

**OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

April 9, 2018 – 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

Tom Godar

Dennis Johnson

Bruce Mueller

Dee Schriver

Absent

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

None.

7. Comments from Committee Members

T. Godar noted grateful comments had been heard from various OLMD residents regarding the muskrat control program.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$317,733.02
Total Expenditures:	\$ 49,762.99
Total:	\$ 267,970.03

**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

**C. Wilson moved to approve the bills paid from November, 2017 through March, 2018. B. Mueller seconded the motion.** T. Godar confirmed there was nothing unusual and noted all seemed to be according to budget. D. Schriver explained there was an increase for sending out the Muskrat Control Program notification and the 2018 Weed Spraying notifications. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Mueller moved to approve the bills to be paid in April, 2018 as presented. T. Godar seconded the motion. P. Furno explained there was an additional fee in the amount of \$1,270.00 for weed spraying that had not been included in the April, 2018 bills for approval. D. Schriver moved to amend the motion to add the 2018 Weed Spraying fee in the amount of \$1,270.00 to the list of bills to be paid in April, 2018. C. Wilson seconded the amendment. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The amendment motion carried. There was no further discussion on the motion to approve all the bills to be paid in April, 2018 including the \$1,270.00 fee for the 2018 Weed Spraying. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**D. Johnson moved to approve the October 23, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

11. Review 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

This item was moved to the next OLMD meeting agenda.

12. Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson explained there were six crew members anticipated to return for 2018 weed cutting and barging duties. There had been little interest and activity in filling the remaining six positions on the crew. Help Wanted signage had been placed in several locations around the lake and throughout the area with little response. Salary was considered a factor. A starting wage of \$10.50 had been implemented for 2018 and he was hopeful this would be attractive to potential employees. Discussion ensued regarding equipment and liability for employment of people less than 18 years of age.

D. Johnson provided an update on the chemical weed spraying process for this year, noting the rules and regulations were being changed by the Wisconsin DNR regarding what chemicals could be used in area lakes to combat weed growth. Prohibition of the spread of Starry Stonewort was considered an issue of concern for many lakes in southeastern Wisconsin. New methods of weed surveying were being implemented by the DNR which would be costly. Despite the cold winter and cool spring, the weeds would still arrive later in the growing season. It was also possible that chemical spraying would not be allowed after July 4 of this year which would make combating weed growth difficult later in the season. Discussions with DNR staff were ongoing regarding this matter.

a. Update on Muskrat Control Process

This item immediately followed Item 16 on the agenda. Arnold Groehler, muskrat control agent, provided an update on the Muskrat Control Program. He began trapping Upper Oconomowoc Lake and "Little Okauchee Lake" on March 26, 2018. Despite the recent bad weather, this was the right time to trap the lake because he was the only person on the lake most days and this was prime breeding season. He had trapped 202 muskrats to date. The most muskrats taken from one location were nine and they seemed to prefer quieter back bay waters. The response to the Muskrat Control program had been supportive. People were enthusiastic about the program and he had received many calls while out on the lake to trap on nearby properties. The most challenging parts of the control program were piers that were so close together that it was difficult to get his skiff to the shoreline, boathouses that had a door that came to the water level and old wooden piers that had sunk or were in disrepair. It was helpful for boathouse owners that had a door that skimmed the water level to install mesh fencing that would drape from the water level to the lakebed because this would help to deter the muskrats. Sunken piers were problematic because he could not install a trap for the muskrats without a six-inch gap between the pier and water level. He encouraged neighbors to work together to assist in shoring up the shorelines because the expense to do so could be burdensome. Some property owners had

also assisted in the trapping by flagging the burrow locations on their property. This was helpful because it notified him that the property owner approved of him trapping the property and it assisted in quickly identifying the burrows. Flagging could be done with any material, such as two sticks stuck in the ground or a fabric strip tied on a stick. The second phase of the muskrat control efforts involved filling in the burrows appropriately. A little dirt on top would not hinder them from creating a new burrow quickly. He encouraged neighbors to work together to assist in shoring up the shorelines because the expense to do so could be burdensome. In addition, he had coordinated trash pick-up efforts with the muskrat control while on the lake, noting he found and removed hundreds of tennis balls in the lake. Trapping was weather dependent and he anticipated completion of trapping in approximately two weeks time at this point. Another update would be provided at the next OLMD meeting.

