

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

May 14, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

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

C. Wilson had contacted the DNR regarding the number of boat slips and piers allowed along the Okauchee Lake shoreline at The Waters at Okauchee condominium site. Travis Schrader of the DNR explained that for the first 50 feet of shoreline owned two boats and

two watercraft are allowed. For every 50 feet after that, one boat and one watercraft are allowed.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$324,233.02
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$ 70,148.91</u>
Total:	\$ 254,084.11

Clarification was provided regarding the increase in weed spraying operation costs. The permit cost had increased over past years and was \$1,200 this year.

T. Godar 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

An invoice had been received regarding the Muskrat Control Program. Also, payment for the annual insurance renewal was due before the next OLMD meeting.

B. Mueller moved to approve bills to be paid including the Muskrat Control Program invoice and annual insurance renewal premium. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

B. Mueller moved to approve the April 9, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. C. Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discuss & Act on Draft 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

T. Godar moved to recommend approval of the draft 2017 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson explained nine people had been hired for the weed harvesting crew this year with training scheduled during the last two weeks of May. All equipment was in the water with cutting anticipated the first full week in June, weather permitting. D. Johnson had recently attended a meeting with DNR staff and OLMD consultants regarding chemical weed spraying programs in general and about Okauchee Lake in particular. Recent studies had indicated that it was better to redefine the spraying season to span from the beginning of May to July 12 in the year instead of the customary May to October season. In addition, certain permits were being denied due to use of a brand of chemical spray causing endangerment to a specific minnow species. Discussion ensued regarding chemical treatment options and whether additional discussions were needed with DNR staff and other officials. Other lake district representatives were also interested in working with the DNR regarding chemical treatments and maintaining a typical spraying season. Many districts faced similar issues with the DNR with regard to chemical weed application.

David and Jen Ernst, N53W34297 Road Q, had recently purchased a house on the pond near Tierney Bay. J. Ernst questioned whether chemical weed spraying took place on that pond because it was full of weeds. D. Johnson explained the history of removal of pond weeds in that location, noting an oscillating water surface aquifer was used on the pond last year and would be placed soon. The weeds in the pond would not ever be eliminated but could be managed.

T. Godar moved to authorize D. Johnson to work with consultants to take a position on aquatic plant management to the Department of Natural Resources and to explore interest from other lake districts to join with the OLMD Board in working with the DNR to examine alternatives to current DNR regulations on chemical weed spraying and the duration of spraying on an annual basis. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

a. Update on Muskrat Control Process

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper and agent, provided an update on the Muskrat Control Program, noting the program was nearing completion for the spring. He had trapped approximately 319 muskrats with a few traps remaining on some shorelines. Several challenges to the program were noted. There were many piers and boat lifts on the lake placed close together which made access challenging. Boat houses with doors to the water line provided an ideal situation for the muskrats but made trapping difficult. Deteriorating piers and shoreline also provided ideal habitat for muskrat litters, especially if they

were located in quiet small bays on the lake. Overall, residents were appreciative and happy to have the help or be helpful. Recommendations for the future included filling in the burrows and to potentially add some riprap to properties that would discourage future muskrat burrows from being formed on residential properties. A second trapping phase could take place in November just before the ice formed on lakes and at the time when most piers and lifts were removed from the lake as it quieted for winter. He anticipated the fall muskrat removal would likely take approximately a week to ten days due to targeted efforts in specific areas of the lake. Next year the program should become more systematic since many of the muskrats would have been removed. A. Groehler suggested the dam should be inspected by the municipal authority due to the number of muskrat burrows near the dam. He had noticed a trail from Oconomowoc Lake coming up the river along the westerly side of the dam where they could immediately get into the lake. This was a similar situation on the north end of the lake as well.

D. Johnson questioned the number of litters each muskrat had on annual basis. A. Groehler noted each muskrat typically had three litters a year with approximately six to ten in a litter. Musky were the best predator for muskrats. All lakes in the area were experiencing similar growth and damage with muskrats. Other animal populations, such as raccoons and woodchucks, were also quite abundant around area lakes. B. Mueller would speak to the Town of Oconomowoc regarding the condition of the dam relative to muskrat activity.

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

T. Godar provided an update on the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program, noting that despite several rounds of advertising at local events and on the Okauchee Area Business Association website, on the OLMD website and in the spring OLMD newsletter, only one person had come forward as a volunteer at this time. Approximately 10-20 people were needed for approximately two hours on a Saturday over the three month summer boating season to support the grant efforts. Training was free and provided at many area locations. Discussion ensued regarding payment to police officers to staff the boat launch sites for a short period of time to move the program forward this year. Additional information on this program would be available at the next meeting.

14. Discuss & Act on OLMD Employee Handbook & Safety Manual

D. Johnson explained discussions had taken place with staff regarding the OLMD Employee Handbook & Safety Manual since the last meeting. Issues and concerns noted in the handbook and manual were discussed with Board members at this time. Discussion took place regarding bonuses, safety and training, as well as current payment practices for the lunch hour. A paid lunch hour was desired.

T. Godar moved to approve the OLMD Employee Handbook & Safety Manual with an amendment to make the lunch hour language consistent with the current desired practice. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

15. Update on Spring 2018 Newsletter

The OLMD newsletter had been distributed to all riparian owners of the Okauchee Lake Management District. T. Godar and A. Groehler had authored articles in the newsletter. C. Wilson complimented Accurate Business Communications, Inc., on the efforts associated with the spring newsletter.

16. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake level information and monthly updates to the Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletters had been added to the website since the last meeting.

17. Future Agenda Items

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

- Update on Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program
- Update on Muskrat Removal Program

18. Set Future Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

19. Adjournment

D. Schriver moved to adjourn the May 14, 2018 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.