

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

49TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2024

Final – Approved at the 2025 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Warren Wood at 9:02 a.m. on August 3, 2024 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.

Warren Wood started the meeting by paying tribute to Phyllis Menke who passed away recently. Phyllis was part of the McMurtrie family that donated the land at the SE area of the lake now known as the McMurtrie Preserve. Beth Wood from the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust gave a presentation about this history of this nature area and the generous donation from Phyllis. Warren also mentioned that an anonymous donor recently gave \$5,000 to the Lake District to be used for the betterment of the lake.

Copies of the 2023 annual meeting minutes were available for attendees to review. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Pat Flynn, seconded by Greg Enos. Motion carried.**

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

There were two opening commissioner positions to fill this year. Commissioners Jim Reckinger and Tom Deans were candidates for each of the 3 year terms. Election results showed Reckinger was elected with 34 votes and Deans was elected with 35 votes.

PRESENTATIONS OF RECENT LAKE TOPICS

North Landing Improvements. Warren Wood discussed the recent efforts to replace the North Landing boat ramp. The concrete ramp into the lake is too short resulting in scour of the lake bottom beyond the end of the ramp when boats power onto trailers. A longer ramp is needed to solve this problem. The concrete ramp is also deteriorating and broken in many places. The landing and ramp are owned by the Town of Alden. The parking lot is owned by the DNR. The Lake District has no control of the lot or landing but we do have a responsibility to the Lake District residents. Many residents have asked if the ramp can be improved so that their trailers don't fall into a deep hole at the bottom of the ramp. The Lake District, Star Prairie Fish and Game and Town of Alden all have an interest in improving the ramp. The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department has provided a preliminary design of a new ramp. Currently Alden is evaluating options for replacement of the concrete ramp with a longer ramp and studying options to cover the cost.

Attendees at the meeting brought up other comments/concerns with the North Landing. There is a lack of parking on busy days. People fish off the dock when others try to launch or land their boat. A question was asked about the possibility of adding a pay station to charge launch fees to help cover the cost of maintenance and repair. Warren mentioned that parking is a real problem as there are not enough spaces during busy periods. Adding more spaces is not really feasible due to lack of available land. As to fishing off the docks and adding a pay station, Warren said that the landing is owned, managed and maintained

by Alden. He recommended that any residents with any concerns about the landing should contact members of the Alden Board of Commissioners. Those names and contact info can be found at the Town of Alden website. He added that Lake District board members have brought up many of these and other issues to the Alden Board and if more residents also contact the Alden board members that may help get resolution to some of these issues.

Alum Treatment and Water Quality Monitoring. Dan Early discussed the results of recent water testing of the lake. He mentioned that past Alum Treatments have definitely improved the water quality and this is supported by the reduced phosphorous levels found in water column and released from the lake sediment. Alum is applied to the lake to chemically bind with phosphorous. This makes the phosphorous unavailable for use by undesirable blue-green algae and thus reduces those blooms. Blooms still happen when lake-turnover occurs in later summer as there is still phosphorous in the lake sediment but those blooms have been occurring later and are shorter. To date we have applied approximately 80% of the total prescribed dose of alum in 4 of the 5 planned treatments. The 5th, and last 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. The 4th treatment used buffered alum, a combination of aluminum sulfate (alum) and sodium aluminate. Buffered alum is used to limit reduction of iron in the lake. Iron is beneficial in reducing available phosphorus. The 5th treatment may also use buffered alum. It is possible that “maintenance” doses of alum and treatment to improve iron in the lake may be required after the final dose. Again, we will rely on the advice of Bill James as to the timing and type of the next treatment. Bill will continue to coordinate follow-up testing of the lake sediment and water quality this year and next year as well as after-treatment testing, as needed. All reports provided by Bill will be made available on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>).

One resident at the meeting asked about the effect of wake/surf boats on applied alum at the lake bottom. Cheryl Clemens explained that the powerful thrust of the boat’s propellers can disturb the bottom sediment to depths of 20 feet and more. This could reduce the benefit of having applied alum in the bottom sediment. Because of this the District has posted a sign at the north landing asking wake boat users to stay in the middle of the lake and at least 500 feet from any shore when creating large waves. Clean Boats Clean Water personal who work at the landing also remind all boaters to drain and clean their boats before launching onto the lake.

