

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Monday, August 30, 2010 7:00 pm
Held at: **Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**
W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

Minutes

Call to Order

Carol Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Meeting Notice Announcement

The Meeting Notice Announcement was sent to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District, posted on the two bulletin boards and at the Town Hall, and posted on the OLMD website.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson will open the meeting:

Introduction of Commissioners

Carol Wilson introduced herself and the other commissioners: Dee Schriver, Dennis Johnson, Tom Godar, and Jan Husak.

Comments on Parliamentary Rules and Order

C. Wilson reviewed the parliamentary rules and order.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Bob Henschel, N55W34450 Kozanke Road motioned to approve the 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented. Ron Burowski, W340N4859 Road O seconded the motion. There were no corrections or additions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report, Discuss and Act

D. Schriver reported the following:

Revenues	\$640,995.93
Expenses	<u>557,310.83</u>
Balance	\$83,685.10

Carlene Schwartz, N53W34568 Road Q motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Philip Heinle, W342N5106 Road P seconded the motion. There were no corrections, additions, or questions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Update on Projects:

Goose Control

C. Wilson reviewed the project's success stating when the project first started in 2007 a total of 148 geese were collected; in 2008 the high waters affected the round-up and only 71 geese were captured; in 2009 a total of 113 geese were collected; and this year, 2010, 78 geese were collected.

Presentation on Management of Lake Levels by the Wisconsin DNR

Mitch Groenier, Warden with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), reported on lake levels. He stated that because of the large amount of rain this year, lake levels have been high. The flooding in 2008 caused the wetlands and groundwater to rise to full capacity. The 2010 rains put the wetlands and groundwater over capacity and created more runoff. In addition to Okauchee Lake, Oconomowoc Lake and Lac La Belle also experienced high waters this year. M. Groenier explained that from Okauchee Lake to Lac La Belle there is a 26' drop and from Lac La Belle to the Rock River a 6' drop, with a lot of surrounding wetlands. Everyone is trying very hard to keep Lac La Belle from going over the 8" slow no wake mark. During the recent high waters, Oconomowoc Lake's highest level came up to 20" over its normal level, Lac La Belle's level was 19.5" over, and Okauchee Lake was 9.5" over. Town of Oconomowoc Police Chief Wallis is working with an engineer on a new dam operation plan to replace the present plan written in 1946. The dam is designed to control lake levels, not flood control. All of the communities are trying to work together.

Native and non-native weeds were addressed. A resident asked about natural weed control, such as using fish to eat certain aquatic plants. M. Groenier stated that the flying carp now coming up the Illinois River were originally brought in for vegetation control, but are now creating problems. Because of this, fish are not used for weed control.

Dan Terry, W358N5088 Lakeshore Drive, addressed eel grass control. M. Groenier stated that because it was a native plant it could not be sprayed. Eel grass is becoming more prevalent due to zebra mussels making the water clearer.

In response to a question from Carl Schultz, N53W34568 Road Q, regarding who makes decisions regarding water levels and on what basis they are made, Chief Wallis replied they look at the low lands off of Nickels Point and analyze what they can handle in terms of shoreland erosion, etc. when the water gets up to 8-9". Additionally, Chief Wallis explained that the Town has residents on other lakes (Lac La Belle) where home preservation must be taken into account. The standards used include preserving property and homes. He further explained that part of the order is that the water level must be held until lakes downstream from Okauchee start receding before he can gradually let water out of the dam so as not to cause damage. C. Schultz asked requested that part of the review process consider that what is being protected downstream are houses and not just lawns as many on Okauchee Lake also incurred lawn damage.

Another resident thought that the flooding was due to climate change issues. The 100 year floods are now occurring every 10 years. He suggested putting larger retention areas up and downstream so a bigger cushion would be available in that area to absorb the waters; the Milwaukee Sewer District is doing this. M. Groenier stated that Lac La Belle gets a lot of runoff from the City of Oconomowoc and the Highway 16 bypass. The Village of Lac La Belle in particular has had problems because of the large amounts of water coming off of the bypass. Retention ponds are being considered in these areas. Nature Hill Middle School, the newly built school, has created additional run-off into Rosenow Creek which flows into Lac La Belle. Water management plans are being worked on by the DNR.

The Chief has had meetings with M. Groenier, the City of Oconomowoc, and the Village of Lac La Belle about the creation of retention areas. In addition, it has been suggested that the other lakes lower their lake levels in order to absorb water. He stated that it was not Okauchee Lake's fault for flooding in the lakes downstream. Water levels in the area's lakes before and after the rains were reviewed along with how the dam was operated during the high water time.

A resident thought that a modest structure on North Lake should be considered to buffer and manage the water levels downstream.