13. Discuss & Act on “The Waters at Okauchee” Condominium & Pier Proposal

C. Wilson attended the March 19, 2018 Town of Oconomowoc Plan Commission meeting. A concept plan was presented for the four-unit condominium project to be called “The Waters at Okauchee” located on the historic Point Comfort/Rendezvous site. The room was filled to capacity with many residents of the Lakeview Acres in attendance due to the potential access from the proposed development to the privately owned Lakeview Acres park site. This park site had been purchased by the property owners of Lakeview Acres and was noted in the deed for the property. Also noted by the developer was a plan to include approximately eight boat slips and several piers with the condominium project. While there was no issue with the concept of developing the property into condominiums, concern was expressed regarding the number of boat slips and piers to be placed in this area. Maintaining weed cutter access to this high growth weed area was critical. Discussion ensued regarding the regulations that governed appropriate numbers of slips and piers for this location. Additional information would be provided to Commissioners in the future regarding this matter.

14. Discuss & Act on Okauchee Lake Fish Stocking Options

This item was removed from the agenda.

15. Discuss & Act on Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant Program

T. Godar explained that the OLMD had applied for and received a grant for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program for 2018. This grant would allow staffing of two boat cleaning and inspection sites-at the public launch and at the Golden Mast on Okauchee Lake-to assist in prohibiting aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Starry Stonewort from entering Okauchee Lake. Training of boat

inspection staff was required. A process would be created to identify people interested in becoming boat inspectors for the 2018 boating season. Commissioners discussed the need for a sub-committee of members to address the organization and implementation of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. The use of adult volunteers on weekends seemed prudent due to the high boat traffic during those peak times. Information would be shared via the OLMD website and through the OLMD Spring 2018 newsletter regarding this program. Anyone interested in volunteering to be a boat inspector should contact any OLMD Commissioner as soon as possible.

16. Discuss & Act on Spring 2018 Newsletter

Various topics to be included in the Spring 2018 newsletter were reviewed.

Without objection, C. Wilson returned to Item 12a on the agenda due to the arrival of Arnold Groehler at this time.

17. Review of OLMD Employee Handbook & Safety Manual

The OLMD Employee Handbook and Safety Manual had been distributed to Commissioners in advance of the meeting. A sub-committee was formed with D. Johnson and T. Godar as participants with OLMD Lake Operations Supervisor Gary Steinmueller to review the Employee Handbook and Safety Manual. Any additions or suggestions for change should be shared with T. Godar. Additional information would be provided on this topic at a future OLMD meeting.

18. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake level information, monthly updates to the Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletters, and a Help Wanted Ad for the Weed Harvesting Crew, and updated contact information had been added to the website. Information about regulated buoys and buoy placement, updated Ice-Out dates and additional pictures would be added to the website.

The OLMD is seeking historic pictures or information about life in and around Okauchee Lake. Anyone with information to share should contact the OLMD via email at [info@olmd.org](mailto:info@olmd.org) or by contacting Carol Wilson at 262-367-7363. If photos are provided via email, they should be provided in regular size JPEG format if possible.

19. Future Agenda Items

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

- Discuss & Act 2017 Draft Annual Meeting Minutes
- Update on Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program
- Update on Muskrat Removal program
- Update on Spring 2018 Newsletter

20. Set Future Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

21. Adjournment

**D. Schriver moved to adjourn the April 9, 2018 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D. Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.**

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.