Board Member Presentations

Clean Boats/Clean Waters. Jim Reckinger talked about Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). Jackie Elkin is currently managing the CBCW 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. Jackie mentioned that the staff at the landings is consistent this year and doing a good job. She mentioned that there are a number of retired people helping this year. This is a paid position partially funded by DNR grants.

AIS Growth and Control. Jim 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, and others.

He mentioned that plant growth in general has been unusual heavy this year and this is likely due to the past warm winter and early ice-out. Curly Leaf Pondweed (invasive) was particularly prevalent. Many native aquatic plants are also prevalent throughout the lake. EWM has been found but is not prevalent. He mentioned that Steve Schieffer, an aquatic plant consultant for the District, has visited the lake to help

identify and map locations of plant growth. Steve has said that other lakes are experiencing similar heavy plant growth this year as well. Jim talked about treatment options. We have not done any treatments this year but some may be required next year.

Zebra Mussels have not been found in Cedar Lake to date but have been found in many nearby lakes (Deer, Wapogasset, Balsam and Bass) 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>.

Shoreland and Near Shore Habitat. Cheryl Clemens and Doreen L'Allier talked about the benefits of native plants on the shores of our lake. Doreen mentioned that many lake residents have already replaced lawn areas directly adjacent to the shore with native plants and more are signing up for this program. These plantings can provide an attractive landscape feature, especially flowering varieties. She talked about the opportunity available for grant funds to cover up to 75% of the cost for these plantings. Doreen 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. Mike Hayes is the current dam keeper and has been doing an excellent job. 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/>.

Communications and Outreach. Dan Early talked about this recently formed committee to help keep lake residents informed about important news and events concerning our lake. Danielle Olson, LeeAnn Schray and Dan Davison have volunteered their time to serve on this committee. Some improvements so far have been updating our website and working to update our email list to include more lake residents. Warren Wood said our goal is to try use email to send newsletters and other important information to lake residents to save the added time and cost of mailing paper. Warren mentioned Danielle Olson has been instrumental in improving our website and changing our website address to <https://cedarlakewi.org/>. Our new email address is now district@cedarlakewi.org.

BUDGET FOR 2025

Presentation of the 2025 Budget. Jim Reckinger discussed the budget for the coming fiscal year. Copies of the budget were available for all attendees. He discussed costs expected and talked about how expected 2025 costs compared to those in 2024. He mentioned that some funds budgeted for 2024 will be carried over into 2025. **A motion to approve the 2025 Budget was made by Vikki Jameson, seconded by Craig Enos. Motion carried.**

Audit Committee Report. An Audit Committee, made up of Whitney Miller and Trish Gibson, examined the CLP&RD financial records for FY 2024 prior to the meeting. Neither was able to attend

the meeting but Warren Wood read a statement from Whitney and Trish that stated that the audit was carried out and the financial records were found to be in order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT

·A question was raised concerning about what can be done about damage to shorelines from ice pushing on shore. Cheryl Clemens mentioned that improving shoreline plantings can help stabilize the shore, but ice can still move up on shore. Ice can also have enough force to push up rock or rip-rap on shorelines but the chance is reduced with a more gradual slope. Permits may be required for rock or rip-rap installation.

·One person asked if the Annual Meeting slide show could be made available. Cheryl said she could provide this so that it could be posted on our website.

·Craig Jameson with Star Prairie Fish and Game and a lake resident talked about the Senior Pontoon Day on July 10 of this year. He said that there were 216 seniors (a record for this event) that took boat rides, attended the picnic that followed and had a great time. Craig thanked the 33 lake residents who volunteered their time and boats for the rides. A thank you letter from Craig is posted on our website. Warren Wood added that Star Prairie Fish and Game, besides organizing the Senior Pontoon Day, has contributed to other improvements on the lake including fish cribs, upgrades at the north landing and the pavilion at the McMurtrie Preserve.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Hayes, seconded by Craig Jameson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.

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 2, 2025 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