In response from a question regarding the quality of the lake water (it is very green), M. Groenier stated that this was algae present due to the warm water temperatures. He assured the resident that the water is safe for swimming.

It was stated that approximately one month ago foam was forming on the lake when whitecaps were present. M. Groenier stated that the water changes when it is warm and this is when foam appears. It is natural.

A fluffy green algae-like substance was reported in the lake. It was thought that the warm weather was the cause of this phenomenon too.

Duck overpopulation was discussed. A resident stated that the ducks are now causing as much concern and waste as the geese used to. M. Groenier stated that the only kind of control for ducks is hunting. C. Wilson stated that when the geese are on the lake, the ducks disappeared. Now the

geese are decreasing and the ducks are increasing. M. Groenier stated that there are a few spots on the lake that you can hunt ducks.

Mary Miller, W351N5380 Lake Drive inquired about the launch site. M. Groenier stated that it will be a couple of years before any construction begins. T. Godar stated that because of an Agreement with the DNR, before any plans are made final, the DNR will give notice and an environmental statement to OLMD. At that time, OLMD will do its best to notify riparian owners.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson reported that approximately 99 truckloads of weeds were taken out of the lake this year. Because of the unusual weather conditions, it has been a challenging year for weeds. Cutting and barging will continue until the end of October. If residents have concerns regarding aquatic plant removal, they should call OLMD.

T. Godar stated there were plans to spray certain areas of the lake. D. Johnson explained that the budget allowed the spraying of 70-80 acres. Approximately 50-60 acres have been sprayed so far this year. The biggest issue with spraying is riparian notification. When spraying takes place, signs are to be placed in the yards. If this is not happening, D. Johnson should be contacted.

D. Terry asked about the frequency of cutting in different areas of the lake. D. Johnson stated that in the past they attempted to get around the lake two to three times during the season. They now focus on areas that are badly in need of cutting. Although they still strive to get two to three turns around the lake, their emphasis is on where the weeds are. The plan is to address weed problems and issues with owners; the final decision is made by the foreman. This results in superior cutting. If residents have particular problems in their area, they should call OLMD. So far this year, cutting has taken place two times on Upper Oconomowoc Lake. Because of the high water this summer, the cutters were unable to get into Upper Oconomowoc. In addition, weed cutting did not take place during slow no wake.

Discussion took place on floating bogs in the Stevens Point area. It was asked why the cutters couldn't pick them up on their way in or out before the bogs floated to shore. D. Johnson stated that these bogs consist of coon tail where the vegetation is connected to the bottom. It is so thick it would hamper the cutters. Because this area is considered a bay and clear cutting is not allowed, Marine Biochem (the spraying company) came out to look at the situation. Spraying is being considered and some cutting has taken place. Because the bog was connected from the bottom up, the barges could not pick it up, as it would need to be cut. Addressing the resident's inquiry as to why it could not be taken care when the barges go in or out D. Johnson stated that the needs of the whole lake must be considered and not just one area. This entire area was harvested once; if problems arise again, they will cut again.

Dick Smith, N62W34167 South Bayview Road – Presented photos to the Board showing a large amount of floating weeds by his dock. He stated that when cutting takes place, weeds are not being skimmed up. D. Johnson stated that he could not be sure if the weeds in the photo were due to cutting or if they had drifted in after being uprooted from winds. D. Smith stated that on August 18

the cutters came in and this was the result after they left; the photo was taken less than one hour after cutting took place. Additionally, he stated many weeds were coming in to his area. D. Johnson encouraged D. Smith to call OLMD and report the problem. However, if weeds are around riparian's piers or shoreline, it is the property owner's responsibility. The photos will be shown to the Foreman and the problem will be addressed. D. Johnson stated if the problem was created by OLMD then it would be corrected. D. Terry stated that it is impossible to catch 100% of the weeds that are cut. D. Johnson stated that this is particularly true for eel grass. T. Godar assured residents that the conveyor belts for the cutters were all functioning properly.

C. Wilson relayed that she has lived in the same house her entire life and has never seen weeds like those present this year. Because zebra mussels are now present they make the weeds heavy and they don't come up right away. She lives on the west shore and loads of weeds come up every day. Weather and the conditions associated with it have made aquatic plant management difficult this year. Eel weed is the worst weed to cut because it is so slimy. Additionally, eel weed come up with their roots and sometimes form bogs.

Carlene Schultz, N53W34568 Road Q, discussed a wakeboard teacher who will not teach on Okauchee because of the weeds. She asked if out-of- state weed control practices have been looked at. D. Johnson stated that the only other way to deal with weeds besides cutting is spraying and that is limited by the DNR.

