

Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

48th Annual Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2023

Final – Approved at the 2024 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Warren Wood at 9:01 a.m. on August 5, 2023 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.

Also Present: Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental, consultant to the District.

The Commissioners introduced themselves.

Copies of the 2022 annual meeting minutes were available for attendees. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan Davison, seconded by Bud Henderson. Motion carried.**

Presentation of the 2024 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 expected 2024 costs compared to those in 2023. He mentioned that some funds budgeted for 2023 will be carried over into 2024. Jim answered a number of questions from people at the meeting. An Audit Committee, made up of Laura Peterson, Whitney Miller and Trish Gibson examined the CLP&RD financial records prior to the meeting. Laura stated that the audit was carried out and the financial records were in order. **A motion to approve the 2023 Budget and Audit Committee report was made by Pat Flynn, seconded by Vikki Jameson. Motion carried.**

Election of Commissioners. Commissioners Warren Wood and Jackie Elkin were up for re-election this year, running unopposed for 3 year terms. Election results showed Elkin was re-elected with 48 votes and Wood was re-elected with 44 votes.

PRESENTATIONS OF RECENT LAKE TOPICS

Fisheries. Kasey Yallaly, the DNR Fisheries Biologist for our area and our lake, was at the meeting to discuss two aspects of the Cedar Lake fisheries; the fish kill in late spring and tribal harvest of walleye.

Kasey said the spring fish kill is not an uncommon occurrence and happened in many other lakes in our area this year. She said that a specific cause has not been determined but that the likely cause was Columnaris bacteria which can cause such events, especially when the water temperature rises rapidly. A sudden rise in water temperature did occur in Cedar Lake at about the same time as the fish kill. More information about this bacteria and fish kills in general can be found on the WDNR website (dnr.wisconsin.gov). Kasey said that if any other fish kills are noticed or if someone notices distressed fish that she can be reached at kasey.yallaly@wisconsin.gov or 715-977-7354.

Kasey discussed the Tribal Harvest of walleye in Cedar Lake. The lake is within the ceded territory which allows tribal members to harvest walleye in our lake. She discussed how limits and quotas that the tribes are to comply with are determined. She explained how the tribes are working with the DNR to determine limits that will not harm the population and that they are as concerned with the recent decline in walleye population as everyone else. She presented the results of tribal harvest in recent years and noted that they have not exceeded the agreed-to limits. There were many questions from the audience on this subject. The

very noticeable drop in walleye numbers in Cedar Lake appears to be part of a broader decline being experienced in many lakes in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Kasey explained that there are many studies currently underway to help address this issue. She pointed out that stocking of advanced growth walleye in Cedar Lake is planned for every two years, has occurred in 2019, 2021, and will take place this year as well.

Alum Treatment and Water Quality Monitoring. Dan Early and Cheryl Clemens discussed the recently completed Alum Treatment (fourth of five planned) in Cedar Lake. Dan mentioned that the treatment occurred from July 11th to July 18th and that the process went well. The treatment was applied to depths of 20 feet and deeper. Alum was combined with buffered alum to help limit the reduction of iron in the lake. The treatment took place in late July in order for alum to help bind any phosphorus (algae food) that might be present in the water column as the alum descends. This is intended to decrease available phosphorus when turnover occurs. The next treatment will occur in 2025 or 2026, depending on the recommendations of our alum consultant, Bill James of UW Stout. Bill provides the District with advice and recommendations, including timing and dosage, for alum treatments. Bill will coordinate follow-up testing of the lake sediment and water quality this summer, and fall and provide a report discussing the results of testing later this year or early 2024. All reports provided will be made available on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>).

Board Member Presentations

Lake Management Plan Update. Cheryl Clemens talked about the recently updated Lake Management Plan. With the help of many lake residents who volunteered, important issues concerning our lake were identified and addressed in this Lake Management Plan. Updating this plan will help the District prioritize goals for improving the lake. This is very important if the District decides to apply for any available DNR grant funds.

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 feasible at this time.

