

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

50TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2025

Preliminary – Subject to Approval at the 2026 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Warren Wood at 9:02 a.m. on August 2, 2025 at the Town of Star Prairie Town Hall.

Commissioners Present: Warren Wood-Chairman, Jim Reckinger-Treasurer, Tom Deans-Secretary, Dan Early, Danielle Olson, and Ted Johnson. Commissioners absent: John Bonneprise.

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

The Commissioners introduced themselves. Warren Wood welcomed Danielle Olson as a commissioner.

Warren Wood started the meeting by thanking Mary Coles Bruss and the Michelle Stark family, both of whom made a donation to the Lake District in memory of Nancy Coles. Nancy and her husband Don enjoyed many years at the lake.

Copies of the 2024 annual meeting minutes were available for attendees to review.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan Davison, seconded by Bud Henderson. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

There was one open commissioner position to fill this year. Commissioner Dan Early was a candidate for a 3 year term. There were no other candidates. Secret ballots were cast.

Election results showed Early was elected with 39 votes.

PRESENTATIONS OF RECENT LAKE TOPICS

North Landing Improvements. Warren Wood discussed recent efforts to replace the North Landing boat ramp. The concrete ramp into the lake is cracked, deteriorated and is too short resulting in scour of the lake bottom beyond the end of the ramp when boats power onto trailers. The landing and ramp are owned by the Town of Alden. The parking lot is owned by the DNR. The Town of Alden has agreed to replace the concrete ramp, add an accessible dock and an accessible parking space, subject to approval and receipt of a 50% matching grant from the DNR. The Lake District and Star Prairie Fish and Game have agreed to help pay for the work. The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department provided design services for the new ramp and associated improvements. If the 50% grant is approved (possibly as soon as this August) the work could start in mid-October. During this work the ramp will likely be closed for the rest of the year. Residents should be aware of this potential closure and plan their boat removal accordingly. Updates will be posted to the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>).

Alum Treatment and Water Quality Monitoring. Dan Early and Cheryl Clemens discussed the results of recent water testing of the lake. They mentioned that past Alum Treatments have definitely improved the water quality and this is supported by the reduced phosphorous levels found in the water column and released from the lake sediment. Alum is applied to the lake and settles to the bottom where it chemically binds with phosphorous that rises from lake sediment. This makes the phosphorous unavailable for use by undesirable blue-green algae and thus reduces those blooms. Blooms still happen when lake-mixing

occurs in later summer as some phosphorous “leaks” from lake sediment. Those blooms have been occurring later in the summer and are shorter. To date we have applied approximately 80% of the total prescribed dose of alum in 4 of the 5 planned treatments. It is likely that the last 20% will still be needed based on the original dose recommended by Bill James.

Bill James of UW Stout is a nationally known lake biologist/Alum treatment expert and provides the District with advice and recommendations, including timing/dosage for alum treatments. Based on testing last year Bill determined that the lake is low in iron and that is the likely cause of late season blooms. Bill has recommended, as a supplement Alum, to treat the lake with iron chloride, a chemical that can also bond with phosphorus. This application has not been done in a Wisconsin lake to date. Cheryl mentioned that the District (with help from a consultant, EOR) is in the early stage of researching the feasibility of treating the lake with iron chloride. An inquiry has been submitted to the DNR regarding this type of treatment. Bill will continue to coordinate follow-up testing of the lake sediment and water quality this year and next year. Any reports provided by Bill will be made available on the Cedar Lake website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>).

Jim Reckinger and Dan Early talked about funds for a pending Alum treatment. The District has been assessing district residents for this effort since 2017. The last assessment will be in 2026. Jim and Dan clarified that those funds are for Alum treatment only and any use of those funds for iron treatment would require approval by vote of District residents. The board is still gathering information about another Alum treatment and the feasibility of an iron treatment which Bill James has recommended. The hope is to get some idea if iron treatment is feasible (which would include approval by the DNR) as soon as possible. Warren Wood added that ongoing treatment of the lake using Alum (or other) could be an ongoing necessity to maintain clean water in the future.

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 on 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 personnel who work at the landing are asked to remind wake boaters to stay in the middle of the lake. All boaters are required by law to drain and clean their boats before launching onto the lake.

Board Member Presentations

Clean Boats/Clean Waters. Dan Early talked about Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). Leah Cody is currently managing the CBCW effort in the lake. This primarily involves coordinating staff at the north landing to check incoming boats and help prevent additional invasive species from entering the lake. Dan mentioned that the staff at the landings is consistent this year and doing a good job. He added that there are a number of retired people helping this year. This is a paid position partially funded by DNR grants. If anyone is interested in this work please contact any of the board members using our website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>)

AIS Growth and 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 Flag Iris and others.

He mentioned that plant growth in general has been heavy this year but not as heavy as last year. 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. Jim talked about treatment options. We have not done any treatments this year but some may be required next year.

Jim said that Yellow Iris is growing along the shore of the lake. About a dozen locations have been found. This rapidly spreading and invasive plant will out-compete other vegetation. A plan is in place to help eradicate this plant.

Zebra Mussels have not been found in Cedar Lake to date but have been found in many nearby lakes (Deer, Wapogasset, Balsam, Bone and Bass) as well as the St. Croix River. Minnesota, just last week, announced that they were recently found in 3 small lakes in the Lake Elmo area. 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 talked about the benefits of native plants on the shores of our lake. She 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. Anyone interested can contact a member of the lake board. 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 a good 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 2026 or beyond due to ongoing Alum treatment costs. We can finalize a scope of work and cost when the repairs are scheduled. 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. Danielle Olson talked how we keep lake residents informed about important news and events concerning our lake. Some improvements recently have been updating our website and working to update our email list to include more lake residents. Warren Wood added that 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. Danielle also mentioned that we have a number of committees, including AIS, Outreach and Shoreland/ Native Plantings that are composed of lake residents. Any residents interested in helping by joining a committee can contact any board member using our website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>) or sending an email to district@cedarlakewi.org.

BUDGET FOR 2026

Presentation of the 2026 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

2026 costs compared to those in 2025. He mentioned that surplus funds from the prior fiscal year will be moved into the Non-Lapsable Fund to cover future expense, such as repairs to the dam.

A motion to approve the 2026 Budget was made by Vikki Jameson, seconded by Lee Ann Schray. Motion carried.

Audit Committee Report. Warren Wood read a statement provided by an Audit Committee, made up of Dan Davison, Jay Schrankler and Dan Olson, that examined the CLP&RD financial records for FY 2025 prior to the meeting. It stated that the audit was carried out and the financial records were found to be in order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT

·Craig Jameson with Star Prairie Fish and Game and a lake resident talked about the Senior Pontoon Day on July 9 of this year. Craig organizes the event. He said that there were 250 seniors (a record) that took boat rides, attended the picnic that followed and had a great time. Craig thanked the 27 lake residents who volunteered their time and boats for the rides. A thank you letter from Craig is posted on our website.

·A member of the audience raised a question about the buoy at the sandbar being moved. It was done by boaters visiting the sandbar and was put back in place the next day. He also asked about adding a buoy near the shallow “delta” from Horse Creek outlet at the north side of the lake. Board members mentioned that the bottom sediment is typically soft silt from the creek. Warren Wood mentioned that adding a lake buoy can require a fairly extensive effort to get approval from the DNR.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt_____, seconded by Penny Hanson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

After the annual meeting Wood called the board (Wood, Early, Reckinger, Olson, Deans and Johnson) to convene 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 Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town of Star Prairie Town Hall (or other date, time or location to be announced, if required).

Minutes submitted by Tom Deans, Secretary