

# CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2024

The meeting was held at Alden Town Hall and was called to order at 5:35 P.M. on April 23, 2024 by Chair Warren Wood.

· Roll call:

Present –Warren Wood, Dan Early, Tom Deans, Ted Johnson, Jim Reckinger (Zoom) and Jackie Elkin (Zoom).

Absent –John Bonneprise.

Also present – Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental (Zoom) and Doreen L'Allier, lake resident.

· Approval of Agenda: **Motion (Early/Johnson) to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

· Public Comments: None

· Minutes: The minutes of the March 26, 2024 board meeting were reviewed.

**Motion (Reckinger/Wood) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

· Treasurer's Report: Jim Reckinger presented the treasurer's reports for April 2024  
The report showed a summary as follows:

<b>Gross Available:</b>	\$389,183.16
Non-lapsable fund balance:	\$57,593.44
Committed to alum treatment (CD)	\$242,584.96
Additional to CD	\$2,415.04
Committed to alum treatment (non CD)	\$0.00
Committed to grants:	\$2,000.00
 <b>Net Available Balance:</b>	 \$84,589.72

Jim discussed the report and answered any questions from board members. Jim also mentioned that he is preparing the 2025 budget for initial review at the next meeting and asked board members to let him know if there are any expected expenditures that might need to be included.

**Motion (Johnson/Early) to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.**

· Business Items:

· Alum Treatment – Dan Early mentioned that the final lake monitoring report after the 2023 (4<sup>th</sup>) alum treatment from Bill James is available for viewing at the Cedar Lake website ([cedarlakewi.org](http://cedarlakewi.org)). The recommendations in James' report, together with further testing in 2024 and 2025, will determine when and what the 5<sup>th</sup> and final treatment will be.

Dan also mentioned that grant requests for Lake Monitoring (after alum treatment) submitted by other nearby lake districts have been turned down by the DNR, and that we will need to plan ahead for

an Alum Monitoring Grant for 2025. Cheryl Clemens mentioned that she is looking at possible strategies for these grant applications.

- AIS

- Clean Boats Clean Waters. Jackie Elkin said she has received interest from a number of people who might want to act as CBCW inspectors at the landing. She added that we should consider increasing the hourly pay for these workers because it is getting hard to find reliable staff at the current pay scale. After discussion by the board it was agreed to increase the pay for this important effort.

**Motion (Elkin/Reckinger) to revise the pay for CBCW boat inspectors as follows: Weekdays - from \$12/hr to \$14/hr; Weekends - from \$15/hr to \$18/hr; Holidays - \$20/hr . Motion carried.**

- EWM (and other invasive aquatic plants). Jim Reckinger mentioned that the start-up for volunteer search efforts should begin in the next month.

- Zebra Mussels. Nothing new to report.

**Zebra mussels have recently been found in Deer, Wapogasset and Balsam Lakes in Polk County. 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 after they are removed from the lake. If anything looks suspicious please contact any of the board members, Polk County or Wisconsin DNR. Contact information is listed on the Cedar Lake website.** More information including photos is provided on the Cedar Lake website ([cedarlakewi.org](http://cedarlakewi.org)) as well as the DNR website ([dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov)).

- Shoreland Zoning: Warren Wood said that he and Dan Early were made aware of shoreline excavation work taking place on the SE shore of the lake. The work was being done without a permit and St. Croix Co. has stepped in to address this issue.

- Lake Management Plan Update: Five committees were formed by the Board at the March meeting. They include:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
  - Water Quality (Alum, etc.)
  - Shoreland (protection and habitat)
  - Dam (operations and maintenance)
  - Communication & Outreach.

Scope and Responsibilities documents have been prepared for each committee and will serve as guides to committee activities. The committees are important; they will include District resident volunteers and board members to discuss and help implement goals and strategies outlined in the LMP. This will not only help us all to understand a vision for the future of Cedar Lake but it is important to help us when applying for grants available to meet these goals. The committee structures will be reviewed and updated annually.

Dan Early has reached out to lake residents to participate on various committees, including the Communications & Outreach Committee. Danielle Olson and former board member Dan Davison have

agreed to participate on the Communication & Outreach committee. If anyone is interested in participating on any of the committees outlined above, please reach out to a board member.

