

Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

47th Annual Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2022

Final – Approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Warren Wood at 9:00 a.m. on August 6, 2022 at the Town of Star Prairie Town Hall.

Commissioners Present: Warren Wood, Dan Early, Jim Reckinger, Jackie Elkin and Tom Deans.

Commissioners absent: Ted Johnson and John Bonneprise.

The Commissioners introduced themselves.

To begin the meeting Warren Wood mentioned that Bob Goodlad passed away this past July. Bob put in many years of service on the Lake Board. He also performed volunteer work on behalf of the Lake District, serving on many committees and offering his help when any work needed to be done. Bob will be missed by all. Warren expressed his appreciation for Bob's involvement, dedication and hard work.

Copies of the 2021 annual meeting minutes were available for attendees. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan Davison, seconded by Craig Jameson. Motion carried.**

Presentation of the 2023 Budget. Jim Reckinger discussed the budget for the coming fiscal year. Copies of the budget were available for all attendees. He discussed costs expected by line item and talked about how 2023 costs compared to those in 2022. He mentioned that some funds budgeted for 2022 were not used and will be carried over into 2023 in the Non-Lapsable Fund to help cover unknown costs and expected inflation. Jim answered a number of questions from people at the meeting. An Audit Committee, made up of Whitney Miller, Trish Moberg and Dennis Cornhill examined the CLP&RD financial records prior to the meeting. Whitney Miller stated that the audit was carried out and the financial records were accurate. **A motion to approve the 2023 Budget and Audit Committee report was made by Vikki Jameson, seconded by Lee Ann Schray. Motion carried.**

Election of Commissioners. Commissioner Dan Early of St. Croix Co. was up for re-election this year, running unopposed. Election results showed Early was re-elected to a new three year term with 34 votes.

Lake Management Plan Update. Cheryl Clemens with Harmony Environmental, a consultant to the Lake District, discussed the planned update of the Lake Management Plan. Cheryl explained that this plan, which went into effect in 2017, is crucial in helping the District obtain grants for necessary work and needs to be updated every 5 years. She discussed the Property Owner Survey that was recently completed this year and how the results greatly affect the Lake Management Plan update. Copies of the Survey results are posted on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>). Cheryl mentioned that volunteers are needed to form a committee to help with the update. The committee would hopefully consist of 10+/- people and involve attending 3 two hour meetings in January through March of 2023. The meetings are typically informal discussions about what should be emphasized in the Plan update. Anyone interested in volunteering for this important effort can contact any of the Board members. Contact information is posted on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>).

Lake District Survey. Cheryl discussed the recently completed survey of Lake District property owners, as mentioned above and that the full results of the Survey are posted on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>).

Board Member Presentations

Polk County Property Owners Handbook. Warren Wood talked about the recently published handbook by Polk County that is described as “A guide to developing and caring for your waterfront property”. A copy of this handbook is available on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>). Warren explained that this handbook is not a list of ordinances but provides information that helps property owners to be good stewards of their land. He has contacted St. Croix County about publishing a similar document.

AIS (and EWM) Control. Jim Reckinger talked about the Lake District’s recent efforts to help identify and control Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). He talked about the invasive species (plant and animal) that have been found in Cedar Lake to date including Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Curly Leaf Pondweed, Yellow Iris and others.

He mentioned that while all invasive species need to be monitored, EWM is the most prevalent problem we face in the lake at this time. EWM can grow rapidly, out-compete native species and cause heavy plant growth that hinders boating. He discussed the means and methods of controlling this plant. EWM control will likely be an ongoing process in the lake as eradication is not a possibility at this time.

Zebra Mussels have not been found in Cedar Lake to date but have been found in many nearby lakes as well as the St. Croix River. Jim reminded everyone that when they remove their docks and lifts in the fall to look for small striped shells that attach to any hard surface. More information including pictures is provided on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>).

Clean Boats/Clean Waters. Jackie Elkin is currently managing the CB/CW effort in the lake. This primarily involves coordinating staff at both boat landings to check incoming boats and help prevent additional invasive species from entering the lake. She discussed that the landing has been very busy this year, especially on weekends. She mentioned that boaters have been reasonably cooperative with the inspectors.

Alum Treatment and Water Quality Monitoring. Dan Early discussed the water quality of Cedar Lake. He provided information that showed results of recent testing by Bill James, the District’s alum consultant. Dan, and Cheryl Clemens, fielded many questions from district residents including recent water quality and algae blooms. A report from Bill James addressing the algae bloom in 2021 after the alum treatment can be found on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>).

Recent testing has shown that the alum has had an impact on controlling the release of phosphorus from the lake sediment, the major source of phosphorus (“algae food”) in Cedar Lake. The question was asked about timing of the next alum treatment. Dan explained that the Board relies heavily on the recommendations of Bill James. Bill is to complete analysis of the lake bottom sediment this fall and provide the District with his recommendation for the next treatment, including timing, location and dose. The next treatment could occur in 2023 or 2024.

Public Comments

- Dan Davison thanked the Board for their work.
- Craig Jameson with Star Prairie Fish and Game talked about the Senior Pontoon Day on July 13 of this year. He said that there were 145 seniors that took boat rides, attended the picnic that followed and had a great time. Craig thanked the 16 lake residents who volunteered their time and boats for the rides. Warren

Wood then mentioned that Star Prairie Fish and Game, besides organizing the Senior Pontoon Day, has contributed many other improvements on the lake including fish cribs and upgrades at the north landing.

· Vikki Jameson asked if there was anything that can be done to control “wake” boats that create large wakes close to shore. Warren Wood explained that DNR has rules about “no-wake” zones and they are enforced by DNR wardens. Cheryl Clemens mentioned that there have been a number of recent studies about the effect of large wakes on water quality and shoreland erosion. The studies typically found that large wakes can disturb lake bottoms in shallow waters. Wood mentioned that he would ask Alden Township to post a sign at the north landing asking wake boaters to stay in the middle of the lake and at least 600 feet from shore.

· Pat Esboldt asked about the recent mowing along East Cedar Rd. by Alden Township. Warren Wood explained that this was done by the township as road maintenance and any comments or questions can be addressed to Ted Johnson. Ted serves on the Lake District Board as appointee from Alden Township and his contact information is posted on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlake-wi.org/>).

Adjourn

Bud Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jason Wood. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

After the annual meeting the board (Wood, Early, Reckinger, Elkin and Deans) convened in accordance with Wisc. State Statute Chapter 33, to select commissioner roles by voice vote. Wood was selected as Chairperson, Reckinger was selected as Treasurer and Deans was selected as Secretary.

The next annual meeting will be held on August 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town of Star Prairie Town Hall, or other date, time or location to be announced.

Minutes submitted by Tom Deans, Secretary