

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

JUNE 12TH, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC TOWN HALL

1. Call to Order

C. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to local newspapers, posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, two posting boards, and on the OLMD Website.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present:

Carol Wilson
Dee Schriver
Bruce Mueller
Tom Godar

Absent:

John Foley

Also Present:

Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

Linda Goehre, Website & Security

Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist

Tom Steinbach, Oconomowoc Watershed Operations Advisor

5. Correspondence

D. Schriver reported that a letter was received from Waukesha County to address the revision of the language to clarify piers-length in the downtown Okauchee Lake District. OLMD has no issue with this clarification.

6. Comments from the Floor

None

7. Comments from Committee Members

None

8. Presentation by Tom Steinbach, Oconomowoc Watershed Operations Advisor

- a. Tom shared the progress over the last 7 years regarding the Oconomowoc Watershed Operation. He explained why the decision was made in 2015 to go forward with the Watershed project in the manner that they did. Tom advised that newsletters about the Watershed go out twice a year.
- b. In 2013/2014 the City of Oconomowoc had reached the Phosphorus limitations and had to make a choice. There were two options. The first option was to stay in the current boundary and the second option was to invest some money and work in the Watershed Adaptation program. This would greatly expand the boundary and would allow Oconomowoc to protect the water quality for the entire city. This would include Okauchee Lake, Lac Labelle, Oconomowoc festivals and businesses, etc. In 2015/2016 a brand new program was launched and the city allowed the Oconomowoc Watershed Operation to work with an adaptive program. Prior to 2015 there was a 6 square mile radius and since it has been expanded it is now a 131 square mile radius. There are currently 17 lakes in the Watershed Operation. When the project started there were 5 lakes that were “impaired” with high phosphorus levels; including Okauchee, Lac Labelle, North Lake, Oconomowoc Lake, Friess Lake and 3 streams.
- c. In 2016 the Watershed Operation started working with Farmers as non-point pollution entrances where the water runs into streams and lakes. Some of the issues were from farmland runoff, cows etc. The other pollution points are point-source pollution such as pipes. Currently the city monitors 30+ points on a monthly basis. Some they will visit twice a month and after storms. Over the last 7 years they have entered into 60 new projects with Farmers and homeowners on lakes and rivers. The Watershed Operation has taken precautions in various ways. One way is by planting over cash crops with a cover crop by using helicopters. By doing this there are 2 crops that develop the land in the very short window that is growing season allowing for the best use of the land. The Farmers for Lake Country has been formed and this is a group of Farmers that have agreed to work together to do the right thing for the land.
- d. The Operation has reduced the Phosphorus load by 7,000 lbs per year in the last 7 years. That has controlled over 2 million lbs per year of algae growth. The program is going to last for at least 15 years and will have some good years and bad years. The overall success will be seen by continuing to keep the program going. We are currently measuring between 0.76 ppm to 0.91 ppm, and are hoping to keep at a 0.75 ppm in the future.

- e. Tom stated that The Lake Country Clean Waters group is a great resource and everyone is encouraged to attend their meetings as you do not have to be a member of an organization to go. They have acknowledged that in the past 6 years there has been a 15-18% reduction rate in phosphorus.
- f. **Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Lakeview Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066** asked how close to the waterways are homeowners allowed to spray their lawn. Tom replied that we are not aware that there is a stipulation that an applicator has to stay a certain distance away from the water. We try to work with the Lake Management groups.

9. Discuss & Act on Report of Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

- g. Total revenues: \$382,761.35
- h. Total expenditures: \$98,474.77

This leaves a budgeted balance of \$284,286.58

T. Godar moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Approved Checks & Vouchers

C. Wilson moved to approve payments submitted as of June 12th for approval by the Treasurer. T. Godar seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Schriver stated that there is a slight increase in the worker compensation program. We changed companies and our fees are slightly higher. Our equipment insurance renewal is slightly higher as well and we have added insurance coverage for new equipment and have requested complete replacement.

11. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (05-08-2023)

B. Mueller moved to approve the minutes from the 05/08/2023 meeting. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Presentation by Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist

- a. Arnold reported that the ongoing trapping program continues and it is year round now. He was able to trap a beaver on Saturday on Upper Oconomowoc Lake after a family called in that the beaver was acting aggressively towards their dog that was swimming. The beaver weighed in at 74 lbs.

b. Arnold reported that the muskrat population is at a fraction of what it once was. There are quite a few traps in Whittaker Bay as of now and there is a Vole population that he is monitoring on the North side of Okauchee Lake.

13. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager, reported that they are on year 3 of 3 of the re-powering plan. The first year they purchased 2 new Kubota Engines, the second year they purchased 2 more new Kubota Engines, the third year they purchased the Mercury Outboard motors. They were a little delayed due to Covid but the plan is now complete. We have a total of 5 new motors, and 3 barges with new Mercurys from Tinus. The custom machines with drop cradles can now access Little Okauchee and Upper Oconomowoc. The 50 “break in” hours were just completed on each of the machines and the motors are spectacular and working great.

b. Brady reported that the first two weeks of operation were fairly light. The crew just completed week 2 of 15 and they are averaging 2-3 dump truck loads a week. The chemical plan started last week and Brady thanked D. Schriver for the great map of the treatment areas, also for giving the crew shelter during the hail storm that erupted unexpectedly. The DNR does not allow any chemical treatments after July 4th. Heidi Bunk, SE WIDNR, Biologist and Solitude Lake Management advisor, Brian Sufferin approved the proposed Eurasion Water Millfoil treatment. Select bays were also treated for Curly Leaf Pond Weed. A second targeted area was treated with Pro-cella-cor as we had excellent results where this treatment occurred in 2022.

14. Discuss and Act on Website

a. Tom Godar asked to include a description on how to identify classic algae vs. blue green algae

b. After the link for the firework fundraiser was added to the website the donations have increased.

15. Future Agenda Items

a. Summary Status of wildlife control by Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist

16. Set Future Meeting Date

The next meeting is set for July 10th 2023 at 7:00pm.

The Budget workshop is set for July 25th at 6:00pm.

17. Adjournment

D. Schriver moved to adjourn the June 12th, 2023 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.