

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MONDAY April 13th, 2026 – 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 7:03 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, Brian Sichi, Doug Larson, Bruce Mueller, John Foley (Remote)

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Linda Goehre, **Website** Stefanie Anderson **OLMD Secretary** , Pat Furno, **Accountant for the District**

Absent: N/A

5. Correspondence

- a. B. Sichi received correspondence from Lake Country Clean Waters regarding an invitation to attend a networking event.
- b. B. Sichi received an advance of the Grant Money from Lake Country Clean Waters/DNR, it was deposited in the bank and we will not be billed by Waukesha County until the end of the year.
- c. J. Foley received an email from a riparian owner questioning if any nests are being oiled near or in the Crane’s Nest. As it is private property we do need permission and we are aware of the geese in that area. B. Sichi is going to reach out to the owner to see if they would like to fill out the permission to oil and move forward.

6. Comments from the Floor

a. Keith Granum, N53W34296 Road Q, Okauchee WI, 53069, gave compliments to the Goose Control Postcard Mailer.

7. Comments from Committee Members

a. J. Foley stated that he reached out to Solitude Lake Management regarding the weed spraying permit for 2026, which has been approved.

8. Discuss Treasurer's Report

D. Larson reported the following for ending April 30th 2026 :

Total Revenues: \$391,441.32

Total Expenditures: \$24,169.32

This leaves a budgeted balance of: \$367,272.00

9. Approved Checks & Vouchers

D. Larson stated that the Goose Control Mailer was \$732.80 total with postage. D. Larson inquired about the We Energy Bill. Brady replied that the meter was not reading correctly. It was an issue with the inducer and the exhaust piping needed to be repaired. The amount of the repair was \$1400 and the We Energy bill was updated. T. Godar stated that this came out of the budget set aside for equipment.

B. Sichi moved to approve payments submitted from March 24th 2026 through April 13th 2026. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (03/23/26)

B. Sichi moved to approve the 03/23/26 meeting minutes. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Erik Joost OWPP Presentation, Watershed Manager

a. Erik Joost, Oconomowoc Watershed Manager and Scott Jankowski, Water Safety, Goose Control and Fish Management Chair for the North Lake Management District presented a proposal for Okauchee Lake to collaborate with North Lake in the future regarding a part #2 of the fish study.

b. Scott introduced himself and Erik and announced that they are from the North Lake Management District. They have conducted Phase #1 of the North Lake Carp Assessment in 2024 and are reaching out to strategize for Phase #2. For the initial study they spent around \$24,000 to complete the mandatory phase #1. To conduct phase #2 it will cost between \$20,000-\$21,000, then finally phase #3 would be staged for Carp removal.

c. North Lake is a Central hub in the Oconomowoc River Watershed. It connects to the watershed system by receiving flow from Mason Creek and the Little Oconomowoc River, then empties into Okauchee Lake before it continues moving downstream towards the Rock River.

d. The Oconomowoc Watershed (OWPP) Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program, is an initiative focusing on reducing phosphorus and improving water quality across the 89,000 acre basin.

e. Carp spawn typically in June and are usually captured in or around August. They have been known to spawn at the North end of Okauchee Lake. Phase #2 would consist of tracking where the fish are coming from and moving too. The North Lake Management District would like to partner with the Okauchee Lake Management District to complete phase #2. Scott stated that North Lake would be responsible for any fees inquired by the staff to conduct phase #2 including room and board. Okauchee Lake Management District would be responsible for half of the initial fee, to be around \$20,000 and no additional fees.

f. B. Sichi asked if they had looked into obtaining any grant money from the DNR for the project. Scott stated that yes, they have but would like to know more and they were directed to ask the affected lakes to participate as a first option. B. Sichi recommended them to talk to Heidi Bunk, Water Resource Manager for the WI DNR.

g. The effect that the carp have on Okauchee Lake could mean increased levels of Phosphorus. T. Godar asked if we would need to complete phase one for our own lake as a starting point before entering into phase two. Scott replied that, no, phase #1 data would be used in conjunction for Okauchee Lake.

