



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting September 3, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was held at the Town of West Bend Town Hall. At least 90 District residents, property owners and other interested parties attended in-person; three individuals attended the meeting virtually. Eighty-eight (88) ballots were distributed to eligible electors. Chair Mary Therese Breger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, she commenced the meeting by introducing the Little Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (LCLPRD) Board of Commissioners and then addressed meeting protocol.

II. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

The Draft Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were included with meeting materials mailed to District property owners. There were no suggested revisions to the Draft Minutes. Brian Treinen moved, and Breger seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Report on 2023 Financial Review and 2024 Year to Date Financial Position

This item was postponed until New Business, when it could be discussed in conjunction with the presentation of the 2025 Proposed Budget and Tax Levy.

IV. Old Business/Reports

A. District Communications

1. Breger thanked Jaimee Minney Maples for her help with District communications this summer. She has streamlined email communication by establishing a MailChimp account. Breger encouraged anyone who is not currently in the LCLPRD email database to provide their email address to lclprd@gmail.com in order to stay apprised of LCLPRD notices and events. Maples has also assumed responsibility for conducting virtual transmission of monthly LCLPRD meetings, as well as the Annual Meeting.
2. LCLPRD website (<https://lclprd.org>)
The website is very basic, but serves its purpose of communicating news of meetings, events, pier pickups of weeds, etc. It requires an update, which will be implemented in the near future. Subscribing to the website (<https://lclprd.org/subscribe/>) enables one to receive immediate notification of new posts.

B. Lake Operations

1. Lake Patrol
Breger introduced Officer Mark Riley, who presented a report of 2024 Lake Patrol activity provided by the Big Cedar Lake PRD (BCLPRD) and answered attendee questions. There were 274.25 hours of patrol on Little Cedar this summer, during which 22 citations and 48 verbal warnings were issued. An itemized list of cited violations was projected on the meeting screen.
2. Sheriff's Office Water Patrol
Breger presented a report provided by Washington County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Alex Herriges. Sheriff's Office water patrol hours were significantly fewer this year due to rain cancellations in June. There were four Sheriff's patrols on Little Cedar (one each during May, June, July, August), totaling 21.4 hours, during which two citations and three warnings were issued.

3. Weed Harvesting

- a. The LCLPRD must apply for a new harvesting permit from the DNR every five years. Our previous permit expired on 12/31/23. A new Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan is required for permit renewal, and in anticipation of such, SEWRPC conducted a full plant survey in August 2023 and prepared the APM over the winter. We received our new harvesting permit on June 6, and harvesting commenced on June 11 (ninth season with our own harvester). The new conveyor trailer provided increased flexibility and efficiency to harvesting operations. However, the weed population was substantially less robust this year than in previous years, so the number of harvested loads was significantly decreased. Breger thanked Jeff Geib (LCLPRD harvesting liaison), Ron Schmoldt & Dennis Jarvis (harvester operators) and the seasonal crew who provided another great season of service on Little Cedar. The final days of harvesting will most likely be September 10 and 11, with pier pickups on September 12. This will be confirmed by email.
- b. The LCLPRD invested in a new, permanent, 50' access pier for the patrol boat and harvester this year.

C. Wake Boat Study Committee Recommendations

In response to concerns raised in 2023 pertaining to the effects of wake boat activity on Little Cedar, Breger announced the formation of a Wake Boat/Wake Surf Committee at the 2023 Annual Meeting and subsequently appointed Brian Treinen as Committee Chair. Breger thanked Treinen and the Committee members for their efforts in this endeavor. The Committee met over the winter and presented their findings and recommendations at the LCLPRD Meeting on May 6. Treinen provided an Annual Meeting summary of the Committee's recommendations, which included an End of Season survey. The survey will be incorporated into the Lake User Survey, a description of which will be included in the Comprehensive Plan discussion.

