

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

August 25th, 2025 – Annual Meeting
To be held at the Village of Lac La Belle Hall
W359N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066
www.olmd.org

Minutes

Call to Order

T. Godar called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

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, sent via U.S. Mail to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District, and a web conference connection information was provided for remote attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson will open the meeting

Introduction of Commissioners

T. Godar introduced himself and the commissioners present. T. Godar stated that he has been serving the OLMD since around 2004 and announced that they are fortunate to have a terrific board of commissioners along with wonderful assistants. T. Godar credited Linda Goehre for creating and maintaining the website.

The OLMD Commissioners present: Doug Larson, **Treasurer**; Brian Sichi, **Secretary**; John Foley, **Commissioner**; and Bruce Mueller; **Village of Lac La Belle Representative**.

T. Godar also introduced Brady Mullikin, **Lake Operations Manager**; Pat Furno, **Accountant for the District**; Stefanie Anderson as **OLMD Secretary**, Dee Schriver, **Assistant**

Absent: Linda Goehre; **Website Design**

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Keith Granum, N53W34296 Rd. Q Okauchee Lake, WI 53069 moved to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Susan Lincoln W345N5288 Tearney Rd 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. Larson reviewed the July 2025 Treasurer's Report and reported the following:

Revenues \$393,036.96
Expenditures \$210,248.02
Balance \$182,788.91

Dave Heil W346N5660 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. Kara Sichi N36W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception.

Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

The Village of Lac La Belle Officer Andrew Williams was present and reported the following:

YTD Statistics from 2025 were: 9 hours per citation
Patrol hours to date: 522 Hours
Citations issued: 57 including 4 OWI's
Warnings issued: 23 (a ratio of 9 lake patrol hours per citation down from 12 last year)

2025 Okauchee Lake Tie-Up

The Village of Lac La Belle Police Department provided two patrol boats from 10 am – 11 pm.

The DNR provided 2 patrol boats.

Waukesha County provided 2 patrol boats until 5 pm.

Town of Merton provided no known patrol boats.

The number of arrests for OWI: 2 by the DNR

Questions:

Dave Heil W346N5660 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 asked during the recent No Wake Order if the violators are being given citations or offered warnings.

Officer Williams replied that it is circumstantial to each boat. The protocol is to go through the safety check and if the violator is compliant, they will offer a warning first. Some boaters are from out of town and have not seen the No Wake Order. For the most part people were understanding and compliant. There were no injuries or accidents to report during the No Wake.

B. Sichi thanked Officer Williams for his report and for taking the daily lake level readings.

D. Larson questioned at what level the lake must operate at Slow or No Wake. Officer Williams replied at 4.2 feet there is Slow No Wake, at 3.9 there is a strict No Wake Order. Officer Williams stated that the lake levels are read at the Dam. They are taken daily once the lake level falls below 4.2 feet.

B. Sichi stated that we don't normally update the lake levels on the website while we do read them regularly. Going forward we will update them daily or weekly as needed.

D. Larson stated that the Lake Weed Operation will be glad to be back in business before Labor Day weekend.

Jonathan Long, N53W34400 Rd. Q. Oconomowoc WI, 53066, asked if the Slow No Wake is posted at each access point. Officer Williams stated that yes, we made it a point to put signage at every access point including Road T, Bowers Lane and The Golden Mast.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

Brady Mullikin introduced himself as the Lake Operations Supervisor. He is in his 5th year as the OLMD Supervisor and 8th year working for the OLMD. Brady stated that to be successful as a crew they need to remain flexible. They must take a look at the entire living, breathing lake and learn how to address it. Yes, there are still weeds in Okauchee Lake, the main goal is to keep everyone safe and the lake as enjoyable as possible. Last year was one of the worst years they have seen with the Eel Grass uprooting a month early. Brady stated that every three years he sees a repetition. Next year should be a bit milder, while in 2027 we may see another surge.

Brady announced that they went heavy on equipment improvements this season. The Lake Operation equipment was from the 90's. While that doesn't mean that it is necessarily bad, it was built to last but needs some maintenance and upkeep. We currently have new Kubota engines that we are still paying down from a few years ago. The crew has been fortunate enough to not have any mechanical breakdowns on the water this year. They have replaced a few fuel tanks as needed. C1 had a tree fall on it which sent it out of commission until around June 1, 2026.

Brady stated that they have been ordering parts to have on hand that are available, such as paddle wheel motors. On C4 the old paddle wheel motor from the 90's there are no parts available to replace at this point. C4 is now being upgraded, and it will be the first one out of the water at the end of the season.

