

## **Lake Redstone Protection District-Year in Review**

Although much of the last year was devoted to planning the dredging project, many other important activities continued to move forward. Those efforts are summarized below following a brief review of the dredging project.

### **Dredging Planning**

- ◆ The Dredging Committee and the LRPD board continued to investigate the possibility of dredging in Lake Redstone. Based on the support provided by district residents at the 2017 annual meeting, the LRPD board contracted with Ayres Associates to create detailed design plans that could be used for requesting bids from dredging contractors.
- ◆ The LRPD, with assistance from Ayres Associates, secured a dredging permit from the Wisconsin DNR.
- ◆ As you will learn at today's meeting, the bids that were received on June 26<sup>th</sup> were too expensive, forcing changes in plans for the dredging project. We still hope to create a dredging plan that can be performed at a reasonable cost and present it to district residents. The goal is to perform dredging in 2019 or 2020.

### **Development of a Whole Lake Management Plan**

- ◆ Grant applications submitted in December 2017 were funded by the DNR in early 2018. The overall project has three phases; two phases began in March of 2018 and a third phase is scheduled to begin early in 2019. The overall goal of the combined three phases is to prepare a whole lake management plan by the end of 2020. The whole lake management plan will be used to evaluate the efficacy of past and current lake improvement projects and to guide the implementation of future activities.
- ◆ Phase 1 of the grant has multiple foci; one is to continue acquiring information about water quality in the lake by analyzing water samples throughout the year. These efforts will continue and expand the data collected in the past two decades. A second focus is to perform a shoreline habitat assessment that is being performed by our consultant, LEAPS, with assistance from many volunteers. The goal of the shoreline studies is to identify areas where shoreline improvements can be made to reduce nutrient and sediment entry into the lake.

◆ Phase 2 of the grant focuses on acquiring information regarding the nutrients and sediment coming into the lake from the watershed. This is being done by measuring water flow and by collecting water samples from several inlet streams as well as the outlet stream. The water flow data will be combined with information on the stream's nutrient and sediment content in ways that will allow a nutrient budget to be generated for the lake.

◆ In phase 3 of the grant, the results of earlier studies will be integrated with new data from phases 1 and 2 to evaluate the efficacy of earlier efforts and to develop plans for future actions that will improve water quality. This will be done by development of a 9-Key Element Plan; details of this process are provided in the 2018 issue of the *Protection Connection*, our newsletter.

### **Aquatic Plant Management**

◆ The Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan (a copy is available at <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org/>) continues to provide guidance for the control and education activities that were pursued during the past year.

◆ The district again contracted with lake scientist Dave Blumer of LEAPS to assist with implementation of the APM Plan on Lake Redstone and to assist with implementation of our AIS Education Grant from the DNR.

◆ Point-Intercept (PI) surveys were performed on 13 bays in early September of 2017 in order to monitor the efficacy of herbicide treatments performed in 2015, 2016, and 2017 and to evaluate bays for possible treatment in the spring of 2018.

◆ Early-spring herbicide treatments were completed on May 14, 2018 in Swallow, Eagle, Cardinal, and Mourning Dove bays.

◆ Point-Intercept (PI) surveys will again be performed in many bays in late August of 2018 to monitor the efficacy of herbicide treatments performed in the past 3 years and to evaluate bays for possible treatment next spring.

◆ For reasons that we do not understand, the growth of two invasive species, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil, is down in Lake Redstone during the first half of this summer. We continue to monitor Milfoil growth and will take action if it again becomes a nuisance later this summer.

◆ A Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program is being operated again in 2018. CBCW serves to educate boaters at the landings to clean their boats and trailers to prevent transporting aquatic invasive species into or out of Lake Redstone without knowing they are doing it.

### **Watershed Activities**

◆ We continue our efforts to reduce watershed sediment and/or nutrients from entering Lake Redstone by partnering with representatives from Sauk and Juneau counties. Matt Komiskey from Juneau County worked with farmers in the watershed to create a producer-led group that is investigating the use of various soil conservation practices on their farms. Serge Koenig from Sauk County Conservation, Planning and Zoning continues to work with farmers in Sauk County as well as property owners around the lake. For example, Serge, with financial assistance from the LRPD board, is working with the McWilliams family to convert their farm near Lake Redstone from row crops to rotational grazing; this transition will significantly reduce the movement of sediment and nutrients into the lake.

### **Healthy Lakes Program**

◆ A few years ago, the State of Wisconsin developed a new grant program to help lake property owners improve their property in ways that would improve lake health ([www.healthylakeswi.com](http://www.healthylakeswi.com)). Reimbursement grants up to \$1,000 provide financial support to assist property owners who install one of five “best practices” on their property. In 2018, the LRPD, together with two Lake Redstone property owners, secured funds to assist them in performing a best practice on their property. We expect to secure funding for additional projects in the coming years. Visit the healthy lakes web site or contact a LRPD board member to learn more details.

### **Volunteers**

◆ The activities summarized above could not be accomplished without the volunteers who contributed countless hours. In addition to the LRPD board members, who each contribute many hours, the volunteers over the past year include: Vince Cincinelli, Geeg Drum, Cary Dudczak, Carol Ecklund, Dick Fish, Brad Horner, Sue Keegstra, Jay Kolb, Mike Marti, Don McCune, Jim Mercier, Mike Mittelstadt, Terri Moeller, Wally Moeller, Dave Pfefferle, Dave Starin, Bev Vaillancourt, Bruce Vermilyea, Laurie Videle, Tom Wagner, and Sue Walters.

◆ We welcome additional volunteers who are interested in any of our activities. If you find an activity that interests you, please contact one of the members of the LRPD board and learn how to become involved.

### **Communications**

◆ The 2018 Newsletter (*Protection Connection*) again used the updated format that was initiated in 2017. As usual, it was mailed to all district residents in May; it covers a range of topics relevant to district activities and issues.

◆ Mailings regarding special activities, such as herbicide treatments, and information on the dredging project were sent to all Lake Redstone Protection District property owners in the past year.

◆ A major method of communication with district residents is our website (<https://www.lakeredstonepd.org>). It contains copies of our monthly meeting agendas, minutes, archived newsletters, updates regarding various activities, and reports from various studies performed by the district.

◆ The Facebook page (Lake Redstone Protection District) established in 2017 continues to provide information about our activities.

◆ The newest addition to our communications portfolio is an APP that smartphone users can download and use to keep up to date on LRPD activities and on other news and activities relevant to lake residents. We are able to send messages to APP users, e.g., information on Slow-No Wake designations. The free APP can be downloaded at: <https://app.lakeredstonepd.org/>

◆ The annual meeting, held the first Saturday in August, continues to provide an important opportunity for dialogue between district residents and the LRPD board.

◆ In addition to our regular monthly meetings, the LRPD board meets annually with our Sauk & Juneau County partners and Wisconsin DNR representatives to plan collaborative efforts regarding Lake Redstone.

◆ We encourage participation in our monthly meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month, 6 pm, at the La Valle Town Hall.

KK/7.23.2018