

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

August 26th, 2024 – Annual Meeting

To be held at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

W359N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

www.olmd.org

Minutes

Call to Order

D. Schriver called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to the local newspaper, posted at the Towns of Oconomowoc & Merton, Waukesha County, 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 the commissioners present.

The OLMD Commissioners present: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Brian Sichi, 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; and Stefanie Anderson as OLMD Secretary.

Absent: Tom Godar, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Susan Lincoln W345N5288 Tearney Rd Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Keith Granum, N53W34296 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 2024 Treasurer's Report and reported the following:

Revenues \$393,036.96

Expenditures \$210,248.02

Balance \$182,788.91

Liz Heidenreich, W345N5276 Tearney Rd, Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. Lorna Mueller N53W34995 Road B Okauchee, WI 53069 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception.

Proposed 2025 Budget Discuss and Act

D. Schriver stated the proposed 2025 budget:

\$ 432,538 Revenue

\$ 365,905 Total Expenses

The riparian charges for 2025 will be \$306.08

This compares to \$293.80 for 2024

There is a slight 4.25% increase from 2024

Liz Heidenreich, W345N5276 Tearney Rd, Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 made a motion to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Dale Dineen W346N6559 Whittaker Rd Oconomowoc WI, 53066 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception.

Bob Bertolli W357N5108 Lakeshore Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, asked what consists of lake planning. D. Schriver replied that it is a 5 year plan that we have to follow. We are currently in the middle of a lake plan as the previous one was extended. B. Sichi stated there are opportunities to receive funding by developing 5 year plans as well. J. Foley stated that we may look for an intern to help do this in the future.

Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Police Chief Kristen Wraalstad was present and reported the following:

YTD Statistics from 2024 were:

Patrol hours to date 386.5

Citations issued 32

Warnings issued 139 (a ratio of 12 lake patrol hours per citation up from 6.4 last year)

2024 Okauchee Lake Tie-Up

The Town of Oconomowoc Police Department provided two patrol boats
The DNR provided 2 patrol boats

Town of Merton provided 1 patrol boat

The number of arrests for OWI: 2 by the DNR

Town of Oconomowoc Police Department patrolled from 10am-9pm

Questions:

There were no additional questions.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

Brady Mullikin introduced himself as the Lake Operations Supervisor. He is in his 4th year as the OLMD Supervisor and 7th year working for the OLMD. Brady stated that in 2021 there were 348 dump truck loads of weeds, this number was well above average. In 2022 there were only 165 dump truck loads of weeds and the crew saw very few floaters. In 2023 the good weather brought 201 dump truck loads and some machinery repairs were completed. Finally, in 2024 there were 300 dump truck loads and the Eel Grass uprooted a month early this season. Brady stated that they pulled more weeds off of the surface this season than in all of their harvesting efforts. This could be a result of the cluster of Summer storms that we encountered.

Brady advised that it takes 7 weeks to go around the lake 1 time if we are operating with a full staff and everything is working at full capacity. The goal each season is to get around the entire lake twice. The crew considers barging and collecting the dock piles a priority. It is better for both the homeowners and the crew, the more weeds they can skim. Every Monday the crew finds the problematic areas and where the weeds were kicked up over the weekend to pick up. Monday-Wednesday they focus on harvesting and they take it very seriously to get as many floaters as possible, resulting in less pitchforking.

Brady thanked D. Schriver for her mentorship as well as his crew. J. Foley thanked Brady for his hard work and B. Mueller thanked Brady as well for providing excellent service for the residents and users of Okauchee Lake. B. Sichi acknowledged that Brady has a great concept of preventative maintenance and logistical knowledge. He stated that our collective goal is to keep everyone enjoying the lake.

Lauren Smith, W336N6425 Lakeview Lane, Oconomowoc WI 53066, asked if some of the weed clean up could be completed on the weekends as they like to entertain. Brady replied that for safety reasons they only conduct operations Monday-Friday when there are less boats on the lake. The machines are too large and there is too much traffic on the lakes during the weekend. He ensured that Fridays are reserved for surface clean-up only. They could look into barging on Saturdays from 9-12 in the future as a possibility.

Lauren replied that she appreciates Brady's safety concerns. If there is anything that the crew could do it would be appreciated. They are located on the Southeast corner of the lake and with the way the wind blows they always have weeds coming in.

Christ Leduc W336N6500 Lakeview Dr, Oconomowoc WI 53066 stated that they reside in the Cranes Nest which gets more traffic now that the weeds are cleared. From Monday – Friday it looks great. On the weekend there are so many watersports being done in the area churning up weeds that it would take him 3 days to clean up. Christ thanked Brady for bringing in the skimmer to clean up after the weekends.

