but provided a brief overview. The 2025 report again focused on implementation of the 10-year lake management plan that was approved in February of 2022. The activities described in the plan are divided among 4 district committees, each responsible for implementation of a portion of the activities. Implementation of the various activities requires the support of many volunteers as well as cooperation among many partners.

5. Treasurer's report with results of financial review

Treasurer Dave Crockett reviewed the balance sheet that summarized the district's finances as of July 8, 2025. He explained that the large checkbook balance was caused by the fact that several expenses would be coming due in the second half of the year, including a project above Cardinal Bay, where the district already received funds from Sauk County to

support part of this project. He also mentioned the balance on the dredging loan, which is being reduced with payments of about \$300,000 per year and that the interest rate is very low.

Crockett explained that financial transactions are subjected to external review every three years and that this year the review was performed internally by Don Haas and Heidi Geils. They reviewed several aspects of the record keeping and found no issues. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report.

6. Proposed 2026 Operating Budget – Discuss and Approve

Treasurer Dave Crockett presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2026 (sent out with Annual Meeting notice and available in the handout at the meeting). He briefly reviewed the expected income as well as the proposed expenditures. Crockett made a motion to "approve the proposed 2026 budget with operating expenses of \$128,700 and an operating expense levy of \$118,200". The motion was seconded by Al Baade. Crockett pointed out that the levy increase was \$3,000 or 2.6%. There were no questions regarding the proposed budget. It was approved with no changes.

7. Reports on recent activities

PowerPoint slides were used during the reports; copies of the slides are available on the LRPD website (www.lakeredstonepd.org).

A. Update on water quality issues

Ken Keegstra, chair of the water quality committee, summarized the status of water quality in Lake Redstone while putting current water quality concerns into a longer-term perspective. He emphasized that water quality concerns began before 1976, when the LRPD was created. He presented a summary graph from the WDNR SWIMS database showing that the trophic index has been in the eutrophic range since 1980, and likely before, with trophic index values mainly in the 50 and 60s. The trophic index can be calculated from water clarity readings made with a Secchi disk, from chlorophyll levels or phosphorus levels, both measured in water samples sent to a laboratory. He indicated that phosphorus levels are the key parameter because it triggers algal growth which increases chlorophyll levels and reduces water clarity.

The remainder of the update dealt with phosphorus levels, summarizing LRPD efforts to understand where the phosphorus in Lake Redstone comes from and how to prevent its entry into the lake. Keegstra reviewed the 4-year collaboration between LRPD and the US Geological Survey. He showed data from water year 2023, when 1557 pounds of phosphorus entered via the west branch of Big Creek, 1030 pounds of phosphorus entered via the east branch of Big Creek, while 1650 pounds of phosphorus entered the lake from the ungauged areas close to the lake. Studies in 2024 sought to understand where the phosphorus from the areas close to the lake to the lake originates. Measurements of 3 small streams revealed that 617 pounds came in via those streams (compared to 2024 levels of 2490 pounds from the west branch of Big Creek). This led to the conclusion that approximately 75% of the phosphorus entering the lake from the ungauged areas derive from small gullies that flow only during rain events and from lawns that make up the shoreline.

Efforts to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Redstone include activities in all areas of the watershed as described in the lake management plan. The LRPD is working with producers in the watershed and extension staff from Sauk and Juneau counties to further reduce the sediment and phosphorus entering from remote regions of the watershed via the two branches

of Big Creek. The LRPD is also pursuing projects to reduce runoff from gullies around the lake, e.g., the 2025 project to address runoff from a gully above Cardinal Bay. Finally, the LRPD is working with Sauk County staff to encourage lakeshore owners to reduce the runoff from lawns around the lake. The WDNR, Sauk County, and the LRPD all have reimbursement programs to help property owners with the cost of reducing runoff from their shoreline.

Keegstra explained the concept of internal phosphorus loading including a description of evidence that sediment at the bottom of Lake Redstone is rich in phosphorus. Finally, he explained the importance of paying attention to long-term trends as the best way to understand what is happening in the lake.