Jim Reckinger mentioned that it may be beneficial that a representative from one of the five committees attend each regular board meeting to discuss committee activities. Board members agreed that this was a good idea. The committee structures are in the initial stages. Lake residents interested in serving as a member of any of the committees can contact any board member. Contact info can be found at our website ([cedarlakewi.org](http://cedarlakewi.org)).

Doreen L'Allier, a lake property owner, was present at the meeting. Doreen is active with the Shoreland Committee to help gather interest in shoreland native plantings as part of the Healthy Lakes Initiative. She gave a brief presentation to discuss her recent efforts in finding and meeting lake residents who might be interested in the participating in a WDNR program. This program offers grant funds to cover up to 75% of the cost for the plantings. Doreen mentioned that she has 5 land owners with 9 projects that have signed up to take advantage of this program. Anyone interested can contact Doreen by email at [doreenlallier@gmail.com](mailto:doreenlallier@gmail.com), or by contacting any board member (email addresses at the Cedar Lake website). More information about this program is available at our website ([cedarlakewi.org](http://cedarlakewi.org)) by clicking on the "Landscaping Ideas" on the home page.

- Grants: Nothing new to report.

- Ordinances: There were two recent bills being discussed in the Wisconsin state legislature that would regulate wake boat use. One proposal was more restrictive and the other less so. Cheryl Clemens mentioned that both proposed bills appear to have died without action being taken. The District will continue to monitor this issue as many lake residents have expressed concern about large wakes from wake boats. Wisconsin Lakes ([wisconsinlakes.org](http://wisconsinlakes.org)) is a non-profit organization that is actively following this issue and is a good source of information about news and developments. This topic will be discussed at future board meetings.

Warren Wood discussed a Cedar Lake ordinance, circa 2001, that relates to limiting of the number of boat slips and piers (docks) at 2 each allowed per lot. Jim Reckinger said that he could not find documentation to verify that this ordinance was properly enacted.

As far as ordinances in general are concerned, based on recent discussions by the board, it appears that the Lake District has the authority (though limited) to pass ordinances directly affecting the lake. Along with the ability to enact ordinances the District must then address enforcement. Without enforcement an ordinance would likely have no effect. In addition any ordinance we consider could not be more restrictive than any state or county rules currently in place.

- North Landing: Warren Wood again discussed replacement of the concrete ramp at the landing. Briefly, the ramp is too short and results in constant outwash of the lake bed just below the ramp when boaters "power on" to their trailers. This causes "holes" that can significantly disrupt trailer stability. He has communicated with the Town of Alden, Garfield Township, and Polk County regarding the boat launch. He said that Polk Co has agreed to help with the design of a new ramp and we are awaiting further details. Alden owns the land and ramp. Recently, Alden was able to use long backhoe to pull gravel up to fill the "power-on" hole below the concrete ramp. Of course this is only a temporary fix.

Warren mentioned that there is also discussion about replacing the dock at the landing with an ADA compliant dock. An option being discussed to cover this and other landing improvement is

charging “launch fees” for each use of the ramp. This would not only help pay for the fairly significant upfront costs but also costs to maintain the ramp/landing. Jackie Elkin asked if a handicapped parking space could be marked in the lot. Alden owns the land and ramp at the landing. The Wisconsin DNR owns the lot.

Warren also mentioned that newly installed lights at the landing interfere with the recently installed cameras and Alden continues looking into a solution. The dock at the landing has not been installed because it will require repairs before going into the lake.

- **Board Member Reports:** Tom Deans said that steel sleeves for the dam slots were installed on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Work was done by volunteers from the district.

- **Other Business:** Board members discussed a newsletter for this year. It was agreed that a mid-year newsletter would be preferred. Cheryl Clemens agreed to help with the process.

- **Agenda for Next Meeting:** Business items for the next meeting will include: Alum Treatment and Monitoring, AIS, Shoreland Zoning, Lake Management Plan-Action Plan, Ordinances, North Landing, 2025 Budget, Board Member Reports, and Other Business.

- **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at the McMurtrie Preserve Pavilion at 5:30 PM (or by Zoom if weather or circumstances require).

- **Adjourn:** **Motion (Early/Elkin) to adjourn. Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Tom Deans, Secretary