



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## Board of Commissioners Meeting May 5, 2025

### Minutes

#### I. *Call to Order*

Mary Therese Breger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All commissioners were present, as were District residents Chuck McGrady and Jaimee Maples. Three individuals attempted to attend virtually, but technical difficulties with the Zoom audio precluded their attendance for the meeting's duration.

#### II. *Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2024 Meeting*

Brian Treinen moved, and Pam Tukesbrey seconded the motion to approve minutes of the October 7, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. *Treasurer's Report*

Mark Wagor presented the Treasurer's report. There have been few (5.9% of 2025 Budget) YTD Operational Expenses. The most notable was the \$4,400 payment to SEWRPC for the Lake User Survey. YTD Revenues have been \$78,347.68 (67% of 2025 Budget). Tax levies (\$57,655) represented the largest portion of that amount. As of May 3, 2025, the District's checking account balance was \$77,734.10 and CD balances \$51,220 and \$80,795, respectively, resulting in total cash and investments on hand of \$209,749. Breger moved and Treinen seconded the motion to approve the report, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. *Old Business*

##### A. *Operations*

##### 1. *Weed harvesting*

##### a. *Harvester update*

Jeff Geib provided an update on the weed harvester. Installation of the wash down system was performed at the time of the harvester's annual maintenance. Geib anticipates launching the harvester the week of May 12th.

##### b. *Proposed 2025 harvesting schedule*

The harvesting schedule was projected at the meeting. If there is sufficient milfoil emergence to warrant it, harvesting will commence May 27. If not, it will be postponed until June 10, and continue every other Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with pier pickups on Thursdays of harvesting weeks. The schedule may be altered due to weather. The youth crew that assists with pier pickups returns to school on Tuesday, September 2. Given the seasonal uprooting of eelgrass in late August and early September, and subsequent associated demand for pier pickups at that time, we anticipate some adjustments in the later-season schedule to accommodate such.

The harvesting schedule has been posted to the LCLPRD website, and notices of upcoming pier pickups will likewise be posted to the website's home page (News & Notices) a few days prior.

##### 2. *Lake patrol*

a. The Board discussed and agreed that Lake Patrol will commence Memorial Day weekend. The patrol boat will be launched the week of May 12 in anticipation.

##### b. *Updated Water Ordinance*

i. At the October 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board voted to modify Water Ordinance 2020-1.04, definition of Water Traffic Lanes, by changing the initial distance cited in the definition from 150 feet to 200 feet. The Board also voted to repeal 2020 – 1.10 (b)(i), which allowed for a boat operator to tow a tube at slow, no wake speed for 30 minutes after sunset.

- ii. GPS coordinates for the new buoy locations were determined in March, and Breger submitted an application for a new buoy permit to the WDNR. LCLPRD received the permit on April 11, 2025. The buoys were re-cabled to accommodate the new depths and installed on May 1, 2025.
  - iii. The Modified Water Ordinance has been posted to the LCLPRD website and shared with the Lake Patrol. Per Water Safety Patrol Chief Jeff Rollins, the Ordinance signage at Ackerman's public launch requires updating to comply with State law. The law requires posting at public access points of any local Ordinance more restrictive than State Boating Law; signs must clearly state "Local Ordinance" in three inch lettering, and regulations more restrictive than State Law must appear in one inch lettering. Breger and Treinen will work with the County to update the Ordinance and Wake Surfing Recommendation signage posted at the public boat launch.
3. *Update on "new" patrol/harvester access pier*  
The new pier held up well over the winter; it was moved a little bit (~1/2") by the ice. Minor adjustments were made to made tighten the joints, and some O-rings were replaced, which stabilized the pier.

*B. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) update*

1. *Starry Stonewort/Purple Loosestrife/Yellow Flag Iris*

a. *Starry Stonewort (SSW)*

Breger met with Heidi Bunk (WDNR Lakes Biologist), Patrick Siwula (WDNR SE Region AIS Coordinator) and Amanda Schmitz (Washington County AIS Coordinator) on April 23 to discuss the 2025 plan for SSW containment in/on Little Cedar. LCLPRD had a single hand pull event in 2024 (June 29). It addressed the area in the vicinity of the launch, as well as a large SSW population in the outlet channel leading to the dam. The hand pull efforts have been effective in managing the biomass of SSW near the launch. A sub-Point Intercept (PI) evaluation on August 24, 2024 demonstrated a small population of SSW under the lily pads near the launch, but a lot of biodiversity in other areas in which small amounts of SSW were detected. The WDNR's impression is that we are achieving our goal of limiting dissemination of SSW to other areas of the lake by boat propellers. However, quadrat evaluations of the channel area on July 22 and August 22 revealed that the entire area that had been addressed by the hand pull had recolonized with SSW. The WDNR attributes the re-growth to the mineral content and gentle flowing of the water as it goes toward the dam. The height of the new growth remained low. Given the low density of boat traffic in that area, and lack of SSW growth toward the surface, the WDNR feels there are diminishing returns from additional hand pulls in that area (i.e., the more we disturb the SSW, the more likely we will stimulate its growth). The recommendation is to proceed with a single diver-assisted hand pull event in the vicinity of the launch. This has been scheduled for Saturday, July 12, 2025. Breger has applied for an NR109 harvesting permit and will arrange for divers. The County has agreed to close the launch until 1PM that day. This is the final year of our second Early Detection & Response (EDR) grant. Breger discussed options for SSW containment with the ASI group with whom she met on April 23. We are not eligible to apply for another EDR. We would have to apply for a Competitive Grant, which has become highly competitive, with few applicants receiving grant awards. Since the nature of our project is maintenance, it wouldn't score highly. Another option would be to self-pay for continued diver-assisted hand pull events. This would require us to append our current Aquatic Plant Management Plan with goals and metrics and obtain either an annual or multi-year NR109 harvesting permit. We will need to re-visit this subject when planning for 2026.

