

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2022

1. Welcome

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Redstone Protection District was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Mike Mittelstadt. He confirmed that notices had been sent out as required by state statute and LRPD by-laws and that the meeting complied with open meeting laws.

Mittelstadt reviewed the proposed agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Cary Dudczak made the motion; Tom Wagner seconded it. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Mittelstadt welcomed the audience and thanked them for attending. 28 people attended the meeting and completed the voter certificate.

2. Election of two commissioners

The term of two commissioners expired in 2021. Only two candidates submitted a biography and declared themselves candidates in advance of the meeting, i.e., Ken Keegstra and Patrick Sullivan. 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 Jay Kolb. The motion passed unanimously. Chuck Ecklund made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the two candidates, but Mittelstadt indicated that state statute mandated that a secret ballot be used. The ballots were collected and counted. 27 votes were cast for Keegstra and 27 votes were cast for Sullivan.

3. Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting -Discuss & approve

Secretary Ken Keegstra explained that copies of the draft minutes from the 2021 annual meeting were included in the handout. He explained that the LRPD board had reviewed the minutes, but that the residents of the district needed to approve them. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting was made by Dick Fish and seconded by Chuck Ecklund. There was no discussion or questions regarding the minutes and the motion was approved unanimously. (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 this report is available on the LRPD web site.). Keegstra encouraged electors to read the entire report but provided oral highlights on selected topics.

The 2022 report focused mainly on the recently approved lake management plan, also known as a 9-key element plan. The long-range goal of the plan is to improve water quality in Lake Redstone via a series of activities over the next 10 years. Achieving the goals will require activities in three distinct areas: the remote regions of the watershed far away from the lake; the shoreline and regions of the watershed close to the lake; the lake itself.

The activities in the remote regions of the watershed will involve cooperation between the district and farmers in the Lake Redstone watershed. The farmers have created a cooperative that has a Facebook page (*Producers of the Lake Redstone Watershed*) and they have secured grant funds to support their activities. Activities in the portions of the watershed closer to the lake will involve the newly formed sediment control committee as well as cooperation with district property owners to limit runoff from their properties.

Pursuing these activities will require cooperation among many partners, including the producers in the watershed, staff from Juneau and Sauk counties, staff from the Town of La Valle, staff from the Wisconsin DNR, staff from the US Geological Survey, and many volunteers from within the district. Along these lines, Keegstra thanked the many LRPD volunteers who helped during the past year. He encouraged new volunteers to participate in activities that interest them.

5. Treasurer's Report with results of financial review

Treasurer Paul Burke drew attention to the budget sheet that provides a summary of the financial transactions during 2021 and 2022 to date. He reported that financial transactions are subjected to external review every three years; a CPA review was done two years ago. Thus, transactions from the past year were reviewed by a committee consisting of Don Haasl and Heidi Geils. They reported that the financial records were in good order. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's report. An external review will be performed next year.

Burke encouraged attendees to consider volunteering to work on various projects with the LRPD. He gave examples of grants where payments are increased by hours spent by LRPD volunteers.

6. 2023 Proposed Operating Budget – Discuss and Approve

Treasurer Paul Burke presented the proposed LRPD operating budget for 2023 (sent out with Annual Meeting notice and available in the handout at the meeting). He briefly summarized some of the changes in the budget that led to the proposed operating expenses of \$220,400 and an increase of the levy for operating expenses to \$105,800. A motion to approve the proposed budget with operating expenses of \$220,400 and an operating expense levy of \$105,800 was made by Paul Burke and seconded by Al Baade. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Description of the Lake Management Plan

PowerPoint slides were used during the description of the plan; copies of these slides are available on the LRPD website.

A. High level overview and summary of survey results

Mike Mittelstadt first gave a summary of the results from the survey that was performed in May and June of 2022. The complete results from the survey are available on the LRPD website. He acknowledged the efforts of Brad Horner, Sue Walters, and Jay Kolb who prepared the survey questions (with assistance from Dreux Watermolen, a DNR survey specialist) and who also performed a preliminary analysis of the survey results. Responses were received from 212 district property owners. Almost 70% of respondents owned their property more than 10 years; if this is representative of all Redstone properties, it makes Redstone different from typical Wisconsin lakes where properties turn over every 7 years on average. The most common concerns of respondents were water clarity (89% were concerned or very concerned), runoff from 4 major sources (80%) and aquatic plants (60%). Respondents appreciated the communication tools used by the LRPD board with 92% listing the annual newsletter as important or very important, while 88% listed the Email notifications and 81% listed the LRPD website. The LRPD board will continue to analyze the survey results and generate responses to comments and concerns and will communicate the responses as appropriate.