D. Aquatic Invasive Species

1. Starry Stonewort

- a. Starry Stonewort (SSW) is an invasive macroalga that was first detected in Little Cedar in 2018. It is introduced into water bodies via ballast water and via boat propellers, etc. Since 2019, we have used grant funds to address its containment, specifically, through diver-assisted hand pulls in the area of the boat launch and an emphasis on Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) practices and education. While the ecological impacts of SSW are not fully understood, the current thinking is that native aquatic vegetation provides a good source of competition for it, and SSW growing among natives should be left alone. Late last summer, a large monocultural patch of SSW was detected on the south end of the lake in the channel leading to the dam. We addressed that patch, as well as several smaller monocultural patches near the launch at Ackerman's, with a diver-assisted hand pull event on June 29. The event team included 18 volunteers, four divers, the WDNR SE WI Regional AIS Coordinator and LTE and the Washington County AIS Coordinator and AIS intern. In terms of amount of biomass removed, this was the most productive hand pull event in five years. Seventy-three (73) bags of biomass were removed from the patch in the channel, and 28 bags from the vicinity of the launch. The harvested areas were evaluated by quadrat and sub Point Intercept (PI) studies in late July, and again in late August. The areas near the launch demonstrated very little SSW, and that present is growing among native aquatic vegetation. However, the area in the channel leading to the dam showed signs of recolonization, although the entire population was at least two feet below the surface. Debulking efforts were evident. The WDNR recommended we address the area near the launch and channel area again next year. As this is the last year of our second grant, Breger applied for (and received) a grant extension.
- b. Full Point Intercept study late August
As specified in our Starry Stonewort grant, a full PI study was conducted by SEWRPC last week. The data will not be analyzed for several months, but preliminary findings indicate that native aquatic species are diverse and robust throughout Little Cedar. The maximum

depth of plant colonization is about 18 feet (similar to last year). Starry Stonewort (SSW) populations have increased slightly to moderately since last year. Most SSW is interspersed with native vegetation. Surveyors observed a fair amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil around the lake, but rarely in dense, monocultural populations.

- c. Next steps – SEWRPC will analyze data from the full PI and Breger will meet with the DNR over the winter to discuss SSW containment plans for 2025.
2. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)
 - a. Breger applied for, and received, a grant that covers 75% of the cost to have BCLPRD seasonal staff provide boat inspections at the public launch. At least 209 hours of boat inspections were provided by BCLPRD staff this summer.
 - b. Seventy-six (76) hours of boat inspections were likewise provided by the Washington County AIS intern. The LCLPRD's annual donation to the AIS program (\$5,000) helps pay for the intern's salary.
 - c. Cumulatively (BCLPRD staff and AIS intern), this summer there were 287 hours of boat inspections, 406 boats inspected and 654 encounters with individuals at the public launch.

3. Purple Loosestrife

Breger thanked Sylvia Hillmann, Mike Mosley, Mary Ellen Fitts and Ron Bartos for their efforts in this year's biocontrol project to limit the spread of invasive purple loosestrife (PL). In the fall, the group harvested some of the plants used last summer and overwintered ten of them in the LCLPRD storage building. They were retrieved in the spring and cultivated in kiddie pools. In May, *Galerucella* beetles were retrieved and placed on the PL plants for propagation. Once the number of beetles had significantly increased, and substantial beetle activity observed, the plants with beetles were placed in areas of dense PL populations on the north end of Ackerman's Grove. In early August, Hillmann noted large beetle populations in those areas, and many leaf holes and plant damage in areas that have been part of the project for the past three years. This is a dramatic increase from the first year or two when only 20-30% of the plants had holes in them by late summer. The goal is to supersaturate the plants with beetles so as to stunt their growth and diminish blooming, which decreases seed propagation. Stunting PL plants also allows native plants to grow and better compete for space, leading to improved plant and animal habitats. The team plans to retrieve the ten PL pots and also plant ten more this fall for overwintering. They are seeking volunteers to help with monitoring and watering the PL plants in fall and spring. Hillmann's contact information was provided for those interested in helping with this project.

THE COMMISSIONER ELECTION FOLLOWED THE PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE report (7:30 p.m.). Breger made a call for nominations from the floor. There were none. The two candidates (Jaimee Minney Maples and Brian Treinen) each delivered brief statements, following which, electors were given an opportunity to cast their ballots. Ballots were counted by three non-District individuals and election results reported following the Citizen Lake Monitoring Report.

4. Yellow Flag Iris

Yellow flag iris another invasive found along the shoreline of Little Cedar (south end and kettle). During summer 2023, Ron Bartos spearheaded a group effort to remove yellow iris plants from the south end shoreline, as well as to educate homeowners on the merits of removing seed heads if the entire plant cannot be removed. Bartos and volunteers continued their efforts on August 21 and removed more yellow iris plants along ~140 feet of the south end shoreline. Volunteers (Bartos, Dan deSnoo, Chuck McGrady, Joe Garstecki, JoAnn Bartos and Mike Borchardt) worked in kayaks and in the water in waders, removing significant amounts of this invasive plant.

5. Banded Mystery Snail

Amanda Schmitz, Washington County AIS Coordinator, notified Breger that the Banded Mystery Snail (BMS) was documented at the Ackerman's fishing pier on May 23. BMS are very common in lakes in our area, being present in Big Cedar, Silver, Green, the Milwaukee River, etc., and

have likely been present unreported in Little Cedar for some time. Impacts of this species are largely unknown, aside from competition with native snails for resources. They have also been identified as a host for trematode parasites that infect waterfowl but are not a known host for *Schistosoma* (swimmers itch parasite). No effective biological control is known.