Brady thanked his crew and stated that the employees are fantastic. Each season he has returning veterans in which he can rely on their input regarding where to go and what to do. The crew takes being flexible and logistics into consideration. With a higher water level, it's easier for the crew to take care of the weeds. Brady stated that the crew has not been able to run the harvesters for 2 weeks, but they are doing their best given the situation and have been able to run the barges.

Brady announced that the 5-year plan has been completed and they are in year #6 currently inching towards the 10-year plan. This season the crew was able to add 85 feet of seawall that should last quite a long time. We are currently updating our Weed Management Plan. J. Foley stated that there is a 3-year plan that is required by the DNR. It was renewed this year and will carry us through 2027. J. Foley stated that D. Schriver played an essential part in securing this plan and we executed our most extensive weed spraying that we have had to date. We have a great relationship with the DNR and keep within our limits with them.

D. Larson stated that Heidi Bunk waived the required supervision period and approved the plan that was submitted by Brian Suffern and J. Foley for the DNR.

B. Sichi stated that it is worth noting that there is work to put in first to get the DNR to approve. Brady doesn't get to choose where to go and what to do on a whim.

T. Godar thanked D. Schriver and J. Foley for their hard work in constructing the 3-year plan and maintaining a relationship with the DNR.

Dave Heil W346N5660 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, stated that Pan Fish Bay acts like a funnel. If the East wind is strong then Brady can't get in to pick up the weeds and is wondering if there is anything that the board can do to aid this issue. Dave stated that they can't be picked up from their pier again. It is hindering the Weed Management Crew from being able to do their job to their highest potential. His boat motor has been hit as well as neighbor's motors. People have put in piers that are too large and they are causing issues for their neighbors. T. Godar replied that this is a topic to reach out to the DNR to discuss. We are aware that there are violations occurring, however, it is not within our power to enforce these laws. We can remind owners to be good neighbors and citizens, but we cannot do anything beyond that.

B. Sichi stated that it is the individual municipalities that can enforce. For Pan Fish Bay it would fall under the Village of Lac La Belle.

D. Larson stated that the Village can create ordinances and the police can issue citations.

Jonathan Long N53W34400 Road Q Okauchee, WI 53066 asked if we have any plans to do any dredging in the future. T. Godar replied that no we do not and we have not done so in quite some time.

B. Sichi stated that Brady is doing a wonderful job maintaining our equipment and keeping it running for almost double its shelf life.

T. Godar stated that we had the Phosphorus level taken in the lake before and after the fireworks. It doesn't seem to appear that the fireworks aided in raising the Phosphorus level in the lake. The recent flooding did stir up Phosphorus at the bottom of the lake. We are currently involved with the Tall Pine Conservancy and Clean Boats, Clean Waters Organization. B. Sichi makes great efforts to keep us involved and this group of commissioners are generous stewards of the lake.

D. Larson stated that Okauchee Lake became an impaired lake from Phosphorus coming downstream and we do what we can to keep our lake as healthy as possible.

J. Foley thanked Brady for his efforts and everything that the crew does for the lake. He stated that Brady has been remarkable in stepping up his efforts on the mechanical side of things. He has been anticipating what may break and being prepared for when the time comes by stocking our inventory with necessities.

Update on Animal Control Programs – Goose, Muskrat & Beaver

Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist, announced that the first year he trapped over 400 muskrats. Currently in the 5th year he has trapped around 100 muskrats. Where do they keep coming from? Okauchee Lake offers food, water and shelter. Arnold stated that he gets calls all year long and this is a year-round operation. The number of aerators contributes to the green vegetation that muskrats can thrive off. Additionally, beavers and geese can also thrive off the vegetation created by aerators. The first sign of a beaver tribe is the cropping of trees that you don't want to cut down. Once they are 2 years old beavers can go out on their own and will navigate towards the dam, down to Oconomowoc Lake.

Arnold stated that for the next season the OLMD is looking to commission him to conduct Goose Egg Oiling instead of the traditional Goose Round Up. This option is more humane and less costly than the round up. The key will be participation. If you see a goose nest, please let him know. This topic will be further discussed at future OLMD meetings.

Arnold stated that additional animal trapping is not covered under the OLMD. Chipmunks are currently averaging about 50 per household. They can be caught using a 5 Gallon pail and sunflower seeds. The holes that they dig will become next year's nests for yellow jackets. Gophers and hornets are also companion species and Gopher holes can turn into hornets nests the following season. Arnold announced that there was a sighting of an Albino snapping turtle in Harbor Bay and last Fall there were about 20 possums caught on the island by Stumpy Bay. There is no explanation, they just appeared. Arnold suggested that if you are going out of town then have someone check on your house. Possums and racoons can also do a number on your home if left undetected.

