

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

51st ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2026

Preliminary – Subject to Approval at the 2027 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Warren Wood at 9:00 a.m. on August 1, 2026 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.

Copies of the 2025 annual meeting minutes were available for attendees to review.

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

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

There were two open commissioner position to fill this year. Commissioners Warren Wood and Danielle Olson were candidates for 3 year terms. There were no other candidates. Secret ballots were cast.

Election results showed Wood and Olson were elected with 31 votes each.

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 agreed to contribute funds to replace the concrete ramp, add an accessible dock and an accessible parking space, all subject to approval and receipt of a 50% matching grant from the DNR. The Lake District (CLP&RD) and Star Prairie Fish and Game (SPF&G) had 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. An application for a grant from the DNR was not successful.

Since the grant application was not successful there is a current plan to replace only the concrete ramp at this time. The other work for HC accessible features will be done later as funds become available. Warren explained that if Alden, SPF&G and CLP&RD can agree to provide the

funding for the concrete ramp only (currently estimated at \$41,000) then the work could start in October of 2026. If this occurs the ramp will 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. In a lead-up to a discussion of Alum treatments Cheryl Clemens talked about the Lake Management Plan (LMP) for Cedar Lake. This plan is very important in helping to define the goals of the District to help improve Cedar Lake. She added that updating this plan (which is planned for 2027-2028) will more clearly define what District residents consider important. In addition when applying for DNR or other grants, the LMP should include the work for those grant applications to help make the application successful. Board members will be discussing this issue at many subsequent meetings.

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 can chemically bind with phosphorous in lake sediment. This makes the phosphorous (P) unavailable for use by undesirable blue-green (B/G) algae and thus reduces those blooms. Blooms have still been occurring in later summer when lake water-mixing occurs. Lake mixing, or turnover, occurs when colder lower water rises up and mixes with warmer upper water. Some phosphorous can “leak” from lake sediment and rise up in the water column with this mixing, becoming available for B/G algae to grow toward the surface. To date we have applied approximately 80% of the total prescribed dose of alum in 4 of the 5 planned treatments. Bill James, the District’s consultant for Alum treatments, has recommended that Alum be applied in August to target the releasing P.

Bill James of UW Stout is a nationally known lake biologist/Alum treatment expert and provides the District with advice and recommendations, including timing and dosage for alum treatments.

Jim Reckinger and Dan Early talked about funds for pending Alum treatments. The District has been assessing district residents for this effort since 2017. The last assessment year was 2026 (for 2025 taxes). Based on James’ recommendation the board has decided to treat the lake this year (2026) and next (2027) using the available funds. If funds are available for a third treatment then that could occur in 2028. 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. This will be evaluated based on testing after upcoming treatments are completed.

Board Member Presentations

Wake/Surf Boats. A number of residents at the meeting had questions about the effect of wake/surf boats on applied alum at the lake bottom. Cheryl Clemens provided slides to address this topic. She 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. Large wakes cause shore erosion and disturb other boaters. 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 at depths of 25 feet and more, and at least 600 feet from any shore when creating large waves. Clean Boats Clean Water personnel who work at the landing might to remind wake boaters to stay in the middle of the lake. All boaters are required by state law to drain and clean their boats before launching onto the lake and maintain no wake within 100 feet from shore.

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 in recent past years. 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 and that we have not done any treatments this year. He added that the DNR is becoming more reluctant to allow herbicide treatments.

Jim said that Yellow Iris has grown along the shore of the lake. A number of locations have been found. This rapidly spreading and invasive plant is toxic and will out-compete other vegetation. Recent treatment efforts have been successful in eradicating known beds.

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. 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>.

Jim talked about Filamentous algae (a native) which has been a problem this year. This stringy, "slimy" algae grows early in the year but gradually declines as the summer progresses. He said other native plants have also been an issue on our lake including Small Pond Weed and others. Heavy plant growth, in general, has been occurring in the last few years. Many of these plants grow early in the year and then die-off as the summer progresses. Controlling native aquatic plants is difficult. The DNR is very reluctant to allow treatment or harvesting. Hand pulling of plants by residents is allowed in front of their property but is typically restricted to a 30 feet wide "navigation" strip only. Weed harvesters are used on other lakes but it is important to note that this practice is similar to mowing your lawn, the plants tend to grow back.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters. Dan Early talked about Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). Declan Grubbs 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 some 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/>)

Shoreland and Near Shore Habitat. Cheryl Clemens briefly presented information about the benefits of native plants on the shores of our lake. Replacing lawn areas directly adjacent to the shore with native plants is very beneficial to the health of the lake. 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/>).

Shoreland Zoning. Warren Wood talked about zoning requirements on our lake. Our lake is in two counties, St. Croix at the south portion and Polk at the north portion. Both counties have ordinances that control what can and can't be done on lake lots. He said that if someone suspects that there is non-conforming work being done on lake lots that they can contact the counties directly. Contact information is provided on our website: cedarlakewi.org.

Cedar Lake Dam. Tom Deans talked about the dam on Cedar Lake. The dam is an "operable" dam and 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 adds or removes "boards" as needed to maintain the lake level within a range established by the DNR. It was a dry winter and has been below average for rainfall so far this year. This has presented a challenge to maintain the lake level.

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. The board has decided to postpone incurring repair costs until 2027 or beyond due to ongoing Alum treatment costs. 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. Updating our email list to include more lake residents is very important. Anyone can sign up for our email list by going to our website (<https://cedarlakewi.org/>) clicking on "Stay Up-to-date by joining our email list". 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 2027

Presentation of the 2027 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 2027 costs compared to those in 2026. 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 2027 Budget was made by Jay Schrankler, seconded by Michelle Reinhardt. Motion carried.

Audit Committee Report. Michelle Reinhardt read a statement provided by an Audit Committee, made up of herself, Jay Schrankler and Dan Olson, that examined the CLP&RD financial records for FY 2026 prior to the meeting (per Wisconsin State Statute). It stated that an 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 209 seniors that took boat rides. Many attended the picnic that followed in Star Prairie and had a great time. Craig thanked the lake residents (approx. 27) who volunteered their time and boats for the rides.

·A question was raised about harvesting of carp in our lake. Wood mentioned that harvesting carp has been done in the past but there seems to be little interest in it at this time.

·A question was asked about the fish cribs and whether repair has been considered. The cribs are almost 20 years old. Wood said that there has been no talk of this as far as he is aware. Star Prairie Fish and Game installed the cribs and he said will bring this question up at a meeting of the group.

·A question was asked about fish stocking the Cedar Lake. Lake resident Craig Jameson is well versed on this subject and said that the DNR will continue a three year cycle of stocking walleye and muskies but there have been some recent reductions on numbers of stock fish.

·A question was asked about charging launch fees at the north landing. Ted Johnson said that the Town of Alden, who owns the ramp and land, is not considering this at this time.

·Vikki Jameson thanked the board members for volunteering their time to serve the Lake District.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vikki Jameson, seconded by Curt Lake. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 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 7, 2027 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