

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes –August 22, 2023

The meeting was moved from the McMurtrie Pavilion to Alden Town Hall due to hot weather and was called to order at 5:32 P.M. on July 25, 2023 by Board member Dan Early.

· Roll call: Present –Dan Early, Jim Reckinger, Jackie Elkin, Ted Johnson, Tom Deans and Warren Wood.
Quorum Present.
Absent - John Bonneprise.
Also present – Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental and Kevin Hansen, lake resident.

· Approval of Agenda: **Motion to approve the agenda was made by Johnson, seconded by Reckinger. Motion carried.**

· Public Comments: None

· Minutes: The minutes of the July 25, 2023 board meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve the minutes was made by Reckinger, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.**

· Treasurer’s Report: Jim Reckinger presented the treasurer's reports for August 2023
The report showed a summary as follows:

Gross Available:	\$123,156.01
Non-lapsable fund balance:	\$57,593.44
Committed to alum treatment (CD)	\$0.00
Additional to CD	\$0.00
Committed to alum treatment (non CD)	\$0.00
Committed to grants:	\$2,000.00
Net Available Balance:	\$63,562.57

Jim discussed the report. He mentioned that the large drop in the bank balance was due to payment for the alum treatment. He said that the alum treatment is fully paid using district funds but remains for the grant funds which are in the process of funding. He also mentioned that one CD matured and funds were transferred into savings. He said he is looking into a higher interest bearing account for some district funds. He answered any questions from board members.

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Early, seconded by Elkin. Motion carried.

· Business Items:

· Alum Treatment –Dan Early and Cheryl Clemens discussed the alum treatment and monitoring. Solitude Lake Management started the alum treatment on 7/11/23 and completed it on 7/18/23. Cheryl mentioned that Bill James, the district’s alum consultant, provided an email regarding testing in early August and that the results are positive as far as available phosphorus is concerned. He also mentioned that the lake has yet to “turnover”. Testing of lake water and sediment will continue through the fall.

· AIS

– Clean Boats Clean Waters. Jackie Elkin said inspections continue to proceed fairly normally but that she is still looking for more adults to staff this paid workforce.

–EWM. Nothing new to report.

–Zebra Mussels. Nothing new to report. Zebra Mussels have not been found in Cedar Lake to date. Zebra Mussels have recently been found in Balsam and Wapogasset lakes. They are also present in Bass Lake, Deer Lake and the St. Croix River in this area.

A continuing reminder to all lake residents is to please take a few minutes to look for Zebra Mussels attached to their docks and lifts. If anything looks suspicious please contact any of the board members or Polk County. Contact information is listed on the Cedar Lake website. More information including photos is provided on the Cedar Lake website (cedarlakewi.org) as well as the DNR website (dnr.wisconsin.gov).

· Shoreland Zoning: Warren Wood said that there were no zoning issues noted or reported in the last month. The Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District has no legal authority to identify, report or enforce zoning violations. This is the responsibility of Polk and St. Croix counties and the local towns.

· Lake Management Plan Update: Cheryl Clemens said that the recently updated Lake Management Plan that was submitted for DNR review has been approved. Warren Wood wanted to thank Cheryl Clemens for her excellent work in coordinating and preparing the plan over that last many months. Having an up-to-date Lake Management Plan is critically important for our District to continue to apply for and receive grants for funding of important work going forward. A copy is available for review at the Cedar Lake website (cedarlakewi.org). Cheryl also mentioned that the Board needs to discuss which grants the District is planning to apply for in the near future. After some discussion Board members decided to submit two applications for grants this year for future Alum Treatments and Healthy Lakes Initiative.

Motion to apply this year for Alum Treatment grant funds (for treatment as early as 2024, useable through 2026) was made by Early, seconded by Reckinger. Motion Carried.

Motion to apply for Healthy Lakes Initiative grant funds (for shoreline native plantings) was made by Wood, seconded by Early. Motion Carried.

