

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Monday, August 26, 2019 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; Tom Godar, Secretary, Dennis Johnson, Liaison - Lake Operations; and Bruce Mueller, Town Representative. All were present.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Jane Bruner, N57W34402 Nickels Point Road, moved to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting as presented. Tom Cardella, W343N5212 Gietzen Road, 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 July, 2019 and reported the following:

Revenues	\$348,749.59
Expenditures	<u>\$211,137.03</u>
Balance	\$137,512.56

J. Bruner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Lou Hernandez N55W34553 Road E, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
C. Wilson moved to the Update on the Muskrat Control Program at this time.

Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Police Officer Andrew Williams was present and reported the following:

Steve Godfrey, Godfrey Island, noted the presence of water skiers “zipping” around the island on personal watercraft. A. Williams noted multiple complaints had been received about this activity and parents had been notified that any additional issues would result in ticketing for being too close to shore and/or other boats. Personal watercraft needed to be 100 yards from piers, rafts, restricted areas of the lake and other boaters and 200 yards from shore.

Arleen Komondoros, W388N5417 Road N, questioned whether speed limits on Okauchee Lake include a “Slow-No Wake” speed before 8:00 a.m. A. Williams explained that was correct and many boaters were not abiding by that regulation. Wakeboaters with very loud music and using profane language was another issue of concern this year. Much of this activity was coming from Icehouse Bay. Officers had met with the boaters and requested consideration of others noting a wakeboarder did not need to hear the music while on the wakeboard.

John Long, N52W344000 Road Q, noted there had been several boats on the lake recently that seemed to have loud exhaust. A. Williams explained there were noise regulations on the lake; however, the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department was not equipped with a decibel meter to be able to monitor the regulation at this time. While several OLMD audience members present offered to purchase a decibel meter for the Department, specific calibrations and equipment certifications were required for legality reasons.

Mike Eppler, N51W35369 River Road, was concerned about boaters that buzzed the end of the point near his residence because they were very close to shore and had kids attempting to grab foliage on the shoreline trees. He was very concerned that someone would fall off and get hurt. He had not seen patrols recently in his area of the lake. A. Williams suggested that M. Eppler call the Police Department the next time this happened and provide any identifying information from the boat, such as a description or license number from the side of the boat, to begin an investigation. With that kind of information, officers could follow-up on the activity even when boaters were off the lake.

A. Williams provided statistics from the past year as noted:

YTD Statistics from 2019 were:

Patrol hours to date	529	
Accidents	0	
Citations issued	125	
Boating OWI's	8	
Warnings issued	461	(a ratio of 4 citation/5.25 lake patrol hours)
Boater Safety Classes	0	(due to lack of students)

Officer Williams reported the following:

2019 Okauchee Lake Boat Tie-Up-number of boats provided:

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

While there were no significant accidents, one person had fallen off a pier at a local establishment. The boat's movement caught her leg between the boat and the pier; however, she walked away without injury.

A. Williams email contact information was provided as: awilliams@topdonline.com. If inappropriate snowmobiling activity occurred on the lake during winter months, the DNR should be contacted instead of the Town Police.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson noted there were 184 dump truck loads of weeds removed from the lake this year so far. This was more than last year because a smaller dump truck was being used to transport weeds to the farm fields due to wet soils from recent rains. Additional dump sites were needed for the future. Anyone with farm land that could use some lake weeds as fertilizer should contact the OLMD office at 262-966-0286. Barging was anticipated through October 18; however, the cutting crew would be lost by mid-September. The OLMD needed a mechanic that was mechanically inclined or had knowledge/skills of hydraulics. The OLMD mechanic position spanned mid-April to the first week in November. Anyone interested in the position should contact the OLMD office at 262-966-0286 as soon as possible.

A Goose Round-Up was held in mid-June with 55 geese removed from the lake.

D. Johnson explained an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan was required to harvest weeds on Okauchee Lake every five years. This year was the sixth year with the existing plan and an extension had been filed to allow cutting to take place. Work would begin on the next five year APM plan and would begin in spring of 2020. The APM covered the types of weeds in the lake, chemical treatment products, and generally acted as a guide on what could be done with weed harvesting on the lake. A number of changes were required of the OLMD this year including surveying weed locations, density of population and type of survey work required. This year a point intercept survey was required that collected data from 1,000 sample points on the lake at an increased survey cost. Brian Suffern, of MarineBiochemists, had been consulting on this survey for the OLMD and was nearly finished. In conducting surveys this past few months, Starry Stonewort was discovered in two stands in the lake. One stand was located near the public launch site at the Golden Mast (approximately 4,000 sf) and the second stand (1,500 sf) was located near the bridge by Foolery's. Both stands were located in high boat traffic areas. The lake had continued to be surveyed after the Starry Stonewort was spotted with no other stands located in the lake at this time. People should be very aware of cleaning their boat this year and make sure that the boat, trailer, live wells and all personal watercraft were thoroughly cleaned before removal. Starry Stonewort was an aggressive invasive weed with unpredictable growth that could grow to eight feet in water. In shallow areas, it could render the lake impossible to navigate. Efforts were underway to aggressively treat the stands of Starry Stonewort with a number of options available for treatment. The DNR required a permit

