

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Monday, August 28, 2017 7:00 p.m.
To be held at the **Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**
W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

Minutes

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notice Announcement

The Meeting Notice Announcement was emailed to the newspapers and municipalities; sent via U.S. Mail to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District (OLMD); posted on the two public notice bulletin boards; posted on the board outside of 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

Chairperson and County Representative Carol Wilson introduced herself and the OLMD commissioners: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Dennis Johnson, Liaison - Lake Operations Manager; and Bruce Mueller, Town Representative. All were present with the exception of Tom Godar, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Richard Koch, N55W34649 Road E, moved to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as presented. Jane Bruner, N57W34402 Nickels Point Rd., seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report, Discuss and Act

Treasurer D. Schriver reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of August 28, 2017 and reported the following:

Revenues:	\$325,436.54
Expenditures:	<u>\$133,181.65</u>
Balance:	\$192,154.89

J. Bruner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Sue Bennett, W347N5920 Lake

Dr., seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Sergeant Rob Wiercyski was present and reported the following:

2017 Okauchee Lake Boat Tie-Up-number of boats provided:

DNR	2	(0)
Town of Oconomowoc Police	2	(1)
Town of Merton Police	2	(0)
Waukesha Co. Sheriff's Dept.	1	(0)
Total number of arrests	1	(Operating while intoxicated arrests noted in ()'s above)

Sergeant Wiercyski reported the one arrest this year related to the Boat Tie-Up was off the lake. Many boats had designated drivers this year. This reduced the number of incidents for the 2017 Boat Tie-Up.

YTD Statistics from 2017 were:

Patrol hours to date	412	
Accidents	2	
Citations issued	74	
Boating OWI's	2	
Warnings issued	229	(a ratio of 1 citation/5.1 patrol hours on the lake)
Boater Safety Classes	1	

Statistics as of August 29, 2016

Patrol hours to date	412.5	
Accidents	0	
Citations issued	74	
Boating OWI's	4	
Warnings issued	429	(a ratio of 1 citation/5.5 hours on the lake)
Boater Safety Classes	1	

Historical accident statistics were as followed:

2013	0
2014	2
2015	2
2016	2
2017	2

For the first time in seven years, a "Slow No Wake" order was placed on the lake. Sergeant Wiercyski explained various residents had expressed concern about a lack of notification about the order in general. The order was posted on the Town of Oconomowoc website, the Town of Oconomowoc Facebook page, the OLMD website and posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, its posting boards and the launch sites around Okauchee Lake. The 2017 "Slow No Wake" information was posted to the OLMD website as soon as the OLMD was made aware of the "Slow

No Wake” order. He explained that an order was issued by the Chief of Police based on lake level measurements collected at the dam. It did not make sense to post the “Slow No Wake” order and the next day to lift the order when it dropped just below the threshold when several inches of rain were anticipated the following day with another order anticipated. Discussion ensued regarding the options for posting the “Slow No Wake” order. Suggestions included posting at the boat launches, buoys with warning flags that go up in the air, posting flags at the bridges and texting individual lake owners. Immediate coordinated notification to Okauchee Lake residents was difficult. Efforts to improve notification would continue in the future. No tickets were issued for violations of the “Slow No Wake” order. Concern was also expressed for wakeboats that created waves in excess of five feet near the shoreline as well as excessive speeds in the bay north of Crazy Man’s Island after dark. Violations observed on the lake should be reported through the City of Oconomowoc dispatch center at 262-567-4401. This number could be used for emergency purposes in addition to calling 911.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

Discussion on Muskrat Control

C. Wilson introduced Arnold Groehler, Wisconsin DNR Muskrat Expert. He lived in the area and first began trapping muskrats in 1968. There were more muskrats now than ever before living in and around area lakes. They burrowed under sea walls and often created holes and tunnels in lawns and shorelines. Soil from their digging typically ended up in the lake. He often filled in the tunnels with three tons of material at each home site. He was retired and hoped to be able to spend time doing other things than trapping animals so he had spoken with various property owners and the OLMD Board about potentially trapping the whole lake in order to get ahead of the entire Okauchee Lake muskrat population at one time instead of treating single properties. His proposal included coming to the lake in spring during muskrat mating season just after the ice was out and there was no one on the lake. This was considered the most important time to take action. A secondary time to trap was in late fall before the ice came on the lake. After that time, the muskrats burrowed in for the winter. The type of trap used was a colony trap that was not harmful to pets or children swimming in the water. Individual property owners could invite him to their property as needed during the interim months as well. All lakes had similar situations in the area. The number of trappers in the area was dwindling over time without new trappers coming in to replace those that were retired.

Tommie Coppinger, N52W35147 W. Lake Drive, questioned what was done with the collected pelts. A. Groehler explained the prices for pelts were low with as many salvaged as possible. Most muskrat bodies were shipped to Maryland for food and were served as “Marsh Rabbit” in New Jersey.

Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, questioned whether the muskrats carried rabies. A. Groehler explained they did not; however, they did carry a disease called tularemia. If a human was bitten by a muskrat that had this disease, they might experience significant flu-like symptoms that would worsen in intensity each time the human was bitten.

