

# **OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

August 28th, 2023 – Annual Meeting

**To be held at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**

W359N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

[www.olmd.org](http://www.olmd.org)

## **Minutes**

### Call to Order

D. Schriver called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

### Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to local newspapers, posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, two posting boards, sent via U.S. Mail to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District (OLMD) and on the OLMD Website.

### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Chairperson will open the meeting

#### Introduction of Commissioners

Dee Schriver introduced herself and announced that she is the current acting temporary Chairperson. Carol Wilson was the Chairperson and Waukesha County Representative for 30 plus years and has chosen to retire. We are honoring Carol at this time.

The OLMD Commissioners present: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Tom Godar, Secretary; John Foley, Commissioner; and Bruce Mueller, Oconomowoc Town Representative. D. Schriver also introduced Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager; Pat Furno, Accountant for the District; Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper; and Stefanie Anderson as OLMD Secretary.

T. Godar announced that he is the longest serving current commissioner and has been surrounded by wonderful people on the board and in the community. He thanked Carol for the leadership that she offered. Being that Carol Wilson is one of the longest serving board members, serving over 4 decades, she has always put the interest of Okauchee Lake first. While she has had her own opinions, she has listened to the residents and has been fair in her judgments. Her accomplishments protecting the lake resources, helping to develop rules to encourage lake safety as well as combating invasive species, do not go unnoticed. This is a major accomplishment as she has served over 1,200 riparian owners. She served our community proudly and we thank her for her hard work and dedication to Okauchee Lake.

T. Godar invited Carol Wilson to speak:

Carol Wilson announced that she has lived on the lake for her entire life and in the same house. She was here when the OLMD was established, and she started as a novice board member. She has enjoyed working here and thanked the board for everything they have done. She stated that they always had a way of working things out and creating the best outcomes for Okauchee Lake. C. Wilson proclaimed that we are all here for the future generations and to keep the lake in as great of shape as it is. Okauchee Lake is her home and her happy place.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

**Susan Lincoln W345N5288 Tearney Rd Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 moved to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.**

**Jonathon Long, N5353W300 Rd Q, Okauchee WI 53069 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report, Discuss and Act

Treasurer D. Schriver reviewed the July 2023 Treasurer's Report and reported the following:

Revenues \$306,622.61

Expenditures \$219,788.43

Balance \$170,834.18

**Jonathon Long, N5353W300 Rd Q, Okauchee WI 53069 moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. Liz Heidenreich W345N5276 Tearney Rd Okauchee, WI 53069 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Proposed 2024 Budget Discuss and Act

D. Schriver stated the proposed 2024 budget:

\$409,725 Revenue

\$409,775 Total Expenses

The riparian charges for 2024 will be \$293.80

This compares to \$287.86 for 2023

There is a slight 2% increase from 2023

**Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, to make a motion to approve the 2024 proposed budget. John Butler N53W34278 Road Q Okauchee, 53069 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, wanted to raise awareness of the work the board has done in preventative maintenance in order to keep the increase low.

## Police Department Reports

### Lake Patrol

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

YTD Statistics from 2023 were:

Patrol hours to date 413.5

Citations issued 64

Warnings issued 189 (a ratio of 6.4 lake patrol hours per citation up from 6.2 last year)

Overall, they have had very few problems on the road or on the lake.

### 2023 Okauchee Lake Tie-Up

The Town of Oconomowoc Police Department provided two patrol boats;

The DNR provided three patrol boats;

Town of Merton provided one patrol boat

The number of arrests for OWI:

Town of Oconomowoc Police Department: 1 (Including OWI and DUI)

Officer Williams noted that everyone was respectful and decent this year as the crowd is getting older and they are not bringing a younger crowd into the mix. The citations went down from the previous year. There were no accidents this year during the tie up.

### Questions:

Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, asked if any joint training with the Fire Department was done. Officer Williams responded that no, many times they go to Lac Labelle and Oconomowoc Lake for training.

Arleen Lynch, W338N5417 Road N, Nashotah WI, 53058 asked how do the officers follow up with resident complaints. For instance, those who are playing loud or profane music after 8pm. Officer Williams responded that to file a complaint the Registration of the boat is needed as well as a description of the boat. They can launch at anytime if they know who they are looking for. If it is an emergency call 911, non-emergency Waukesha number. We approach boats if we see potential violations and talk to them. There have been a couple of holidays where they have asked boats to turn their music down.

Lauren Smith W336N6425 Lakeview Lane, Oconomowoc WI 53066 asked where and when do you patrol. Officer Williams responded that they are out usually from 11am-7pm and on Saturday 11am-11pm. They will also make sure to be out during any events. L. Smith also asked if they were aware of how many boats are launched on certain days. Officer Williams replied that they can't control or know how many boats are launching or leaving throughout the day.

