

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes –September 26, 2023

The meeting was held at the McMurtrie Pavilion and was called to order at 5:32 P.M. on September 26, 2023 by Board chair Warren Wood.

· 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; Dan Jance and Kevin Hansen, lake residents.

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

· Public Comments: Dan Jance, lake resident at the north end, attended the meeting and wanted to discuss some issues at the north landing, including parking congestion, trash left by visitors and the washout of gravel at the boat ramp. Warren Wood started by explaining that the landing is owned by the Town of Alden and the Lake District has no authority to control how the area is managed or maintained. The parking lot is owned by the DNR. The Board members are aware of the issues brought up and have discussed them numerous times in the past. The Board can only ask Alden and the DNR to consider addressing these issues. Alden does not intend to install a trash receptacle at the landing because they feel it would create a “drop-off” area for trash and other items (tires, debris, etc.). The Board discussed considering other possible solutions such as having someone stop by to pick up trash. Board members agreed to discuss other options in the future. Parking is a significant problem on busy weekend days. Control of the parking is the jurisdiction of Polk County. The wash out below the concrete ramp is a result of boaters “powering” onto their trailers. This has resulted in a hole just below the concrete ramp and now is causing a “hill” below the hole. This is ultimately a result of the existing ramp being too short. Ted Johnson said that Alden continues to consider options to address the problem. Wood mentioned that DNR grants are available to replace the concrete ramp with a larger concrete ramp. This will be explored next year.

· Minutes: The minutes of the August 22, 2023 board meeting were reviewed. Jim Reckinger pointed out two minor corrections to be made. **Motion to approve the minutes (as corrected) was made by Reckinger, seconded by Early. Motion carried.**

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gross Available: | \$142,295.57 |
| 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) | \$7,928.00 |
| Committed to grants: | \$2,000.00 |
| Net Available Balance: | \$74,774.13 |

Jim discussed the report and recent transactions. He said that the alum treatment cost is now fully paid using both district funds and grant funds. He answered any questions from board members.

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

· Business Items:

· Alum Treatment –Dan Early and Cheryl Clemens discussed recent water quality monitoring coordinated by Bill James, the district’s alum consultant. Cheryl mentioned that Bill continues to provide emails regarding testing. Bill noted that the lake officially “turned over” (colder lower water mixing with warmer upper water) around September 6th. James mentioned that after turnover an algae bloom could occur as nutrients in the lower level will be available for algae growth in the upper level. A bloom of algae did in fact occur very close to that date as predicted by James. The Board agreed that the bloom was significant but mostly occurred near the shore and has recently subsided. Most recent testing shows that available phosphorus (algae food) is trending lower. Testing of lake water and sediment will continue through the fall. A final report will be provided by James toward the end of the year or early 2024.

· AIS

– Clean Boats Clean Waters. Jackie Elkin said inspections will end on Saturday, September 30.

–EWM. Jim Reckinger reported that he has found only 1 EWM plant in his search on the lake.

–Zebra Mussels. This is the time of the year for lake residents to look over the lifts and docks after they are removed from the lake. Dan Jance mentioned that since many lake residents hire someone to remove their equipment that maybe it would be good to ask those people who remove docks and lifts to also look. Dan said he will ask Brandon who does this work for him. Tom Deans said that he will ask Emmett Meister as well. 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. It was mentioned that the Zoning Administrator in Polk Co. (Jason) is now with St. Croix Co.

· Lake Management Plan Update: Cheryl Clemens provided the board with a document in table form entitled “Lake Plan Implementation” which lists a number of goals from the Lake Management Plan. The goals or “Actions” items listed include a number of targets. The list also includes a column for each item entitled “Assigned Lead”. The Assigned Lead would be a board member or lake resident volunteer who would follow the progress of the effort. Warren Wood said that the board members should look over the list and decide which Action item that they would be interested in and this would be discussed at the next meeting in October. The Board also discussed Committees that would be formed with the task of researching or implementing other issues concerning the lake. The committees would be composed of board members and/ or lake residents. This will be further discussed at future meetings.

· Grants: Cheryl has completed the grant application for CBCW for next year. This is to be submitted to the DNR by Jim Reckinger.

Motion to apply for Clean Boats/Clean Waters grant funds (for monitoring at the two landings) was made by Reckinger, seconded by Early. Motion Carried.

Cheryl also mentioned that the grant application for a future Alum Treatment has been completed, signed and submitted to the DNR.

Warren Wood mentioned that he has been made aware that DNR grant funds could be available for replacing of the concrete boat ramp at the north landing. This is discussed further in the North Landing section below.

- **Ordinances:** The Board discussed wake/surf boat use ordinances due to numerous complaints/comments from lake residents. At the request of board members, Cheryl Clemens did prior research regarding 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. In each case the ordinances have been passed by towns, not lake districts. Enforcement is an issue that is not clear. Cedar Lake is especially susceptible to, and concerned about, bottom sediment disturbance due to its 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. Signs have been made and will be posted soon on both landings asking wake boaters to stay in the middle of the lake and away from shore when wake surfing.

After a lengthy discussion Warren Wood said he will research whether the District can pass ordinances such as the Wake Boat ordinances discussed above.

- **North Landing:** Warren Wood said installation of electrical service for security lighting on the pole at the north landing has started. 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.

Again, the issue of the “hole” below the concrete ramp into the lake caused by boats “powering-on” to trailers was brought up. For some time Alden has said that adding more fill is not advised as there is already a “pile” created below the hole. Warren Wood said he was recently made aware that the DNR provides grant funds through their Recreational Boating Facilities Grant program. Replacing the concrete ramp, which is too short, would be included for grant funding. The grants are 50/50 matching. The next grant year starts midyear in 2024. Gina Keenan at the DNR said that if we are interested, a grant application should be submitted by the June 1st, 2024 deadline. Since Alden owns the landing and ramp they would have to apply for the grant to replace the concrete. The board agreed that the District would cover the cost for preparing a grant application to be used by Alden; Ted Johnson said the town has no one able to do this. Board members were generally supportive of the possibility of replacing the concrete ramp as this would eliminate the continual need to keep filling the hole below the ramp. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

The Board discussed (again) the trash problem at the landing which continues. Trash was found previously in the porta-potty and now in the grill stations and behind buildings. The Town of Alden has said they will not install a receptacle or dumpster because past experience has shown its use will be abused. Alden continues to evaluate options. Dan Jance, who lives near the landing, said he and other neighbors have picked up trash left by visitors. The board will continue to look at what options may be available to help with his problem, but the Lake District has no authority to act alone as the landing is owned by Alden and the lot is owned by the DNR.

Jackie Elkin said a handicapped boater visiting the lake asked if there could be handicap parking at the lot. This was discussed and will be looked at further, but again, the lot is owned by the DNR.

- **Board Member Reports:**

- The Board discussed signage at the north and south landings. Signs are made and will be installed in the near future. Warren Wood mentioned that Star Prairie Fish and Game (SPF&G) has agreed to help do the work.

- **Other Business:**

- Warren Wood mentioned that the SPF&G is a group that has done, and continues to do, many great things to improve the lake for residents as well as visitors. He thought that the District should send a Thank You to the group for all the past and on-going efforts. Board members agreed.

· 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, Grants, Ordinances, North Landing, Board Member Reports, and Other Business.

· Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at Alden Town Hall at 5:30 PM (the meeting may held by Zoom or another location if weather/circumstances require).

· Adjourn: **Motion to adjourn was made by Elkin, seconded by Early. Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Tom Deans, Secretary