

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MONDAY July 14th, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

VILLAGE OF LAC LA BELLE – UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM

W359N6812 BROWN STREET OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066

THIS MEETING WAS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND VIA REMOTE CONNECTIONS

1. Call to Order

T.Godar called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to a local newspaper, posted at the Village of Lac La Belle, Town of Merton, on the OLMD Website, the Waukesha County Website, and a web conference connection information was provided for remote attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present: Tom Godar, John Foley, Brian Sichi, Doug Larson, Bruce Mueller

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Pat Furno, **Accountant for the District;** Linda Goehre, **Website Designer,** Dee Schriver (remote) **Consultant;** Stefanie Anderson **OLMD Secretary**

5. Correspondence

- a. D. Larson received correspondence regarding a letter of variance from the County.
- b. B. Sichi received correspondence for a requested address change.
- c. T. Godar received correspondence questioning mooring buoys and movement of them.

6. Comments from the Floor

- a. Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist, reported the muskrat movement and trappings so far this season. He predicted that they will show up in Stumpy Bay soon as muskrats are a year-round issue. They have been successful in trapping them in the hot areas thus far.

- b. Arnold stated that this is the year of the chipmunk. There are ways that a homeowner can get rid of them using a bucket of water and some birdseed to attract them. In October they will start to burrow, and you do not want them to get into your house.
- c. Arnold advised that the trend for controlling the Canadian Geese is now to conduct Goose egg oiling in the Spring as apposed to a Goose Round Up. Arnold stated that the geese are like salmon and will continue to go back to where they were born. The goal is to break that pattern. This would consist of spraying the nest with oil similar to canola oil resulting in the eggs being unable to hatch. The nest is not destroyed as this would result in the mother creating a new nest. If we would like to go this route in the future, we would need to get a permit, and Arnold could become the authorized egg oiler. It has proved to work very well and is more cost-effective than conducting a round-up.
- d. Arnold also stated that the geese tend to stay close to aerators as all wildlife tends to do, including muskrats. They can also be an issue in the Winter creating thin ice around them. D. Larson agreed, stating that some people are placing them to keep the ice from forming around their pier.
- e. Keith Granum, N53W34296 Road Q, Okauchee WI, 53069, stated that he attended the Village of Lac La Belle Hall meeting and one of the topics was regarding aerators on the lake and if they should be eliminated.
- f. Nigel & Joyce Jakes, W339N5061 Road O. Nashotah, WI 53058, raised awareness of the Badgerland Ski Team practice location during the weeknights and how it is affecting Icehouse Bay. The Jakes have been owners on Okauchee Lake since 2007. They understand that this can be a sensitive topic. Much watersport traffic has moved to Icehouse Bay in the last couple of years now that Stumpy Bay is a popular tie up location. With the weekends (Fri-Sun) being a busier time on the lake the couple enjoyed the tranquility of the weeknights (Mon-Thurs) in the bay. Recent Summers have proven that this is no longer the case as the Badgerland Ski Team will now use this as their practice zone multiple nights per week for at least a few hours. With the practice, it brings extra noise, traffic, cars parked on the street and close pick-ups near the shoreline. The Jakes understand that they must have a location to practice as they used to practice on Lake Keesus and had similar complaints. There are other owners who feel the same and are looking for a solution.
- g. T. Godar questioned if anyone had an idea or solution to offer. B. Sichi stated that because there are multiple municipalities on the lake this issue would have to go to the Village of Lac La Belle and the Town of Merton to get any rules in place. If they are getting too close to the shoreline or breaking any rules to reach out to the Badgerland Ski Team directly. We are not a law enforcement or rule making board. D. Larson suggested that they may be able to place buoys to keep them further from their property. J. Foley agreed and stated that you may get skiers who go in and out of your buoys, but it does keep more traffic away from

your shoreline. T. Godar stated that it is 150 feet from the shoreline and 100 feet from the piers, that is acceptable.

7. Comments from Committee Members

- a. B. Sichi stated that a Sheriff Deputy pulled over one of the barges because we did not have a proper sign marking that it was an OLMD barge. This was the first time in 50 years that we have been asked to have a marking; we will look into getting a proper sign on our barges.