· Ordinances: The Board discussed wake/surf boat use (called wake boats herein) on Cedar Lake, due to many recent comments and complaints from lake residents. The topic of wake boat use and the affects of very large waves for surfing (lakeshore erosion, bottom sediment disturbance, ballast tank transportation of invasive species) is a significant issue throughout our state as well as many states with lakes (Alabama has recently passed legislation restricting wake boat use statewide). The WDNR does not have restrictions specifically for wake boat use. At the request of board members, Cheryl Clemens did some research regarding any ordinances in place that govern the use of wake boats. She mentioned that more than one town in Wisconsin has passed ordinances regulating their use and other towns with lakes are considering ordinances. Cedar Lake is especially susceptible to, and concerned about, bottom sediment disturbance due to it relatively shallow waters. Alum is applied, at significant expense, to the lake bottom to control phosphorus and algae growth, and can easily be disturbed by the downward thrust of wake boats.

After a lengthy discussion about the possibility of establishing a wake boat use ordinance for Cedar Lake the board decided to hold off, for now, due to many questions such as enforcement feasibility, legality, potential for challenge, etc. Instead, the board decided to take the position to ask wake boaters to exercise good practices when on the lake and creating large waves. A sign will be posted on both landings asking wake boaters to stay in the middle of the lake and away from shore when wake surfing.

· North Landing: Warren Wood said he is looking into electrical service for a security light on the pole at the north landing. The security light has not yet been installed and Johnson will check on this. Two security cameras are installed and operating. It is important for all to note that THE CAMERAS ARE NOT MONITORED. They record video for a limited time period that can be retrieved and reviewed if there is a need. Ted and Warren discussed what can be done to replace/correct the gravel/rip-rap that has washed out below the concrete ramp into the lake caused by boats “powering-on” to trailers. Both reiterated that simply adding more rip-rap fill is not

advised as there is already a “pile” below the ramp. Ted said the Town of Garfield has a backhoe that may be used to pull back the existing fill. This situation will be discussed further. The Board discussed the trash problem at the landing which continues. Trash was found previously in the porta-potty and now in the grill stations. The Town of Alden has been advised by haulers not to install a receptacle or dumpster because past experience has shown its use will be abused. Alden is evaluating options.

· Annual Meeting: The Board discussed the recent Annual Meeting of the Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Board members generally agreed that the meeting went reasonably well. District residents elected Warren Wood and Jackie Elkin to new 3 year terms on the Board.

· Board Member Reports:

–The Board discussed signage at the north landing. Jackie Elkin and Tom Deans have developed a sign plan and Ted said that the Town of Alden gave “approval” for three additional signs at the landing relating to security cameras, recommended wake boat practices and no-powering boats on trailers. This landing is owned by Alden and any signage is subject to their control. Deans said two security camera signs have been purchased and will be installed on the pole in the near future. He mentioned that the other signs are being priced and should be installed yet this year.

–Warren Wood talked about the aquatic plants he has noted in the lake, particularly reeds near the lake outlet and wondered whether plants such as these could be added by planting. Cheryl Clemens said that they can be planted but it can be hard to get established because of wave action. This will be discussed further.

– Deans mentioned that he would like to establish a campaign called “SOS – Save Our Shores” primarily due to recent concerns and comments by many lake residents about large wake boat waves. This campaign could also apply to boats powering on at the boat landings and to improving shoreland habitat through the Healthy Lakes Initiative by add native plantings to shorelines. He also said that some lake residents are interested in adding a loon nesting platform (raft) on the lake and some residents are looking into this.

· Other Business:

–None noted.

· Agenda for Next Meeting: Business items for the next meeting will include: Alum Treatment and Monitoring, AIS, Shoreland Zoning, Lake Management Plan-Action Plan and Committee Review, Ordinances, North Landing, Board Member Reports, and Other Business.

· Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at McMurtrie Pavilion at 5:30 PM (the meeting may be moved to Alden Town Hall, held by Zoom or another location if weather/circumstances require).

· Adjourn: **Motion to adjourn was made by Johnson, seconded by Early. Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Tom Deans, Secretary