b. *Purple Loosestrife*

The overwintered pots containing purple loosestrife (PL) plants have been removed from the LCLPRD storage building, are netted, and are being cultivated in anticipation of the introduction of *Galerucella* beetles.

c. *Yellow flag iris*

The LCLPRD plans to continue education of property owners on identification of invasive yellow flag iris and methods to limit its spread. An overview of the plant, how to identify it and ways to limit its spread will be included in the annual Newsletter.

2. *Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)*
    - a. Breger applied for, and obtained, a CBCW grant for 2025. The grant funds will provide at least 200 hours of boat inspections provided by BCLPRD seasonal staff. We received a prepayment of \$750 on January 10.
    - b. A boat inspection training class was held at the BCLPRD the week of April 28. There will be a pool of boat inspectors to cover the public launches on Big and Little Cedar this summer. Julie Riley attempted to staff the launches for opening fishing weekend, but most inspectors had conflicts (i.e., local proms on May 3). The inspection schedule will include weekend shifts at the Ackerman's launch between now and end of school year; after that, we will have inspectors on various weekdays, too.
  3. *Boat wash station for Ackerman's Grove*
    - a. Washington County was successful in receiving a WDNR grant to help cover expenditures related to installation of the boat wash station (estimated cost was ~\$24,000, grant should cover 75%. LCLPRD pledged \$2,500 for the project at the October 2024 meeting).
    - b. The County plans to pour the concrete pad in June or July.
    - c. An Eagle Scout candidate will build the structure for the power washer.
  4. The LCLPRD continues our commitment to the AIS Coordinator position – our current pledge expires this year (we will receive an invoice in July). LCLPRD will be asked to partner again with the County in 2026 and 2027. We currently contribute \$5000/year to the effort.
- C. *Citizen Lake Monitoring update*
- Bob Fitts and Chuck McGrady conducted their first lake analysis of the season after ice-off on March 15. Water clarity was only 12 feet (compared to 17 feet in March 2024), temperature, 43.5°F from the surface down to 25 feet (as far as they measured). Dissolved oxygen was high and steady to that depth at 13.7 mg/L. The team's plan is to go out again in May, continue twice monthly monitoring and report to the LCLPRD monthly. Their data can be accessed in the WDNR SWIMS database.
- D. *Lake levels / dam management*
- Three boards had been removed from the LCL dam on 11/23/24 and remained out all winter. Two boards were removed from the BCL dam on that day and likewise remained out all winter. Water flowed freely across both dams all winter. Additional single boards were removed from LCL and BCL dams on 3/31 and 4/3, respectively, due to an increase in lake levels above Ordinary High Water Marks (OHWMs). On 4/10, LCL was 2" low, so all boards (4) were replaced. BCL was at its OHWM that day, so all boards were replaced there, as well. Breger received a call from a local resident on 4/14 regarding the fact that Cedar Creek was a virtual mud flat in the area near the bridge on Pleasant Valley Road and associated concerns about the implications a dry creek bed would have for animal life as well as for the potential proliferation of cattails, and other vegetation that could obstruct creek flow. Management of the LCL dam was questioned. When the lake level and dam were checked a few hours later, LCL was 0.5" below its OHWM. All boards remained in, but water was flowing over the dam into the proximal segment of Cedar Creek. This was conveyed to the resident, as was the fact that our responsibility is to maintain LCL as close to its OHWM as possible. We received rain on 4/18, LCL rose to 0.5" above its OHWM and a center board was removed from the dam. By this time, flow had resumed in the segment of Cedar Creek near Pleasant Valley Road. Since that time, additional boards have been removed from both dams in response to slightly elevated lake levels. As of 4/26, BCL was 0.5" above its OHWM with two boards out. As of the morning of 5/5/25, LCL is at its OHWM with three boards out of the dam.
- E. *Ackerman's Grove County Park*
1. *Departure of Assistant Natural Resources Director*  
Logan Bliss will be leaving his position on May 8. Logan has been a great partner with the LCLPRD and will be missed. The Natural Resources/Parks staff with whom the LCLPRD will partner include the following: Amanda Schmitz remains our point of contact for CBCW and AIS and is also part of the Water Health Initiative; Brett Scherer will be Logan's interim replacement for administering contracts and projects; he is also part of the Water Health Initiative. Beau Fitter is the Parks Supervisor and will oversee Parks staff and day-to-day operations of the park system. Samantha Murray is the County Parks Business Services Manager and is our contact for new signage at Ackerman's Grove.
  2. *LCLPRD Storage Building*
    - a. Updates on maintenance items discussed at October 2024 meeting: Geib confirmed plywood wall had been repaired. Gutters have not yet been addressed. Geib & Treinen will investigate gutter cleaning and gutter guard replacement.

