

# OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

July 8, 2019 – 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 posting 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

Bridgett Manteufel, USGS

### 5. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from the Moose Lake Association (MLA) regarding a long-term, high-water problem and the frequent need to implement “Slow-No Wake” restrictions. The MLA had reviewed ways to alleviate the issue and asked the DNR about piping excess water from Moose Lake into Okauchee Lake. Older maps showed a connection from Moose to Okauchee Lake. Discussion took place regarding having the OLMD hire an expert to investigate the feasibility of this proposal. It was important to that an expert with experience in this area review this matter.

**Sue Lincoln, OLMD resident**, provided an email to Commissioners written to Carroll Schaal, DNR staff member, noting changes made in the chemical weed spraying plan for Okauchee Lake and resulting in adverse effects on Tierney Bay.

6. Comments from the Floor

**David and Jen Ernst, N53W34297 Road Q**, were present regarding the small pond near Tierney Bay. D. Ernst had used equipment to assist with cleaning the pond; however, he had to shut it off because it had become cost prohibitive. If the OLMD were to pay for running the equipment it would continue to clean the area effectively. It was important to use OLMD funds where they were needed. D. Schriver explained a similar experiment had taken place in 2012 or 2013 with the assistance of Marine BioChemists. That project had become labor intensive and expensive due to equipment being frequently clogged from socks and other items that were not supposed to be at the lake bottom. D. Ernst found that shear curtains acted as a filter for those types of items and let the water through. Discussion ensued. Cost of the operations could not be supported by the OLMD budget at this time. D. Ernst offered to assist in the labor along with neighbor Doug Rant, who lives on Road Q. The two of them would run the system every two weeks. The operation could be set up near the bridge with the weed barge on the other side to ease the difficulty in getting the weeds out of the pond. D. Johnson noted the seeds would rapidly go back into the water. In the past, treating the bay with “Sonar chemical weed control” had worked well. J. Ernst questioned why this bay area was not receiving chemical treatment if all OLMD property owners paid the same amount. D. Johnson explained that when the control of the treatment was the responsibility of the OLMD those areas were able to be treated. Since that time, DNR rules changed and redefined, making the spraying season shorter. Because the pond was a “closed environment” the DNR would not allow spraying in the pond. Past spraying targeted Eurasian Watermilfoil. The DNR controlled the chemical weed spraying and the OLMD must adhere to the DNR rules and regulations.

**Mike Schoen, N52W34450 Peterson Drive**, explained that in the past, neighbors had their own spraying program and that could still be done with residents working together to take care of it on their own. All homeowners had worked with Marine BioChemists in the past. D. Johnson noted the DNR rules might also apply to property owners. M. Schoen explained individual property owners met with the DNR a few years ago and the DNR had granted permission to allow property owners to clear cut weeds to the bottom out 200 feet into the lake. While he did not understand individual property rights pertaining to the DNR regulations, it was important to take a strong stand against the DNR with the OLMD providing management of a weed spraying plan for this area. It was also important that the DNR’s authority, rules and regulations were understood by all.

**Denise Hahn, N53W34485 Road Q**, questioned whether the DNR was changing chemical weed spraying management for all lakes or only Okauchee Lake. D. Johnson explained that in general the DNR was placing restrictions on any lake with harvesting operations or weed spraying programs. Data was being used from northern lakes to

change the rules for urban lakes which seemed an incorrect use of that data. Despite some DNR staff being in agreement with what had been done in the past, they had been overruled by higher ranking staff members. Concern was expressed that DNR representatives visited Tierney Bay a single time last year and the information supplied by the residents seemed to be dismissed.

**Doug Larson, N53W34257 Road Q**, expressed concern for the same situations being repeated in area lakes. Someone should monitor the water from Moose Lake to Okauchee Lake. Tierney Bay residents should be able to understand their rights as property owners about weed spraying. He suggested the OLMD invest resources to hire someone to represent the OLMD and its property owners to learn more about the rights and role of the DNR in these situations. Photos showing how weeds flowed into Tierney Bay from the lake had been shared with D. Shriver. Discussion ensued regarding issues of concern pertaining to the shortened weed spraying season and the pond near Tierney Bay. Mechanical dredging was not a viable option for many property owners due to its high cost.

**Lori Cook, 34558 Peterson Drive**, questioned whether the new boat landing had a rinse station. D. Johnson noted a lake water pump to be used for rinsing boats had been requested of the DNR to no avail. It was also noted that the launch signs showed “full” this past weekend despite having several spaces available. No attendant was available at the launch during this time. The signage also indicated no spaces were available when spaces were available. C. Wilson will ask DNR staff about the sign and pump for water.

Comments from the floor were closed. Without objection, C. Wilson moved to Item 11 on the agenda.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

P. Furno reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$348,749.59
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$166,663.02</u>
Total:	\$182,086.57

**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

**B. Mueller moved to approve the bills to be paid for July 2019. C. Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**T. Godar moved to approve the June 10, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

11. Presentation by Bridgett Manteufel Regarding USGS Survey Results

A document titled “Water Quality Data” was distributed. USGS staff had sampled water quality on the lake in five locations throughout the lake. B. Manteufel explained how the lake-depth profiles were collected. The Trophic State Index showed total phosphorus levels. Long term data was used to track trends regarding the health of the lake. This type of monitoring takes place every other year. Lake data collected seemed to demonstrate that Okauchee Lake was holding steady with little trending in either direction.