Mitch Grenier, Retired Conservation DNR, stated that he started as a warden in 1991 in Okauchee. The lake is running very smoothly now compared to back then. They used to issue citations for about 22 OWI's for the tie up, now they are only giving out around 1 per year. There are 2 launches, the Golden Mast and the Public Launch.

Jeff Smith W332N6565 Hwy C Nashotah, WI 53058 asked what the rule is about standing up and driving your boat. Mitch replied that yes you are allowed to stand and drive as long as both feet are on the deck.

D. Schriver announced that we have Travis Shroeder here from the DNR as well if you have questions about the waterways. There were no further questions.

Richard Koch N553465 Rd E Oconomowoc, WI 53066, stated that he lives 50 feet from the Hideaway. There are rental properties on both sides of him. At times he can have a yard full of cars and people camping out. They have about 15 rental boats and installed 2 new piers at the properties, which they did successfully make them remove. About 2 years ago the Town of Oconomowoc Police Chief fined the owner of the rental properties. There is another house nearby that also offers a lot of rentals. They will fill up the property like a parking lot. He would like to see some specific hours that they would be able to stay, as there are people there all of the time. He has had to wait for people to move their boats, so that he can get out of his own pier. He has also had to ask people to move off of his personal pier in the past.

William Grey, N52W35211 W. Lake Dr. Oconomowoc WI 53066, stated that they have a neighbor that keeps adding rental boat slips. They have about 11 rental spots to date; operating on only about 250 ft. of lake frontage. He has written letters to report this since they have lived there and had no response.

Timmie Coppenger, N52W35147 West Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, asked about the Golden Mast and their piers. Mitch replied they have worked with them and the DNR had a permit spot check in 2022. They were in accordance with the regulations.

Lorna Mueller, N53W34995 Road B Okauchee, WI 53066, asked where on the list of importance with the DNR are the mini marinas that are popping up. Mitch replied that unfortunately it is low on the list of priorities as it is not a public service area. They deal with the most prominent problem first. Lorna replied that she understands that the DNR is busy, can the OLMD be of any help? Mitch stated that not really, there has to be the correct personal experts to issue any citations and take action.

Mitch stated anyone that has slips before April, 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 is Grandfathered in. If you add square footage to your pier then you lose your Grandfathering. If you have 75ft of frontage then you can have 2 boats and 2 personal watercraft.

B. Mueller asked what about the piers that now have large decks on the end. Mitch replied that there is no rule against that.

John Butler, N53W34278 Road Q, Okauchee WI 53069 asked who do you call if you have an issue with someone. Mitch replied that you can fill out a complaint form online. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWcomplaint>. You can also call the hotline number 1-800-847-9367 to report suspected violations. The Waukesha County DNR patrols Pewaukee Lake,

Lac Labelle, Nagawicka and Okauchee Lake. They are prioritizing issues of most danger first. There are 460 complaints right now that they have yet to go through.

### Aquatic Plant Management Report

Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Supervisor, is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the OLMD Supervisor and 6<sup>th</sup> year working for the OLMD. Brady announced that this was the year of new equipment, including 4 Kubota engines for the harvesters that can now safely fit under all of the bridges. They have 3 new 115 horsepower engines for the barges. The time and funds that they have spent on preventative maintenance has been worth it. They have had a great year so far and are on track to dispose of 200 dump truck loads of weeds (about 4 per day). He stated that 2023 started slower than last year, the first rotation took 7 weeks. They are about 90% done for the season. They are still finishing Crazy Man's Island, Little Okauchee, and Tearney Bay. The weed growth in Tearney Bay and Stumpy Bay was noticeably lighter this year after chemical treatment. The thing to watch for will be the eelgrass for the rest of the season. There are 3 types that will show up. The first is the grass that is cut by the harvesters and will be about 12-36in long. The second type will be prop chop, under 12 inches, and finally the eelgrass that is pulling up in nature as a sign of Fall approaching. The crew will deal with the floaters as much as possible and capture about 99% of what is cut. They then go back and try to skim the remaining 1%.

Brady informed that the cutting crew has stuck to an altered schedule this Summer starting with Monday morning clean up. They usually come out with 2 dump truck loads after the weekend. They continue Monday with heavy cutting until Thursday. "Surface Fridays" took place again this year and that includes skimming the lake surface and collecting usually 4 dump truck loads of aquatic plants in preparation for weekend activity. Brady said that they had a great crew this year again, many returning veteran's. They didn't have to do any marketing to recruit. For the Fall they will have a few crew members going back to college and will disperse the remaining team accordingly. September will have a reduced cutting schedule as well as a reduced barging schedule. Late September they will start to pull the equipment out.

