

**OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

June 12, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

[www.olmd.org](http://www.olmd.org)

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

C. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to local newspapers, posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, two boards, and on the OLMD website.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Carol Wilson  
Dennis Johnson  
Bruce Mueller  
Dee Schriver

Absent

Tom Godar

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

Others Present

Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
Doug Grant, N53W34359 Road Q, Okauchee, WI 53066  
Ben Heussner, WI DNR Fisheries Biologist

5. Correspondence

C. Wilson explained correspondence had been received from Hans Weissgerber regarding purchase of an aluminum barge from OLMD. He was also in favor of muskrat control. Correspondence had also been received from Town of Oconomowoc Chair Bob Hultquist. He noted OLMD support would be appreciated in helping the Town to obtain sewer residential equivalent connections (RECs) from the City of Oconomowoc.

6. Comments from the Floor

**Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J**, noted the date of the Whittaker Bay fireworks was incorrect. Geese had been sighted on Upper Oconomowoc Lake near the dam and near the Breezy Point areas recently.

The date of the Whittaker Bay fireworks was corrected on the OLMD website on May 30, 2017.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$316,760.54
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$89,191.38</u>
Total:	\$227,569.16

C. Wilson clarified the cost of new equipment relative to the budget.

**D. Johnson moved to accept the Report of the Treasurer as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Approve Checks & Vouchers

**D. Johnson moved to approve the bills paid from May through June, 2017. B. Mueller seconded the motion.** P. Furno explained it was time to re-order payroll checks at a cost of \$496.15. This had not been needed since 2014.

**D. Schriver moved to amend the motion to add an expenditure of \$496.15 for the purchase of payroll checks. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor of approving the amendment to the main motion. Motion carried.**

**There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Schriver explained the insurance renewal date was June 5, 2017. Insurance costs had been renegotiated. An invoice was not available in time for this meeting and would be placed on checks and vouchers list for the next meeting.

10. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

**D. Johnson moved to approve the May 8, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson reported the weed cutting crew had completed cutting the “hot spots” in the lake where weed growth was quite aggressive. The current crew was very polite, cautious and hard working. B. Mueller complimented the crew for its efforts in cutting the weeds near his property. D. Johnson explained the other dump site for weeds was ready to go. The Goose Round-Up was scheduled for June 19, 2017.

11. Discuss & Act on Alternatives for Small Pond near Tierney Bay

**Doug Grant, N53W34359 Road Q**, was present to provide findings of his research regarding alternatives for aeration of the small pond near Tierney Bay. He had concluded his investigation and provided a summary and support data to the Commissioners at this time. His efforts focused on trying to resolve a problem of extensive weed and algae growth, including duckweed and watermeal on the Tierney Bay pond. Several options were reviewed to control and/or eliminate some of the weed/algae that reduced the overall aesthetic quality of the pond. D. Grant shared several options for control of the weed/algae growth including chemical treatment, a lake bottom diffuser system and a 360 degree surface oscillator aerator system as well as the benefits and costs associated with each. The surface oscillator aerator system provided benefits for this situation that the others would not and came in two options. Because the 360 degree surface oscillator aerator system worked by having a motor under the surface of the water to distribute the lake surface (ripple) in a range of 50-150 feet, a one horsepower motor would clear the entire surface area of the bay in one swing of the oscillator. This system would have an annual operating cost of \$612 based on 24 hour per day, seven days a week for five months and an initial unit cost of \$2,186.80. A second option included a similar type of equipment with a half-horse motor that would ripple the water at a range of 50 feet. This system would have an annual operating cost of \$562 based on the same timeframe. Initial cost would be \$1,955.00. D. Grant’s recommendation was to purchase the one-horse power 360 degree surface oscillator system because it would cover three times the distance of the half-horse motor and had a greater gallons-per-minute cycle at roughly the same initial cost and annual operating cost. He requested the OLMD consider purchasing the oscillator and paying the annual operating cost. If approved, he and his wife would set up and operate the equipment on their dock and provide annual maintenance. In addition, they would install and remove the equipment on an annual basis and include safe storage of the unit as well as providing the electrical hook-up each year. He had obtained an Aqua Thruster unit through his work to test on a back bay of the Wisconsin River in recent weeks. This thruster worked by creating a rippling effect on the surface of the water in only one direction instead of oscillating. This rippling successfully

disturbed the watermeal and duckweed. After the sixth day, the equipment was returned. He noted a slight rippling noise could be heard about 20 feet from the unit. It was not loud or intrusive, nor could it be heard further than that distance from the unit. D. Grant shared photos with Commissioners noting the reduction in watermeal and duckweed with the thruster and the rapid return of the watermeal and duckweed once the thruster was removed. Because the Tierney Bay pond was not able to obtain weed control chemically, he had discussed his offer and request with D. Johnson and D. Schriver in advance of this meeting.

D. Johnson thanked the Grants for their time and effort in being willing to step forward to take responsibility of situations such as this one. It was appreciated and rare. He had talked with Brian Suffern of Marine Bio-Chem regarding the various options presented by D. Grant. A diffuser system required deep water which Tierney Bay pond did not have and thus a diffuser system option was not workable in this area. He remained concerned about Tierney Bay pond because it did not receive the wind or boat traffic that would resolve the situation. He thought either oscillator would work. D. Schriver agreed. While the specific item might not be in the budget, there was a substantial amount of monies set aside for chemical weed treatment. This system represented a method of weed control. Rather than increase the budget, some monies could be transferred from the weed control portion of the budget to accommodate the cost of the oscillating system. She appreciated the efforts of the experiment conducted by the Grants. She had also contacted a person with a similar situation on a pond near Nagawicka Lake in Delafield. A fountain type pump was used in that situation with similar costs associated with the pump system there.