h. B. Sichi asked if some of the phosphorus in North Lake fall out in the river and make its way to Okauchee, especially during high water level events. Scott replied that high water levels mean that things transfer very easily. Brady stated that soon they will have carp spawning by the corner of K and Road L. Carp tend to come in groves and stay deep, they only flop when they are spawning.

i. D. Larson asked what time frame they are looking for the funding to be ready for phase #2. Scott replied that an answer from the Okauchee Lake Management District would be needed by Oct 1st as the funding would be due Q1 of 2027.

j. T. Godar questioned if we could rehome more blue gills to the lake as the #1 predator to carp spawning are blue gills. B. Mueller asked if any other carp have been seen in other areas of the lake, Brady replied that yes in the Crane's Nest, Tierany Bay in the Spring, by the OLMD Facility and near the islands.

k. T. Godar requested that this be added to a future agenda and will be discussed at that time.

12. Lake Operations Report Brady Mulikin, Lake Operations Manager/Animal Control Specialist Report , Arnold Groehler

a. Brady stated that the beginning stages of the Lake operations are going well. Operations ended a little earlier in the Fall than usual and therefore started a little earlier this Spring. To date, one harvester and one paddle wheel have been launched.

b. Brady stated that we currently have 2 paddle wheel motors in our shelf stock. We have 2 at Inland and 1 paddle wheel order is going to be placed in June. It is taking a little longer than expected to get paint, we are staying with the same color that has been used.

c. J. Foley inquired if more stones were needed. Brady replied that yes we will but we are working on a plan to get this done and are waiting

d. Brady stated that hiring is going well again this year and there is no need to advertise for applicants. He is going to do a delayed start again for some employees and roll out as needed. We have many returning veteran employees again this season.

e. Brady announced that prior to Memorial Day weekend the crew will send out a few barges to clean up dock piles. Cutting will start after Memorial Day. Brady will let Heidi know when they start cutting. B. Sichi asked if the buoys were in yet, to which Brady replied, not as of yet.

f. Brady read aloud the statement that was sent in by Arnold Groehler, Animal Control

"I am currently attending the Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings tonight at Latham Peak, Delafield, so I am submitting a short written report for this month. There has only been limited muskrat activity during the past few weeks. The cold/wet weather has really slowed them down. I currently have traps out in Upper Ocon, Panfish Bay, Park Bay, Teirreny Bay and Whittiker Bay. Not much activity on the main lake yet. I did trap two raccoons and an opossum at the end of Road Q (just south of Doug's house), these three had been previously sighted in that area for several months. I have not received any goose nest sightings yet, not only on Okauchee Lake, but on every other lake in the area. Again this cold/wet weather has also delayed goose activity. Once warm weather arrives, I expect both muskrat and goose activity to increase quickly. Thanks - Arnie."

13. Discuss & Act on the Formal Lake Sampling Agreement for the USGS

a. T. Godar stated that all is confirmed, we just need to sign the agreement.

14. Discuss Goose Control Updates

a. Brady stated that he has been keeping an eye out for some nests. If we can oil 4-5 nests we will be in a good position.

b. D. Larson stated that open water attracts geese and muskrats. The use of aerators will also be a factor.

15. Discuss & Act on Newsletter

a. S. Anderson stated that the Newsletter will be sent out by JNI Printing to riparian owners before May 1st 2026.

16. Discuss the Website

- a. Goose Control Oiling has been updated.
- b. Current water levels will be posted as well as no wake requirements.

17. Future Agenda Items

- a. Discuss & Act on Expense Reimbursement
- b. Town of Merton Enhanced Wake Regulations
- c. Okauchee and North Lake collaboration with Fish Study

18. Set Future Meeting Dates

The Next Meeting is May 11th 2025 @ 7pm.

19. Adjournment

T. Godar moved to adjourn the April 13th 2026 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. J. Foley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.