Zebra Mussels have not been found in Cedar Lake to date but have been found in many nearby lakes (Deer, Wapogasset, and Balsam) as well as the St. Croix River. Please be on the lookout for these small striped-shelled mussels attached to your docks, lifts, rocks near your shore, etc. More information including pictures can be found on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>) and at the DNR website <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov>.

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. Jackie mentioned that she is constantly looking for people to work at the landings and would like to try and recruit retirees to help. This is a paid position with some funds available from DNR grants.

Near Shore Habitat. Cheryl Clemens talked about the benefits of native plants on the shores of our lake. She mentioned that many lake residents have already started to help by replacing lawn areas directly adjacent to the shore with native plants. These plantings can provide an attractive landscape feature, especially flowering varieties. She talked about the opportunity available for grant funds to cover 75% of the cost for these plantings. Doreen L'Allier has volunteered to coordinate a sign-up for interested residents. Anyone interested can contact Doreen at doreenlallier@gmail.com. More information about this program can be found on the DNR Healthy Lakes website <https://healthylakeswi.com/> or Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>).

Cedar Lake Dam. Tom Deans talked about the dam on Cedar Lake. The dam is located at the SE corner of the lake just a bit downstream on Cedar Creek. He mentioned that the Lake District owns the dam and is responsible for maintenance and operation. The dam is over 70 years old and is in generally good operating condition; however an inspection of the dam by the DNR in 2019 identified some repairs that will be needed in the near future. Estimates provided in 2020 for the needed repairs are between \$100,000 and \$180,000. Tom mentioned that the DNR does have a grant program to help fund dam repairs. The board has decided to postpone incurring repair costs until 2025 or 2026, after the final alum treatment is done and paid for. At that time we can finalize a scope of work and the cost. If grant funds are available (currently 50/50 matching with a top limit) we would submit an application. The most recent reports and historical information about the dam can be found at our website, <https://cedarlakewi.org/>.

Wake Boats. Cheryl Clemens talked about the affect of wake boats in general and specifically on Cedar Lake. There have been many comments to the board from lake residents about the number and use of these boats. These boats are designed to create very large wakes for wake surfing. Large wakes can affect shoreline erosion and smaller boats nearby. Studies have shown the “downward” thrust of these boats has been found to disturb lake bottom sediment to a depth of 20 feet and maybe deeper. This could potentially disturb the alum that has been applied. Another concern mentioned by many residents of Cedar Lake is that the ballast tanks of these boats could be a way for invasive species to “travel” from other lakes to our lake. The District has no control of the use of these boats other than posting signs at the landing requesting Wake/surf boats stay in the deeper water/middle of the lake when creating large wakes. Plans are to get signs posted at the landing in the near future.

Cedar Lake Website. Warren Wood mentioned that the District has changed our website address to <https://cedarlakewi.org/>. Our new email address is now district@cedarlakewi.org. He thanked lake resident Danielle Olson for helping make this change and improvement.

Public Comments

- Jim Drill Sr. thanked the Board and lake resident volunteers for their work.
- Craig Jameson with Star Prairie Fish and Game and lake resident talked about the Senior Pontoon Day on July 12 of this year. He said that there were 182 seniors (a record for this event) that took boat rides, attended the picnic that followed and had a great time. Craig thanked the 29 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.
- A number of residents asked about the north landing. The landing is owned by the Town of Alden and they have ultimate jurisdiction as to what is done on this land (the parking lot is owned by the DNR). Two recent issues at the landing are the recently installed security cameras and signage. The security cameras were installed by Alden and paid for by the District and Star Prairie Fish and Game. On-going

operation costs will be paid for by Alden. The cameras will only record events for one or two months and the video is not monitored but available for review if necessary. Ultimately Alden is the controlling authority for access to this video.

As far as signs at the landing Alden owns the land and therefore controls what type and how many signs are posted. The board is developing a sign plan and will submit it to Alden for approval. At this time three signs are being considered; video cameras presence, best wake boat practices and boats “powering-on” trailers.

Adjourn

Doug Flom moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Simpson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 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 3, 2024 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