Discussion took place regarding the responsibility of purchase and liability of running OLMD equipment on a private riparian owner's dock.

**Shawn Rutka, W343N6399 Bayview Road**, questioned whether the equipment could be run over if someone were fishing in the area at night. D. Grant stated it could not.

**D. Johnson moved to approve purchase of an Aqua Thruster Surface 360 degree oscillating aerator with costs not to exceed \$2,600 and a payment of \$600 for electrical costs to Doug and Wendy Grant from the weed spraying portion of the budget, pending completion of an acceptable hold harmless liability contract between the OLMD and the Grants for this equipment and expense. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

## 12. Discuss Okauchee Lake Fisheries

**Ben Heussner, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist**, and S. Rutka were present regarding a discussion of Okauchee Lake Fisheries. S. Rutka was an avid fisherman that had lived on Okauchee Lake for ten years. He loved to fish and fished many lakes in the area. He had chosen to move to Okauchee Lake because of the structure of the lake and types of fish available for fishing. He requested the OLMD consider allocating monies

toward stocking of the lake. S. Rutka provided history regarding the type of fish and fingerling sizes stocked in Okauchee Lake in the past, noting the walleye population and musky populations were down in recent stocking years. He thought the method of stocking in years of die-off at the fish hatcheries was unfair to certain lakes and should be more equitable instead of one lake getting their full quota of stocking and others getting nothing as had happened in the past with Okauchee Lake. He requested the OLMD consider setting aside resources to improve the fisheries of Okauchee Lake. There were many ways to help. He had suggested implementation of a launch fee to assist in funding stocking the lake to no avail. He had also discussed a reduced price for fingerlings if purchased by the district. Lake management districts in the area did provide funding for stocking of the lakes in the area. He requested the OLMD do the same.

B. Heussner explained recommendations for stocking remained important. He appreciated the enthusiasm for fishing that S. Rutka displayed in bringing this issue forward. The DNR set forth fisheries management recommendations and used a couple of hatcheries for their stocking each year. There was a prioritization of the system with stocking rates and guidelines for stocking followed each year by the DNR. Prior to each year, quotas were submitted and it was always hopeful that the fisheries would be able to fill the orders. It was important to note that shortfalls in the stocking rates did occur due to die-off situations at the hatcheries in some years. To offset the years where the quotas were not fulfilled, the DNR worked on fulfilling some lakes at a higher stocking rate in the following years to make up for the shortfall. The typical method was to stock at a rate of 1 fish per surface acre. For Okauchee Lake this would be approximately 1,200 walleye. Due to its poor history of fingerling survival in recent years, Okauchee Lake did not meet the criteria for walleye stocking in the year with the fingerling shortfalls at the hatchery. Since then production had increased statewide and production was now catching up with demand. As a result, the stocking quotas for Okauchee Lake were being revisited for 2018. In fisheries management stocking the lake was considered a “band-aid” approach. Okauchee Lake was loaded with black crappies, northern pike, panfish and gamefish. The walleye population has struggled because the walleye fingerlings provide food for these types of fish and often do not survive. He was hopeful that a rule change could be implemented in future years regarding harvesting of northern pike from Okauchee Lake to allow the fisheries population to be a bit more equalized.

He also noted Pewaukee Lake did not have a budgeted expense for stocking the lake. Some other lake management districts throughout the state did. Partnerships were important in getting things into the state budget. The DNR stocking program would not change until at least 2018 because stocking requests were only allocated in even years. If a lake management district were interested in budgeting to stock the lake, it should be done in odd numbered years. There were certain genetic fish requirements that biologically made good fisheries. The DNR did work from certain recommendations. The fish shortage referenced by S. Rutka was due to an amount of funding allocated through the state budget annually. The DNR had contracts with private producers and because those contract prices were set, quotas could not be easily adjusted in the event of die-off one year. B. Heussner noted that the recommendation of stocking one fish per

surface acre still stood for Okauchee Lake and if the fisheries produced, Okauchee Lake would be stocked in 2017.

13. Update on Letter Sent to Waukesha County Regarding Foolery's Gas/Marina

T. Godar had submitted a letter to Waukesha County Park and Planning regarding Foolery's Gas/ Marina. There was an upcoming Waukesha County Park and Planning meeting and it was important that the OLMD view point be shared at that meeting. The issue was not with the concept of a marina but with its proposed location close to the bridge.

14. Update on Muskrat Information Received

In response to a request to provide information about muskrat issues, 21 riparian owners had responded since the last meeting. Muskrat concerns were received from several parts of the lake, including those near Road I, J, and O, Lake Drive, Lakeshore Drive, Elm Street, California Avenue and near the Oconomowoc River, near Stumpy Bay and in the channel area near the Golden Mast. Arnold Groehler, muskrat expert, had suggested at a past meeting that funding for muskrat removal be provided through the annual budget.

15. Discuss & Act on Employee Handbook Policies

This item would be discussed at a future meeting.

16. Website Items

Information added to the website since the last meeting included updated lake levels, monthly Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletters, and updated weed harvesting information. Articles regarding muskrats, fireworks, the OLMD barging policy and the Healthy Lakes Conference was also added to the website.

17. Future Agenda Items

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the next regular meeting agenda:

- Discuss & Act on Employee Handbook Policies
- Discuss & Act on Annual Meeting Agenda

18. Set Future Meetings

The next regular OLMD meeting was scheduled for July 10, 2017. A Budget Workshop meeting was scheduled for July 24, 2017.

19. Adjournment

**D. Johnson moved to adjourn the June 12, 2017 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.**

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.