T. Coppinger questioned the cost for trapping the muskrats on Okauchee Lake. A. Groehler explained the cost to trap the entire lake in the spring would be \$1,000. If it could only be done once, it was important to do it in the spring prior to muskrat mating season. If a second week was

needed in the fall, he requested another \$1,000 be allocated for trapping. If the proposal was approved, A. Groehler would trap in spring next year and would provide the OLMD with a report about the number of muskrats trapped. He would work with the OLMD weed harvesting crew regarding scheduling and with the DNR to act as the agent authorized to trap muskrats on behalf of the OLMD in this matter. He estimated there to be approximately 200-300 muskrats living in and around Okauchee Lake based on what he had observed. If the Board approved his proposal of \$1,000 to trap the muskrats, notification would be distributed to all riparian owners noting the Board approved muskrat removal next spring and requesting information from those property owners with an interest in having the muskrats removed from their property. Consent to remove the muskrats was required because of the regulations associated with trapping and public waterways.

D. Johnson reported 143 truckloads of weeds had been removed to date. There were no violation issues. Many calls had been received regarding excessive weeds and weed growth along Highway C. Floating rafts of eelgrass also made the weed growth seem excessive throughout the Highway C area.

Pete Kocian, W332N6131 CTH C, questioned whether volunteers could assist in running the barges on Saturdays to facilitate additional weed cutting in that area. People in the area did not have an issue with running the cutter and barges on Saturday; however, they were concerned about the stench of rotting weeds left on trucks at Road L. D. Johnson explained a volunteer solution seemed simple; however, it was not. While he appreciated the offer to volunteer, several other bays also required additional attention due to excessive weed growth. Methods of operation and routine had changed in the past to accommodate all lake residents since all paid the same fee for weed cutting. Discussion ensued regarding protocols for running the machines.

Scott Kossoros, N52W34253 Gietzen Rd., questioned the increased chara in the area of the lake close to his property. D. Johnson explained this native weed had experienced increased growth especially in the Park Bay area in recent years. The DNR only allowed the cutters to cut to a certain depth. In order to remove that weed entirely, it would need to be removed at the lake bottom. It was not considered an invasive species so it would not be removed with DNR approval.

B. Sokolowicz questioned the liability of having volunteers run the weed harvesters. D. Johnson explained anyone running the harvesters would need to be hired and paid as an employee to avoid liability issues.

Bryon Altruether, W332N6525 CTH C, expressed concern that a pile of weeds had remained on a dock near him for approximately three to four weeks prior to being collected. D. Johnson explained no one had refused to pick up the weeds for any reason; however, the barge had a hydraulic lift on the motors that made traversing parts of the lake difficult at certain lake levels. He offered to speak to the cutting crew about this matter.

Jon Lang, N53 W34400 Road Q, questioned whether the area of the lake near him would be dredged in the future to help improve fish breeding habitat on the lake. C. Wilson explained the weed control had been an issue since the 1970's. All OLMD residents paid the same fees for weed cutting as a benefit. The cutting crew and OLMD Board worked hard to please everyone. In the past, areas that were dredged were assisted through an assessment over 10 years time with the OLMD paying 10% of the dredging cost to take on the responsibility of facilitating the dredging activity. It was difficult to get a place to put dredged spoils and certain areas of the lake had issues that made the dredging more difficult than others. J. Lang thought it important to continue to improve and promote the fish breeding habitats on the lake.

Proposed 2018 Budget, Discuss & Act

D. Schriver reviewed the Proposed 2018 budget. Expenditures were anticipated to be similar to last year. Riparian property owner special charges relative to aquatic plant control were \$233.84 in the 2017 budget. The proposed 2018 budget noted the special charges for aquatic plant control to be \$235.50. The funding for muskrat removal was noted in the Goose Round-Up category.

S. Kossoris questioned the monies in the land purchase category. D. Schriver explained this category included monies set aside each year in the budget for the potential purchase of land. The rationale for doing so was that if an opportunity arose to purchase land that would positively affect the quality of the lake, monies would be available to do so through this funding. Some funds were used in the last year to assist in development of the retention pond near Foolery's that would improve water quality.

Ron Borowski, W340N4859 Road O, questioned the monies noted in the Goose Round-Up category in the budget, noting there was a \$1,000 increase from 2017 to 2018. P. Furno explained the \$1,000 was to cover the cost of the muskrat removal for entire lake with spring and fall treatments as noted in the May 8, 2017 OLMD minutes. Discussion ensued regarding the discrepancy in pricing between what was noted in the May meeting and what was stated this evening. A written contract would be requested for muskrat removal to secure pricing if the proposed budget were approved.

Kristine Smith, N53W34400 Road Q, moved to approve the Proposed 2018 Budget as presented. J. Bruner, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

C. Wilson explained that Commissioner Dennis Johnson's three year term was complete and his Board position was up for re-election. C. Wilson then asked three times whether anyone in the audience would like to run for this Commission seat. There were no volunteers other than Dennis Johnson.

Self-introduction and questions to candidate from the Board and Floor

D. Johnson introduced himself, noting he was willing to serve another three year term on the Board.

Election of Commissioner

J. Bruner nominated Dennis Johnson to the OLMD Board. The nomination was seconded by B. Sokolowicz. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. D. Johnson accepted and will serve a three year term from 2017-2020 as a Commissioner.

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

Issues of concern related to maintenance and aeration of the retention pond on Lake Drive near Foolery's, erosion of shoreline due to wave boats, regulations allowing riprap at the shoreline and issues with the DNR signage near Road T were shared at this time.

Report on Results of Election

Dennis Johnson was re-elected and would be reinstated as Commissioner for a three year term for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

J. Brunner, moved to adjourn from the 2017 Okauchee Lake Management District Annual Meeting. John Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.