E. Ackerman's Grove County Park

1. A repaving project in late June necessitated closure of the public launch for a number of days. It re-opened on July 4.
2. The Parks Department plans installation of a pressure washer for cleaning boats in the parking lot adjacent to the vehicle-trailer lot. It plans to apply for a WDNR Surface Water Grant to help defray associated expenses.
3. The LCLPRD storage building project has been completed. Structural issues were identified several years ago, causing the east wall to bow. The issues have been addressed by measures taken both inside and outside of the building. Breger thanked Treinen for spearheading the project, and Greg Peters for his assistance in identifying contractors for the various stages of it.
4. Enforcement of inside-the-park parking restrictions, especially for vehicle/trailer units
 - a. Blatant disregard for parking restrictions remains a huge problem, especially on busy weekend days.
 - b. The Weekend Parks staff were authorized to issue parking citations mid-summer 2022, but there was only one staff member to cover six Washington County Parks on weekends, so enforcing parking Ackerman's Grove was not prioritized. In 2023, Parks staff issued only two citations. This year, the Parks budget was increased to allow for three weekend Staff. However, their hours are 8AM to 4PM, and they are still stretched pretty thinly. Breger reported that on two occasions when she called to report violations, Parks staff suggested she call the Sheriff, as they would not be able to get to Ackerman's by the end of their shift.
 - c. A total of 15 citations have been written by Parks staff this summer, 12 of which were written on August 25. On that afternoon, shortly after 1:00 PM, all 17 vehicle/trailer parking spots were full, 11 vehicle/trailer units were illegally parked within the Park, and three boats were waiting to launch. In addition, four vehicle/trailer units were parked on Hwy Z. Reportedly four or five more were added to the group on Hwy Z later in the afternoon, likely from the group waiting to launch. Parks Department staff was on-site, and the Sheriff's Office also called. Both Parks Staff and the Sheriff's deputy were told by at least one individual waiting to launch that he would willingly accept the \$50 ticket, then proceeded to park illegally. The numbers reflect at least 37 extra boats on Little Cedar that afternoon, which certainly has implications for lake carrying capacity and safety. In addition, vehicle/trailer units parked along Hwy Z present a hazard to those entering and exiting the park. County Supervisor Konrath was in attendance at the Annual Meeting and assured attendees she would pursue these issues with County leadership.

F. Lake Levels/Dam Management

There continues to be excellent communication and cooperation between the management committees of the Big Cedar Lake (BCL) and Little Cedar Lake (LCL) dams. This is the second year in a row that we have not needed to implement a Slow, No Wake restriction due to an Emergency High Water declaration. In spite of significant precipitation from late May to mid August, neither lake ever exceeded 4" above its Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), and, for the most part, the levels at both lakes were maintained at less than or equal to 2" above their respective OHWMs. As of today (Sept 3), LCL was 0.5" below its OHWM, with all boards in at its dam. The BCL level was at its OHWM yesterday with all boards in. Many thanks to the members of the CLCF that manage the Big Cedar dam: Mike Nast, Mike Voss and Linda Mutschler, and the Little Cedar Lake team of Mary Therese Breger, Jeff Geib, Tom Zernia, Sylvia Hillmann and Mike Mosley.

G. Citizen Lake Monitoring (CLM)

Breger thanked Bob Fitts, Chuck McGrady and Joe Garstecki, who resumed our CLM program last summer after it had lapsed seven years. The group has increased the scope of its monitoring efforts this year to include twice monthly measurements in both the “big” lake and kettle of water temperature, clarity, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus and chlorophyll. They also monitored the zebra mussel population this year. A three-year grant from the WDNR covers the cost of laboratory analysis of samples submitted to the State Lab. Bob Fitts presented this season’s data, which is documented in the SWIMS database, and reflects a very healthy Little Cedar Lake.

THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSIONER ELECTION WERE REPORTED FOLLOWING THE CLM REPORT: Eighty-eight (88) ballots were distributed and cast. Brian Treinen received 49 votes; Jaimee Minney Maples received 38 votes. One ballot was returned unmarked. Treinen was elected to another three-year Commissioner term.