8. Discuss Treasurer's Report

D. Larson reported the following for ending June 30th 2025

Total Revenues: \$420,965.23

Total Expenditures: \$93,937.90

This leaves a budgeted balance of: \$327,027.33

B. Sichi moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. J. Foley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Approved Checks & Vouchers

D. Larson reported that the Goose Round – Up payment was returned as the Round-Up was not successful.

B. Sichi moved to approve payments submitted from June 9th 2025 through July 14th 2025. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (06/09/25)

J. Foley moved to approve the 06/09/25 minutes. D. Larson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Lake Operations Report, Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager

- a. Brady stated that the best effort was put into trying to conduct the Goose Round-Up. For the first hour and a half they did not find a single goose. There was a group of geese in Stumpy Bay but we did not have the authority to act on that area.
- b. Brady stated that the 4th of July weekend is the busiest weekend of the Summer. The crew conducted a pick-up on the 3rd. Currently they have finished the seawall renovation and will continue to knock down and clean things up as needed.

- c. Brady received a call regarding property that was purchased by the OLMD around 16 years ago. There was a question of the property being dredged and T. Godar agreed to let Brady pass along his contact information to discuss the matter.
- d. Brady announced that we are down 25 percent of our cutters including C1. Brady purchased paddle board motors to have on hand as Inland is working on this for us. We have replaced all four motors. Half of the paddle wheel motors are upgraded.
- e. Brady thanked D. Larson for his effort to help the Barge that went down near his property earlier that day.
- f. Brady brought up the topic of mooring buoys and how they offer both pros and cons. They can get wrapped up in the paddle wheel motors and this would be a good thing for riparian owners to be aware of.

12. Update on APM Extension Plan, John Foley & Dee Schriver, Consultant

- a. J. Foley thanked Brady for playing an instrumental role in representing what his crew does and for reaching out to board members to keep everyone informed.
- b. The APM was approved and on June 16th, 2025, the chemical treatment was completed. Everything went very smoothly, and J. Foley thanked Dee Schriver for her continued relationship with Heidi Bunk to make this a seamless transition.
- c. T. Godar stated that when he spoke with Brian Suffern, he reassured us that we took the necessary steps, and everything was done as quickly as possible. There is a short 2-week window after the fish are done spawning and before the 4th of July to conduct the chemical spraying,
- d. D. Larson stated that we are using some new chemicals, and some do not require to be sprayed every year. An example is ProcellaCOR which is sprayed every 3 years. It is important for riparian owners to understand the new timeline. B. Sichi agreed that it is worth writing a riparian owner plan to outline the bullet points for the chemical treatment
- e. D. Shriver agreed that these are all excellent points and that J. Foley was doing a great job creating a relationship with Heidi Bunk. She is the entryway to Grant opportunities that B. Sichi is also working towards.

13. Results of Goose Round - Up

- a. The Goose-Round Up could not be completed. The day of the round-up the geese dispersed and there were not enough to successfully move forward. There was no charge for the effort.

14. Discuss & Act on the OLMD Involvement in Tree Cutting

- a. T. Godar questioned who should be responsible for the trees, is it the homeowner, the OLMD, the Village, or another party.
- b. D. Larson stated that the trees have become more of an issue than in the past. Recently there were 3 trees down. He attended the Village Meeting, and this will be a Discuss & Act topic at the next meeting. The Village board will put a policy in place and an outside barge company will be hired to assist when needed.
- c. D. Larson stated that some riparian owners have hired companies to look at their trees for diseases, age, etc. The Village will take over this topic and put an ordinance in place.
- d. B. Sichi stated that he will attend a Town of Merton meeting to see what their statement is and that they should be a point of contact for any trees that fall in or near the entrance to Garvin Lake.
- e. T. Godar wants to take responsibility off Brady for the tree cutting as it is beyond our scope of the workman's compensation.

15. Discuss the Website

- a. B.Sichi suggested writing a piece for the riparian owner's regarding weed management and what to expect for a chemical treatment timeline.
- b. T. Godar questioned if there were lake management district awards for Brady and the crew. B. Sichi stated that yes there are and D. Schriver added that Heidi Bunk would also be a good contact to ask regarding achievement awards.

16. Future Agenda Items

- a. Discuss & Act on Goose Egg Oiling
- b. Discuss & Act on Grant Strategy
- c. Discuss & Act on Alternate Sites for Weed Disposal

17. Set Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is August 11th 2025 @ 7pm.

The Annual Meeting/Organizational Meeting is Aug 25th @ 7pm.

18. Adjournment

B. Sichi moved to adjourn the July 9th 2025 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. J. Foley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.