Jane Knollenberg W345N5632 Road G Okauchee Lake, WI 53066, asked how does Okauchee Lake compare to Lac Labelle in terms of weeds. Brady explained that Okauchee Lake and Pewaukee Lake are more similar in composition than Lac Labelle which is a much shallower lake. Brady has formed a good relationship with Tom Koepp at Pewaukee Lake and they help each other out when needed. Tom also pulls hundreds of dump truck loads of weeds each season.

Mike Schick W340N4931 Road O, Oconomowoc WI 53066 said that the Chara is so deep that it is hard to get their boat out. Brady replied that we are not able to target the Chara and that we actually want it there. Chara keeps all of the other bad weeds out. If we went in with the harvesters the Chara would also not be able to be removed easily. D. Schriver also stated that we are not allowed to treat it with chemicals.

Ron Borowski W34N4895 Road O, Nashotah, WI 53058 asked if we run the risk of losing where we drop our weeds. Brady responded that yes; we are always looking for plan B and C. B. Sichi added that it is a very real conversation that is in the future and we are always thinking about it. He also announced that the topics of discussion are handled at the monthly meetings and he encourages everyone to attend. He also included that if anyone is interested in volunteering to please reach out to him. He stated that we are doing so much more now than before, and with less resources. Brady is doing an amazing job and we also need to regulate what we can with the DNR.

Dale and Nancy Dineen, W346N6559 Whittaker Road, Oconomowoc WI 53066 said that they have lived on the lake 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. Brady and the staff have come to his rescue many times and 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. He trains his staff very well and they all do a wonderful job.

Animal Control

D. Schriver gave an update for Arnold Groehler, animal control specialist. She stated that we included Arnold's service in our 2025 Budget to continue controlling the muskrat, beaver and goose population.

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

D. Schriver explained the nomination process, the responsibilities of the OLMD Commissioners, and that there are 2 appointed positions and 3 positions that are voted in. She announced that John Foley is in his 4th year and he is up for voting. The terms are 3 year terms. D. Schriver also said that we have to ask 3 times "Are there any other people who wish to run or nominate someone for the OLMD Board"

No other attendees were nominated.

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

John Foley introduced himself and that it was his 4th year as a commissioner and has lived on the lake for 20 years. He is passionate about keeping the lake quality and will be working very hard with Heidi from the DNR. He stated that historically we have outsourced our maintenance. Brady now takes care of most of it in-house. This greatly helps our organization financially. The plant management component is very important. Our machinery is old but runs very well thanks to the care that Brady has given it. He takes great strides when it comes to safety and maintenance and that is what keeps our operation running smoothly.

B. Sichi announced that we will have to do a silent vote. There are 3 factors that determine if you are eligible to vote per the Wisconsin Statute Chapter 33:

1. If you are registered to vote at an address that resides on lake property.
2. If you are an owner of the lake property
3. If you are an organization or business that resides on lake property.

You are able to have more than one voter per property. Anyone that is registered to vote gets a vote.

Results of Election

D. Schriver announced that John Foley had received 33 votes and would be instated as Commissioner for a three-year term from 2024-2027 for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

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.

Liz Heidenreich W345N5276 Tearney Rd. Okauchee Lake, WI 53069, said that the chemical treatment done in Tearney Bay in 2023 was wonderful and asked when it would be treated again. D. Schriver replied that Procellacor was used and 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 and may spot treat if needed.

Jonathon Long N53W34400 Road Q Okauchee, WI 53066 asked if it was in the OLMD privy to address the wakeboard boats or are we going to wait for the state to do something. B.Sichi replied that it is the hottest topic in Wisconsin boating right now. There are advocacy groups that represent both sides of the issue. Lake Country Clean Waters may discuss this in a future meeting. Lakes at Large are trying to form some rules. Communities are developing "Good Neighbor Laws".

B. Sichi stated that the OLMD was formed in the mid 70's. there was a petition that had to go around the lake in order for it to be approved. We as a board are aiming to up our game to accomplish as many things as possible. We are hoping to get residents to participate in a meaningful way. Communication and education will be the most important factors in our growth.

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

Adjournment of Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

Liz Heidenreich, W345N5276 Tearney Rd, Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 moved to adjourn the August 26th, 2024 Annual Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. Dale Dineen, W346N6559 Whittaker Rd Oconomowoc WI, 53066 seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.