H. Recap of Boat Parade and Summer Social

- a. The decreasing participation in the Annual Boat parade was discussed at the 2023 Annual Meeting, and a decision made to discontinue the July 4 tradition and have the parade on July 3. Eleven boats participated in this year’s parade on July 3, which represented an encouraging increase in participation over the past several years (six boats in 2023). Several format changes were implemented this year (date change, request for judges, parade marshal), which were well received. The parade was associated with a lot of energy and enthusiasm from both participants and shoreline observers. There was a judges’ tie for Most Patriotic (Zernia & Voigt Family boats). The Petrie Family received the award for best decorated, and the Breger Family for Most Creative. July 4, 2025 is a Friday. A show-of-hands vote showed a strong preference for a July 3 (over July 4) Boat Parade again in 2025.
- b. Summer Social
The Summer Social is traditionally held on the first Sunday in August. This year’s event was on Sunday, August 4 at the large shelter at Ackerman’s Grove County Park. Breger thanked Pam and Jim Tukesbrey for all they did to ensure the event’s success. It was a beautiful day, and the shelter accommodated the group well. Although 54 individuals indicated they would attend, 40 came that day. The LCLPRD provided the shelter rental, meat, paper products and condiments. Attendees brought their own beverages and appetizers, salads and desserts based on the first letter of their last name. There was no shortage of good food or good company!

I. Fish stocking

- a. This Spring, LCLPRD once again worked with Walleyes for Tomorrow to stock the lake with walleye. As in previous years, the Cedar Bay Association, Inc. (CBAI) launch served as the staging area for hatchery operations. District volunteers assisted with the project, which resulted in the release of over one million walleye fry.
- b. The LCLPRD plans to again work with Taal Lake Hatchery to stock Little Cedar with ~2000 four-to-six inch perch in October or November.

J. Goose Abatement

There are two ways to address the perennial nuisance issue of Canada Geese on Little Cedar: attempt to limit the population by removing or destroying nests or eggs in the spring or rounding up the mature geese when they’re molting in mid-to-late June. We again applied for (and received) a Canada Goose nest and egg depredation permit from the WDNR. A lake resident identified a nest on his shoreline in the spring, and per the permit, oiled the eggs, thus decreasing our potential goose population by six. Although we again budgeted for a round-up, the minimum number of geese required for such is now 40. (We had 14-17 geese observed this year). It appears the better of the two methods of limiting the Canada Goose population on Little Cedar is the one that requires us to be proactive in the spring.

K. Comprehensive Plan

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, Breger discussed the LCLPRD’s intentions to possibly pursue the development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan in conjunction with the Southeast

Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Breger, Bob Fitts and Joe Garstecki worked with SEWRPC on a proposed scope of work for the Plan but did not receive a budget for such (nearly \$48,000) until after District property owners approved LCLPRD's 2024 Operating Budget. The Board of Commissioners decided the LCLPRD would not pursue the Plan unless we received grant funding to do so. Unfortunately, both the LCLPRD's and BCLPRD's grant requests for Comprehensive Plan funding were denied. In response to this, Washington County chose to pursue a Water Health Initiative, with the goal of assisting in the development of management plans for County lakes. The Water Health initiative committee met with lake leaders this spring and assessed each group's most pressing issues. The project is in its infancy but should ultimately be able to address some of the items in our initial Scope of Work (evaluation of boat density, storm water runoff, septic systems, etc.). In the meantime, the LCLPRD Board decided that in 2025 it would self-fund some of the less expensive and more impactful components of the Comprehensive Plan's scope of work. One of those items is a Lake User Survey. Given the fact that the Wake Boat Committee recommended following up the season with a survey, the Board felt it could accomplish several goals by conducting the lake user survey this fall. We have signed a contract with SEWRPC for assistance in survey development, distribution and interpretation. Bob Fitts has volunteered to lead the survey project. Per SEWRPC's recommendation, we will also work with a DNR social scientist. The plan is to develop the survey in September and October and distribute it in November. District property owners will receive postcards with QR codes they will use to access the survey within a designated time period. Survey results will be shared with District constituents in Spring 2025.

V. New Business

A. Discussion and Vote on 2025 Operating Budget and Tax Levy

1. Report on 2023 Financial Review and 2024 Year to Date Financial Position
Treasurer Mark Wagor provided a summary of the Agreed Upon Procedures performed by Robert Neja, CPA for accounting transactions of the LCLPRD for the year ended December 31, 2023. Neja found all to be in order. Copies of his report were available for inspection by meeting attendees.
2. Wagor then provided a year-to-date summary of operational expenses, assets & reserves consumed versus the 2024 Budget, as well as current account balances and revenues collected year-to-date. While the District has yet to receive any bills for patrol and harvesting, Wagor anticipates finishing the year with a surplus. Wagor then presented the Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and Tax Levy. Breger moved, and Treinen seconded a motion to approve a budget of \$117,000 with tax levy of \$80,000. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Other

There was no other New Business.

VI. Adjourn

There being no other New Business, Breger moved and Treinen seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Tukesbrey
Secretary, LCLPRD