- b. Issues continue with the exterior door and door lock. Installation of a digital keypad was suggested. Geib will evaluate options.
  - c. Patrol office – Treinen will assume responsibility for a weekly check in for trash, etc., stocking of refrigerator with water for patrol, monitoring/emptying the dehumidifier.
3. *Plan for monitoring of parking restriction enforcement*  
The LCLPRD will continue to work with the County to monitor enforcement of vehicle/trailer parking restrictions at Ackerman's Grove. A volunteer committee for the purpose of enhanced weekend surveillance at the park was suggested. This will be given further consideration and addressed at the June LCLPRD meeting.

F. *LCLPRD Communications update*

The new format (i.e., MailChimp) for LCLPRD emails has been well-received by recipients. Communications Chair Jaimee Maples requests content suggestions for emails and the Annual Newsletter. Given the transition to a new printer, mailing of the Newsletter may be a bit later this year. Our current website platform with Town Web is overdue for an update, and Maples is likewise evaluating their proposal, as well as other website options.

G. *Fish stocking update*

Wagor provided an update on fish stocking activity. In November 2024, the LCLPRD paid Taal Lake Hatchery to stock Little Cedar with ~2100 four-to-six inch perch. The total price was a bit more than budgeted, however, for the increased price we received larger and a higher quantity of stock. Walleyes For Tomorrow hatchery operations are currently underway at the Cedar Bay Association, Inc. (CBAI) launch. The team has incubated approximately 1.2 million fry, which are in the process of being released. Typical survival rate is ~1%.

H. *Geese*

Breger applied for and obtained (in March) a Goose Nest & Egg Depredation Permit, which allows for removal or destruction of Canada Goose nests and eggs. An email was sent to the LCLPRD database on April 1 which included a photo of a nest with eggs and video demonstration of egg addling. Despite this public service announcement, only one nest was identified, and three eggs treated. Unfortunately, seven goslings have recently been sighted on LCL, so at least one nest went unnoticed. Addressing nests and eggs in the spring remains our best opportunity to limit the goose population on LCL. We have funds budgeted for a round-up in June, however, a minimum number (40) of geese required for round up and we typically don't reach that number on the lake. If requirements for round up are met LCLPRD will need to notify USDA/APHIS by June 1, 2025.

V. *New Business*

A. *Presentation of Washington County Draft Outline for Little Cedar Lake Management Plan*

Given the technical difficulties experienced with the Zoom audio, Katherine Wilson, Conservation Project Coordinator, Washington County Land & Water Division, presented by phone the County's plan for facilitation of Lake Management Plans for Little Cedar, Pike and Freiss Lakes. The completion of the plan will take place in three phases over a period of three years. Washington County has received a Surface Water Planning Grant and will kick off Phase 1 in 2025. This phase will consist of collecting updated data and completing analyses needed for the plan. Phase 2 will be conducted in 2026 and will include analysis of the collected data to write a draft plan, identify projects to be included in the plan which will qualify for DNR implementation grants LCLPRD can apply for to get funding for execution. Phase 3 will take place in 2027 and consist of presentation of the plan to the DNR, and application for project implementation grants. The 2025 data collection will include Water Quality Sampling (to include waterbody assessment and baseline chemistry), Shoreline Inventory Survey (land use, percent of shoreline developed), Septic System Review, Watershed Pollutant Modeling, Boat Count Survey and a Lake User Survey.

B. *Review Lake User Survey results*

Lake User Survey results were collected and analyzed. 248 surveys were distributed to LCLPRD constituents, 104 surveys were completed by the January 10, 2025 deadline. Most respondents live in the Town of West Bend and live either directly on or have access to the lake. Bob Fitts worked closely with Justin Poinsett of SEWRPC on survey methodology, drafting the questions and data analysis. Neither were available to attend the meeting so an in-depth discussion on the results was postponed until the June LCLPRD meeting.

C. *Upcoming LCLPRD events*

- 1. Boat Parade: July 3 @ 7PM
- 2. Summer Social: August 3 @ 3PM, Shelter 3 @ Ackerman's Grove

*D. 2025 Meeting Schedule*

1. The 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule was presented. All meetings are at the Town of West Bend Town Hall and begin at 6:30 p.m. The remaining 2025 meeting dates are as follows:
  - a.* June 2
  - b.* July 7
  - c.* August 4
  - d.* Sept 2 (Annual meeting)
  - e.* Oct 6
  - f.* Nov 3 (tentative)
  - g.* Dec 1

VI. Adjourn

- I. There being no other new business Wagor moved and Breger seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Treinen  
Secretary, LCLPRD