Discuss and Act on Proposed 2011 Budget

Pat Furno reviewed the budget and stated that without the grants and loan proceeds, the board actually decreased the budget. Highlights included a reduction in legal fees, and the same or lower charges for special weed cutting and tax rates. The biggest impact to the budget was due to refinancing through the State Bureau of Lands; not only was debt service reduced, but the term was reduced by ten years.

Dan Terry, W358N5088 Lakeshore Drive, moved to approve the 2011 budget as presented. Bob Henschel, N55W34450 Kosanke Rd., seconded the motion. Discussion took place regarding the interest rates for plant control and the management district. It was clarified that no money is owed to OLMD by properties within the District since the County pays any unpaid taxes to the District. P. Furno explained that mooring fees are extra fees charged to owners for permitted mooring rentals. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Patrol Report, Discussion and Questions

Officer Rob Wiercyski was present at the meeting and reported the following as of August 30, 2010:

- Patrol Hours to date: 758
- Citations issued: 134
- Boating OWI's: 7
- Warnings issued: 438 (this results is a ratio of 1 citation/5.7 hours out on lake)

- Boater Safety Class: 1
- There were 19 weeks in boating season and 21 nights were patrolled
- Boating Accidents in 2010: 0

A comparison was made to 2009.

Tie up. The tie up went well. The DNR had 6 boats out, the Town of Oconomowoc had two boats out, and the Town of Merton and the Sheriff's Department each provided one boat. Chief Wallis discussed the tie up and stated that there were approximately 300 boats. Cooperation with the different departments was fantastic. In addition to 12 drunk driver arrests, there were a number of citations. Pro-Health provided a phlebotomist at no cost; this helped implement tests in a timely manner and allowed officers to get back out on the lake quickly. M. Groenier thought the rate of alcohol consumption was high this year. Next year, he will talk to the Sheriff and ask for enforcement of other activities such as noise, etc. as well.

Nights of patrol are varied. During night patrol, the boats stay out until midnight and sometimes 3 a.m.

White lights on boats were discussed. It was clarified that the stern light must be on the highest point of boat and be visible 360 degrees for 2 miles.

A resident on the north side corner of the channel discussed problems with boaters and suggested placing slow no wake buoys on the point from the south side of the channel around the corner to where he was. He thought it would help some of the residents. The Chief stated that he appreciated the offer to sit by his pier.

Mary Miller thought more buoys were needed for slow no wake. The Chief informed her that this is a permitted process. M. Groenier informed the residents that the slow no wake buoys are set using GPS.

C. Wilson thanked Chief Wallis, Officer Wiercyski, and Mitch Groenier for the work that they do on Okauchee Lake.

Chief Wallis will notify the District via email when a Slow-No-Wake order is put on the lake.

Nomination of Candidates to the OLMD Board - Self-introduction and questions to candidates from the board and floor

Current board member Tom Godar was up for re-election and agreed to run again.

B. Henschel, N55W34450 Kosanke Rd., nominated T. Godar. The nomination was seconded by D. Smith, N62W34167 S. Bayview Rd. C. Wilson asked three times if there were any other nominations, there were none. All were in favor of the nomination for T. Godar to serve another three year term. T. Godar accepted the nomination.

Election of Commissioner

There was no election as there was only one nominee.

Other Lake Management Issues or New Business, Discuss and Act within Open Meeting Law Limits

Wayne Utterback, W347N6009 Road I, discussed owner access to the boat launch on Road T. T. Godar explained that when negotiations for the expanded Road T launch took place, allowing residents to launch boats at any time regardless of the lot capacity was discussed but was denied. A boat experiencing problems can be taken out of the water at any time.

Bob Henschel discussed slow no wake and stated that the Yacht Club was not able to hold races nor were the weed cutters able to operate. He did not think this was right. D. Johnson clarified that the weed cutters did not operate due to the fear of incurring pier damage. Limited cutting took place, but no pickups were made from piers. T. Godar recommended that B. Henschel request the Town to put the issue of the sail boat races during slow no wake on the Town's agenda as they are the governing authority.

Dan Terry discussed the possibility of having designated slow no wake times on the lake. He proposed that a survey be undertaken; C. Wilson stated this could be done.

Dick Smith reported seeing ads in a newspaper from a private party in the channel advertising a boat slip for rent. C. Wilson stated this would be Waukesha Park & Planning issue; she will give them a call.

A resident inquired if the Road L property could be used for launching boats on weekends. D. Johnson replied this would not be permitted under the conditional use permit.

Report on Results of Election

No report.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Dan Terry, W358N5088 Lakeshore Drive, motioned to adjourn from the annual meeting and budget hearing. Rita Newton, 34933 Road J #4, seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.