Brady announced that they did complete the Goose Round Up this year and that they were able to remove over 50 birds. Brady said that he loves what he does and that he looks forward to returning next year as the Lake Operations Supervisor.

Dale Dineen, W346N6559 Whittaker Road, Oconomowoc WI 53066 said that they have lived there since 1999. They live right around the corner of the point where the wind turns up all of the weeds. They have 129ft of frontage property and the weeds end up in front of their yard multiple times a week. Him and his wife have cleaned up the weeds for many years and when he got sick 5 years ago it has been harder and harder to keep up. He brought this to Brady's attention and said that Brady treated him so kindly that he was very grateful. Brady has an efficient, meticulous and problem-solving work ethic. He will listen to you and never talk down to you.

Multiple residents said that he is the best at his job and there should be more Brady's in the world.

D. Schriver responded thank you for your comments and that we agree, Brady is doing an excellent job and has worked very hard.

B. Mueller said that he gets calls and texts from homeowner's and that he knows that Brady will take care of the problem within the day.

#### Update on Animal Control Programs

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage control Trapper stated that he started working with Okauchee Lake around 5-6 years ago. Last year the calls for muskrats and beavers started the first week of January. They try to stay ahead of the problem and this year has been very quiet. When he first started he saw shoreline damage that was done by racoons, skunks, woodchucks and voles. We are now in the maintenance phase and have started to win the war. There were no further questions.

#### Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

T. Godar explained that by Carol Wilson retiring, Waukesha county appointed Dee Schriver as the county representative. Dee Schriver stated that she had one year left on her term as commissioner, and that John Foley could be appointed to fill that remaining 1 year term. John Foley voluntarily stated that he was not running for re-election of a 3 year term, so that a new commissioner can be elected. This keeps the 3 year terms staggered for the future election of commissioners. D. Schriver 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.

Jeff Smith, W332N6565 Hwy C, Nashotah WI 53058 nominated Jonathon Long. Kara Krueger N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 nominated Brian Sichi. No other attendees were nominated.

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

Jonathon Long, N5353W300 Rd Q, Okauchee WI 53069 said that he is running for the board as he has been living on the lake for 20 years. He is a Mechanical Engineer with a minor in Accounting. He has an MBA from UW Parkside. He would like to be on the board to preserve the lakes natural history, accessibility, and to see that the lake stays in the best shape possible.

Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 thanked John for also running. He stated that he has been a member of the Lake Country community since 1972. He is a Stone Bank School and Arrowhead H.S. graduate. He has traveled the world as a USMC Combat Veteran and is now a management consultant. Within his role of consultant he understands influence without power. He would like to help the OLMD Board to play a bigger role in advocating for the Okauchee Lake community.

## Results of Election

T. Godar announced that Brian Sichi was the leader of the votes and would be instated as Commissioner for a three-year term from 2023-2026 for the Okauchee Lake Management District. He thanked John Long for also running.

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

D. Schriver asked if there were any other Lake Management Issues.

Lauren Smith, W336N6425 Lakeview Lane, Oconomowoc WI, 3066 asked if they could clarify the restriction of aquatic blowers. The Commissioners indicated that this may be a question for the DNR.

Greg Hirt, W347N6046 Rd I, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 asked if the OLMD participates in any water quality programs.

T. Godar stated that we participate in Lake Country Clean Waters and are very involved with the state of Wisconsin water quality planning. OLMD contributed extensively to the retention pond on West Lake Dr. to address water quality. B. Mueller stated that there is information on our website about our membership with the Lake Country Clean Waters, and that we are part of the Oconomowoc Watershed program. The Oconomowoc Watershed program works with farmland runoff that enters our lakes.

Liz Heidenreich W345N5276 Tearney Rd. Okauchee Lake, WI 53069, gave thanks to the board for the wonderful job for this year's chemical treatment in Tearney Bay. She has lived there since 1994 and it has never looked as good. D. Schriver replied, thank you and that a new chemical, Procellacor, was used this year. While Procellacor is more expensive, it is supposed to have a 3 year effectiveness. We should not have to treat it every year like we have in the past with 24-D. We are carefully monitoring the results.

D. Schriver asked if anyone had any other questions. No other issues were brought to attention.

## Adjournment of Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

**Greg Hirt, W347N6046 Rd I, Oconomowoc, WI 53066 moved to adjourn the August 28th, 2023 Annual Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. Keith Granum, N53W34296 Road Q, Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.**