Last year coyotes were staying near the West end of Stumpy Bay, and they were traveling in packs. They were reported to have also chased people as well as pets. Coyotes can be very aggressive and if seen you should notify the police and they will alert Arnold.

Other animals that are appearing to become an issue have been Norway Rats. They have quite a few showing up on nearby farms. They can be up to 1 foot long; they will bite, and they tend to populate quickly.

Susan Lincoln W345N5288 Tearney Rd Okauchee, WI 53069 asked why there were woodchucks suddenly appearing. Arnold replied that people in Waukesha County trap them and then release them in Nashotah Park as a popular spot. They will not stay there for long and will migrate back into residential areas.

Proposed 2026 Budget Discuss and Act

D. Larson stated the proposed 2026 budget:

Total Special Charges:	\$365,403	
Total OLMD Mill Rate Assessment:	\$57,400	
Total Revenues		\$422,803

Expenditures:

Project & Administrative	\$57,400	
Aquatic Plant Control	\$365,403	
Total Expenses		\$422,803

Approximate Aquatic Plant Control Special Charges

The riparian charges for 2026 will be \$305.66.
This compares to \$306.08 for 2025
There is a slight \$0.42 decrease from 2025

Mooring Special Charges under Conditional Use Permits charged as Equivalent Riparian Properties (2 Moorings = 1 Riparian Owner)

D. Larson noted that a few large payments are still out and have not hit the account yet. There is around \$50,000 for weed treatment that was sent.

T. Godar announced that they have tried to make some positive economic changes. The board has taken a closer look at the cash flow management. They have deposited some investments into CD's that will benefit in the future. T. Godar also thanked Brady for doing a great job dealing with the fluctuating needs of the lake as well as responsibly delegating expenses.

Dave Heil W346N5660 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 made a motion to approve the 2026 proposed budget.

Kara Sichi N36W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried without exception.

Nomination of Candidate(s) to the OLMD Board

T. Godar explained the nomination process, the responsibilities of the OLMD Commissioners, and that there are 2 appointed positions and 3 positions that are voted in. He announced that he is in his 3rd year and he is up for voting. The terms are 3-year terms. T. Godar also announced that we must ask 3 times “Are there any other people who wish to run or nominate someone for the OLMD Board” T. Godar proceeded to ask three times.

No other attendees were nominated.

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

T. Godar introduced himself and that he has been with the OLMD for over 20 years as a commissioner. He is passionate about keeping a high lake quality going forward and will be working hard to serve the community to the best of his ability.

B. Sichi announced that we will 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 can have more than one voter per property. Anyone that is registered to vote gets a vote.

B. Sichi handed out the voting ballots. A secret ballot is required even if there is only one nominee.

Report on Results of Election

B. Sichi announced that Tom Godar had received 26 votes and would be instated as Commissioner for a three-year term from 2026-2028 for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Election of Commissioner(s)

J. Foley moved to elect Tom Godar as commissioner to the OLMD for a 3-year term. Bruce Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

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

T. Godar asked if there were any other Lake Management Issues.

Jonathan Long N53W34400 Road Q Okauchee, WI 53066 asked if it was in the OLMD description to perform tree stump removal. T. Godar replied that it is not something that the OLMD is able to do.

Lynn Bree W357N5102 Lakeshore Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 asked if there was an opportunity to hear more. T. Godar replied that we do not have this on tonight's agenda but will add it to the October Meeting Agenda.

D. Larson stated that we had 4 trees fall in the area this past year but previously it was not a frequent event. He explained that our workman's comp does not cover tree cutting or removal. This topic has come up at the Village Board meeting and there should be a memo coming out to owners.

Bill N52W35002 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 questioned if there can be notifications sent out via email to all riparian owners when an issue arises. T. Godar replied that we can look at creating a list of the owners' email addresses, but it does change frequently. The best way to stay up to date with the OLMD is to visit our website for announcements. Bill asked if anyone has investigated companies that perform underwater stump removal and if they have contact information to share. T. Godar suggested that Brady may have some leads on this topic. Brady stated that the OLMD does not cut the stumps but if they come to the surface, they will take care of the removal. D. Larson suggested looking into Barge companies for help with tree stump removal.

T. Godar asked if anyone had any other questions. No other issues were brought to attention.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

Jonathan Long N53W34400 Road Q Okauchee, WI 53066 moved to adjourn the August 25th 2025 Annual Okauchee Lake Management District Meeting. **Dave Heil W346N5660 Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066** seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.