Mittelstadt next provided a summary of the dredging project. He pointed out that more sediment was removed than had been estimated at a lower cost than had been predicted. In addition, the levy needed over the last 9 years to pay off the dredging loan will be about \$40,000 per year lower than in the first year because the loan was refinanced at a significantly lower interest rate.

Mittelstadt then provided a high-level overview of the lake management plan. He emphasized that implementation of the plan will involve adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in three areas: the watershed far away from the lake, the riparian areas surrounding the lake and within the lake itself. He also described the two new *ad hoc* committees, Plan Integration Committee and Education & Outreach Committee that will supplement the two stranding committees that already exist, i.e., the Water Quality Projects Committee and the Sediment Control Committee. He emphasized that plan implementation will require close cooperation with several partners as well as the involvement of many volunteers. He encouraged those interesting in helping to join one of the committees that will be pursuing plan implementation.

B. Shoreline improvement activities

Brad Horner provided a brief review of the shoreline improvement activities described in the lake management plan. He briefly reviewed the shoreline improvement workshop that was held in 2021

and more recently on July 8, 2022. Because more people expressed interest in the content of the workshop than could attend, he plans to produce a “webinar” version of the workshop that will be hosted on the LRPD website. This will allow people to listen to the content of the workshop on their own schedule. He also mentioned the reimbursement possibilities that exist can provide partial reimbursement for the cost of selected shoreline improvements available from the Wisconsin DNR or from Sauk County. Information on these programs is available on the LRPD website.

C. Sediment Control Activities

Pat Sullivan provided a summary of the Sediment Control Committee’s goals and activities. The committee has defined 4 major goals: 1. Pursue erosion control from properties around the lake via the shoreline improvement workshops described by Horner; 2. Evaluate, maintain, and repair, as needed, the existing sediment control devices. 3. Identify, prioritize, and find solutions for gullies and ravines around the lake that create erosion problems; 4. Use the Stream Power Index developed by the Wisconsin DNR to prioritize future work. Following an explanation of the goals, he described the new maintenance plan and record-keeping system that is being implemented to track existing and future sediment control devices. Finally, he described the process that is being used to secure grant support from various sources to provide financial support for these activities.

D. Aquatic Plant Management

Ken Keegstra summarized the district’s efforts to manage aquatic plants in Lake Redstone. He emphasized that aquatic plants are important contributors to a healthy lake, so the goal is to manage plant populations, especially invasive species, such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, while maintaining healthy populations of native plant species. The 2015 Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) has expired and is currently being updated. One important aspect of plant management is to survey Lake Redstone to provide information on where the various plant species are located. With respect to control activities, earlier efforts focused on spring herbicide treatments in selected bays, whereas harvesting by divers along the shoreline of the main body of the lake has been used in the last two years. The new APMP will define management strategies that will be used in the coming years. Input from property owners on the new APMP will be sought this fall. Dates for the input sessions have not yet been set, but notices will be coming out soon.

8. Question and answer session

Dave Pfefferle commented that milfoil was very bad in front of his property this year and that the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting used for milfoil control this year was not successful. He inquired about what options homeowners have for milfoil control. It was stated that manual harvesting, possibly via a vendor, is the only option.

Matt Messmer suggested that the district should consider creating a multi-year financial plan for implementing the lake management plan. It was pointed out that Appendix I of the plan includes cost estimates broken down by time periods.

Jill Messmer asked whether it was realistic to expect improved water clarity by reducing phosphorus because of the muck bottom and boat traffic that stirs up the muck. While it is correct that sediment suspended by boat traffic is a problem that may limit improvements in water clarity. But it is also correct that reducing phosphorus levels should reduce algal levels and provide improved water clarity.

Terri Mueller raised concerns about the level of enforcement of local ordinances, which is an issue for the La Valle police, not the LRPD. This led to a discussion regarding buoy placements, which is also outside the authority of the LRPD board.

9. Adjourn

Following the question-and-answer session, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.