B. Update on wake boat issues

Mike Mittelstadt explained the reasons that the LRPD board is concerned about the impacts of wake boats on water quality and provided a brief update on the status of the proposed ordinance that is under consideration by La Valle Town board. He began by explaining the findings of a 2024 Wisconsin Greenfire report that examined the impacts of enhanced wakes including increased shore erosion and bottom disturbance. Consequently, the Greenfire report recommended that creation of enhanced wakes should only be allowed in areas that are 600 feet from shore and are at least 20 feet deep. Considering these criteria and the water quality issues existing in Lake Redstone, the LRPD board requested, in October 2024, that the La Valle Town board adopt an ordinance developed by the Last Wilderness Alliance and supported by the Wisconsin Lakes Coalition. The proposed ordinance does NOT ban wake boats but does ban them from creating enhanced wakes in Lake Redstone.

After several meetings on this topic, the La Valle Town board decided instead to move forward with a “compromise” ordinance that was submitted to the WDNR for review. The WDNR proposed several changes, which the La Valle Town board accepted. With these changes, the ordinance currently under consideration would limit creation of enhanced wakes to hours between 10 am and 8 pm and to regions of the lake that are 400 feet or more from shore. The revised ordinance is now under review by the town attorneys. If the La Valle Town board decides to proceed with the revised “compromise” ordinance, they will hold a public meeting to receive input before adopting the ordinance.

8. Introduce new board members

Mike Mittelstadt reported that the votes were as follows:

Jane Mahoney- 86 votes	Matthew Haerter-81 votes
Tom Heneghan-21 votes	Robin Hoffman-10 votes

9. Question and answer session

Mark Skinner inquired about the source of the phosphorus coming from lawns. The exact source is not known; it probably comes from phosphorus bound to soil particles in runoff that enter the lake during rain events. The best remedy is to prevent runoff from lawns by have deep rooted plants near the shoreline. Water follows root traces into the soil rather running off into the lake. Grass has very shallow roots.

Sam Acker encouraged people to examine the new study from the University of Minnesota that compares bottom disturbance by different types of boats, including boats operating in enhanced wake mode. He also encouraged the LRPD board to better communicate their activities including photos of improvement projects.

Diane Leach inquired about the availability of the lake management plan. It was noted that the entire plan, including all appendices, are available on the LRPD website.

Jana Burg commented that the email messages sent out by the LRPD are very helpful. Mittelstadt commented that anyone wishing to receive these messages can sign up to join our email list on the LRPD website.

Jill Messmer inquired about outdoor showers and gray water discharge that sometimes gets into the lake. It was noted that gray water discharge into the lake is against county ordinances and anyone seeing this should report it to Sauk County. Their staff are responsible for enforcement of this ordinance. It was suggested that information about better soaps for outdoor showers should be included in a future newsletter.

John Matol inquired whether dredging had any impact on phosphorus levels in the lake. It was noted that when dredging removed sediment, the phosphorus bound to it was also removed. However, it was noted that only the bays were dredged and that the 85% of the bottom surface was not dredged.

Russ Burg inquired about the plans to collect sediment cores to analyze for phosphorus levels. Because the LRPD does not have the equipment to collect sediment cores, assistance from the WDNR is needed. The WDNR staff indicated that it is best to collect sediment cores through the ice. It is hoped that this will happen during the coming winter. *Burg also inquired whether the gabion baskets installed above Martin-Meadowlark Bay to replace the damaged weir would reduce phosphorus entry into the lake.* Keegstra indicated that the new structure should reduce phosphorus entry, but there are no plans to directly measure the impact.

Don McCune inquired about cleaning out the sediment basins above Martin-Meadowlark Bay. It was reported that they were still functioning, and the removal of the sediment might be more harmful than helpful.

Matt Messmer inquired about plans to install weirs in the northern watershed to reduce entry of phosphorus via Big Creek. The response indicated that this option involves lots of regulatory issues, so the current plans are to work with producers in the watershed to reduce runoff using sustainable best practices.

10. Adjourn

Following the question-and-answer session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

KK- 8-9-25