**Wei Shen, N52 W34498 Petersen Drive**, questioned the chloride and sodium readings. B. Manteufel explained the data collected was consistent with other lakes in the area with the largest contributor to the levels being winter salting of the roadways. Discussion ensued. B. Manteufel offered to gather additional information from USGS staff on this topic.

C. Wilson returned to Item 7 and the remainder of the agenda at this time.

12. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Update on 2019 Muskrat Control Program

**Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper**, provided an update on the spring Muskrat Control Program. The spring phase of the program had been completed with 79 muskrats caught in comparison with more than 300 a year ago. He recommended proceeding with the fall phase of the 2019 Muskrat Control Program.

**Liz Heidenreich, W345 N5276 Tierney Road**, questioned whether trapping took place in the little pond near Tierney Bay referenced earlier in the meeting. A.

Groehler had worked in the pond in 2018. While he had not visited that area for the spring phase, he planned to do so in the fall phase of the program.

b. Discuss & Act on Okauchee Lake Chemical Weed Spraying Program

D. Johnson provided an update. Since the last meeting, there were issues with the dump sites for harvested weeds. John Koepke had been called and he agreed to temporarily accept aquatic vegetation on his property. Other farmers had been contacted without interest indicated for taking the weeds in the future.

An OLMD mechanic had resigned. A Town of Oconomowoc staff member was helping and additional mechanical contracting had taken place, but no long-term solutions were found at this time. An ad had been placed in the newspapers and on the OLMD website for a mechanic willing to work from April to November for 4-8 hours per day; however, no responses had been received. Five truckloads of weeds were being removed per day and the weed growth was quite heavy. Approximately \$40,000 of the \$45,000 budgeted amount for weed spraying had been used from the annual budget. D. Johnson remained concerned about milfoil weed growth evidenced in the spring in comparison with the weed growth in the fall. The spraying restriction continues to cause problems. When Tierney Bay was sprayed the way it had been done in the past, it was successful. Currently it was not being sprayed that way. The effects of not being able to spray in the fall were now being realized with having to expend most of the budget all at one time of the year.

T. Godar contacted Attorney William O'Connor regarding the possibility of working with the OLMD to determine the DNR authority, related impacts from weed growth and resources available to the OLMD in working with the MLA. It was the responsibility of the OLMD to protect the lake.

**T. Godar moved to authorize D. Johnson to explore options for hiring Attorney William (Bill) O'Connor to work with the OLMD on aquatic plant management and a plan to manage high water issues with Moose Lake. D. Johnson seconded the motion. C. Wilson noted Bill O'Connor had an excellent reputation in working with lake management. A special meeting could be called if fees were more than \$10,000. B. Mueller noted no other alternatives were available. D. Schriver questioned whether an initial plan could be provided in time for the Annual Meeting. T. Godar explained the project could potentially go in phases. T. Godar amended the motion to authorize D. Johnson to explore options for hiring Attorney William O'Connor to work with the OLMD on aquatic plant management and a plan to manage high water issues with Moose Lake for a fee not to exceed \$5,000.**

**There was no discussion on the amendment. All were in favor. Motion carried. There was no further discussion on the main motion including the amendment. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

It was also noted that the retention pond near Foolery's was surrounded by cattails and the discharge pipe was partially clogged. B. Mueller would investigate this matter.

13. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake level information, monthly updates to the Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletter, weekly weed cutting updates, an ad for a new mechanic, fireworks information, information about free lake weeds and placement of flags from chemical spraying had been added to the website since the June 10, 2019 meeting.

14. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next regular OLMD meeting agenda:

- Discuss & Act on Okauchee Lake Chemical Weed Spraying Program
- Discuss & Act on Moose Lake High Water Issues

15. Set Future Meetings

The Budget Workshop meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

The next regular meeting of the OLMD is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

16. Motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(c): "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."  
(Performance review and compensation for OLMD employees)

**D. Schriver moved to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant To §19.85(1)(C): "Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of Any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body Has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility." (Performance Review and Compensation for OLMD Employees) at 8:25 PM. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further**

**discussion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Carol Wilson, aye; Dennis Johnson, aye; Bruce Mueller, aye; Dee Schriver, aye; Tom Godar, aye. Motion carried.**

17. Reconvene into Open Session

**D. Johnson moved to reconvene into Open Session at 8:45 P.M. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken: Carol Wilson, aye; Dennis Johnson, aye; Bruce Mueller, aye; Dee Schriver, aye, Tom Godar, aye. Motion carried.**

18. Discuss & Act on Closed Session Item

**T. Godar moved to provide the increased hourly compensation adjustment to the Lake Operations Manager at the next pay period and that he would also receive delayed increases from the past three years to be included in the next payroll to be prepared. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

19. Adjournment

**D. Johnson moved to adjourn the June 10, 2019 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.**