to treat Starry Stonewort and often suggested the use of Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). In DASH, divers would go to the lake bed and manually remove the Starry Stonewort plant bulbils which were white star shaped parts of the plants that assisted the plant in reseeding. Another option was to place barrier mats on the lake bed to prevent the weeds from growing outside of an impermeable curtain around the stand. The plants could then be chemically treated in that area without fear of destroying other native plants that might be growing nearby. The OLMD wanted to aggressively treat the Starry Stonewort before it multiplied in the lake. DASH was very expensive to treat with the two current stands estimated to cost approximately \$20,000. This method had not proven successful in other area lakes with stands increasing in size. Chemical treatment could be effective; however, it was not consistently effective at eradication. Chemical treatment was much less expensive in consideration of treatment options. Grant funding was available for treatment at this time; however, securing the funding often took place retroactively in the form of a reimbursement to allow a rapid response prior to the upcoming winter season. No single method or treatment had removed Starry Stonewort in the past. **Randy and Lynn Bree, W357N5102 Lakeshore Drive**, were present. L. Bree suggested a multi-pronged approach to treatment of Starry Stonewort. Discussion ensued. J. Bruner expressed concern that the public boat launch had been constructed without water and this had negatively impacted the ability for people to manually clean their boats at the launch site. She offered to provide additional funding to keep the Starry Stonewort out of the lake. T. Godar explained efforts had been directed at staffing the boat launch in the past year as part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program offered through the DNR to keep aquatic invasive species, such as Starry Stonewort, out of the lake. The project had failed due to a lack of volunteers to staff the launch site. Discussion took place regarding communication efforts in letting residents know about Starry Stonewort to bring awareness to the current situation in the lake.

Christine Smith, N52W344000 Road Q, expressed concern about the large wakesurfing boats on the lake relative to shoreline erosion and questioned what could be done to stop this. This was a problem on all areas lakes and no clear answers were available on how to stop this from happening. A. Komondoros complimented the weed harvesting crew on the weed control this year, noting this had been one of the best years for cutting.

Update on Muskrat Control Program

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper, explained the OLMD Board had commissioned him to trap muskrats in Okauchee Lake in 2018. He trapped the lake in spring and fall with approximately 500 muskrats removed from the lake. This year the number of muskrats had decreased to 150 which was a good sign. Aggressive trapping last year, combined with the hard winter and late spring, had an effect on the population demonstrated for this year. He noted the muskrats in Stumpy Bay and Tierney Bay were the largest in size. A few reports of recent muskrat sightings had been received and another trapping would take place this fall once the weeds died back and piers were removed for the winter mid-November. A. Groehler recommended continuing with the same trapping program (spring and fall trapping) for one more year. He anticipated the number of muskrats would be fewer and fewer as more were removed from the lake each year. This would help to mitigate the damage being done to shoreline properties. Discussion ensued. The number of trappers in the entire state was declining. T. Cardella suggested a discussion on how to support A. Groehler in the future and how to provide the next generation of trappers so that this type of work could continue. Anyone with muskrats should contact Arnold Groehler directly by phone at 262-490-9363.

Proposed 2020 Budget, Discuss & Act

The proposed 2020 budget was reviewed. A proposal to increase fees approximately \$12 was included due to an increase in wages and salaries, the aquatic plant survey and related five year Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Additional legal fees were anticipated in the budget this year to gain assistance in dealing with resistance from the DNR related to chemical weed treatment programs. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of mitigating issues relative to fiscal responsibility shown by the Board. While no issues were raised with the amount of increase proposed, discussion took place regarding the history of why each OLMD property was charged the same amount despite some lots having more frontage than others. T. Cardella suggested additional funding should be placed in the budget to combat Starry Stonewort and other lake weeds.

Mike Welsh, 5000 Road T, questioned the history of lack of fees at the boat launch. C. Wilson explained the DNR was responsible for the management of the boat launches.

Michael Larsen, W332N6361 CTH C, questioned the budget objectives for weed collection near his property. D. Johnson explained the harvesting crew had visited that area 21 times over the course of the summer. This was more than twice the number of times last year. Approximately 60% of all weed cutting took place in Gastricks Bay and Stevens Bay. The crew had to provide service to all areas of the lake without spending an inordinate amount of time in one area. The Lake Operations Supervisor diligently kept records regarding weed harvesting completed and the amount of time spent in areas on the lake. Increasing the weed cutting portion of the budget would allow additional cutting; however, it would not solve all the issues with weeds on the lake for people. The additional cost for another cutter would lead to space issues. Funds were also needed to combat Starry Stonewort. The overall treatment cost would be expensive if the DNR required the OLMD to prove that more expensive treatments, such as DASH, were of no use prior to implementing other less expensive treatments, like chemicals. The OLMD was researching a "Rapid Response" cost share reimbursement grant that would be reimbursed after the OLMD had paid to treat the areas infested with Starry Stonewort. Additional information about treatment of Starry Stonewort would be provided in the future.

L. Hernandez moved to approve the Proposed 2020 Budget as presented. A. Komondoros seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Twenty-four were in favor. Motion carried. T. Cardella opposed.

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

C. Wilson explained that Commissioner Tom Godar's three year term was complete and his Board position was up for re-election. C. Wilson explained the nomination process, the responsibilities of the OLMD Commissioners and then asked three times whether anyone in the audience would like to run for this Commission seat.

Self-introduction and Questions to Candidate from the Board and Floor

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

Election of Commissioner

J. Bruner nominated Tom Godar to the OLMD Board. The nomination was seconded by A. Komondoros. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

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

S. Godfrey questioned whether ducks were ever considered an issue. It was noted that residents seemed to like ducks overall with only non-migratory geese rounded up annually.

Report on Results of Election

Tom Godar was re-elected and would be reinstated as Commissioner for a three year term from 2019-2022 for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

J. Bruner moved to adjourn from the 2019 Okauchee Lake Management District Annual Meeting. A. Komondoros seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.