

**OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing**

Monday, August 30, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
To be held at the **Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**  
W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

---

**Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting Notice Announcement

The Meeting Notice Announcement was emailed to the newspapers and municipalities; sent via U.S. Mail to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District (OLMD); posted on the two public notice bulletin boards; and posted on the OLMD website.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson will open the meeting:

Introduction of Commissioners

Chairperson and County Representative Carol Wilson introduced herself and the OLMD Commissioners present: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Tom Godar, Secretary; John Foley, Commissioner; and Bruce Mueller, Town Representative. The District's new attorney, Attorney Alex Kay of Kay & Kay Law Firm was also introduced to all present.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

**Doug Larsen, N53W34257 Road Q, moved to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as presented. Jay Gordon, N53W34475 Road Q, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report, Discuss and Act

Treasurer D. Schriver reviewed the July 2021 Treasurer's Report and reported the following:

Revenues	\$370,892.80
Expenditures	<u>\$194,841.36</u>
Balance	\$176,051.44

**Susan Lincoln, W345 N5288 Tierney Rd., moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Rhonda Derse, N53W34540 Road Q, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All**

**were in favor. Motion carried.**  
Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Police Officer Andrew Williams was present and reported the following:

YTD Statistics from 2021 were:

Patrol hours to date	513
Citations issued	94 (9 boat OWI's included)
Warnings issued	271 (a ratio of 5.4 lake patrol hours per citation)

2021 Okauchee Lake Tie-Up - The Town of Oconomowoc Police Department provided two patrol boats; the DNR provided three patrol boats; the Town of Merton provided two patrol boats and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department provided one patrol boat (until 5 p.m.). The number of arrests for operating while intoxicated were:

Town of Oconomowoc Police Department	4
DNR	0
Town of Merton (unknown)	0
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department (unknown)	0

Questions - When asked by T. Godar asked if citations are issued for sound-related issues, Officer Williams responded there had not been many complaints this year.

J. Foley noted that there seemed to be more water skiing with lights on the skiers after dark. Officer Williams stated the Wisconsin Statute still stands and after sunset, no skiing should be taking place. Complaints and/or concerns can be reported to Officer Williams at [awilliams@topdonline.com](mailto:awilliams@topdonline.com).

Discussion ensued regarding potential hazards and negative effects of wakeboards on others boating on the lake. **Dan Terry, W358N5088 Lakeshore Dr.**, related how water went over the bow of his boat when a wakeboarding boat went by him. Officer Williams responded that realistically, the wakeboard boats were not going outside of the law if they are making a wake in an area that it is allowed. Residents that wanted to pursue an issue should express their concern at a Town Board meeting. Officer Williams noted boaters were responsible for damage caused to other boats. When reporting an incident, it was helpful if the caller had the boater registration number of the boat/driver causing the issue.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

**Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Supervisor**, reported it has been a busy year due to significant weed growth in the lake. The summer sun, heat, and lack of rain (which dropped the water level), made the water clearer and made more cutting necessary. Each time around the lake resulted in approximately 100 dump truck loads that he drove to the farm sites. Efforts were underway to cut the lake a second time and were approximately 75% complete with that rotation. An estimated 300 dump truck loads were expected by the end of the cutting season. One of the major goals this year had been to improve operational efficiency. To that end, "Surface Fridays" took place that including skimming the lake surface of aquatic

plants in preparation for weekend activity. Weed removal consisted of approximately 1% Coon Tail/Curly Leaf, 9% Eurasian Milfoil, and the remaining 90% of lake weeds were Eel Grass. Significant Eel Grass growth should be anticipated along Road C next year. With regard to mechanical equipment, issues with one of the cutters required an upgrade on the paddle wheel motors and would be reviewed as part of the budget discussion later in the meeting. B. Mullikin remained enthusiastic about his role as Lake Operations Supervisor and looked forward to returning next year as well.

**David Johnson, W352 N6460 Road J**, requested discussion regarding weed harvesting relative to chemical application. **Dan Triplett, N48 W34076 Jaekles Dr.**, requested that discussion of weed spraying be completed prior to a vote on the proposed 2022 budget.

D. Schriver noted many residents had contacted OLMD office with numerous varied requests about cutting and barging in their specific areas. The weed harvesting crew had done their best to accommodate all requests despite many obstacles. She also explained the Goose Round-Up process, noting that due to the lack of geese located on the lake at the time of the Goose Round-Up, the 2021 Goose Round-Up was cancelled. In years past, the number of geese located prior to the Round-Up was between 50 and 150. This year only 35-45 geese were located. The cost of the Round-Up was typically between \$3,000-\$5,000 each year. The decision was made not to spend the funds this year; however, the Goose Round-Up was tentatively scheduled each year if enough geese were present.

#### Update on Animal Control Programs – Goose, Muskrat & Beaver

The Muskrat Control Program was reviewed by D. Schriver. The program typically spanned four weeks now because the muskrat population was dwindling due to the efforts of Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper. Beavers were also becoming present on and near Okauchee Lake.

**Tom Kozenski, W345N4940 Oak Ln.**, questioned how to contact Arnold Groehler regarding animal trapping. D. Schriver relayed people should contact A. Groehler directly. T. Godar explained after the “season” is over, A. Groehler may not be available to assist the owner, but that he was always looking for individuals to assist him in trapping.

#### Approval to Request Funds from the Commissioner of Public Lands, up to \$80,000, and to Levy Irrepealable Tax Associated with Repayment of That Indebtedness as Stipulated in Wisconsin Statutes 33.31 (1-4).

D. Schriver explained that OLMD has the opportunity to borrow funds from a program provided by the Board of Public Lands at a lower interest rate. The OLMD would like to borrow approximately \$80,000 spread out over a five-year period for the replacement of engines and other necessary equipment.

**John Butler, N53 W34278 Road Q**, moved to **Request Funds from the Commissioner of Public Lands, up to \$80,000, and to Levy Irrepealable Tax Associated with Repayment of That Indebtedness as Stipulated in Wisconsin Statutes 33.31 (1-4)**. **Doug Larsen, N53 W34257 Road Q**, **seconded the motion**. *In response to a question, D. Schriver confirmed that the rate of interest for the loan was 2.5%.* **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

#### Proposed 2022 Budget, Discuss & Act

The proposed 2022 OLMD Budget was reviewed and discussed, noting the budget included funding to maintain equipment and personnel necessary for the weed harvesting operation provided to riparian by the OLMD.

**Rick Appleby, W340N6205 Breezy Point, moved to approve the Proposed 2022 Budget as presented. Dan Lovy, W345N5298 Tearney Road, seconded the motion.**

*Dan Triplet, N48 W34076 Jaeckles Dr., explained he was a long-time resident and fished the lake on a weekly basis. He commended Brady and weed harvesting crew for doing an outstanding job this year. Concern was expressed regarding effects of chemical spraying on fish especially since the current guidelines are from the 1980's. He reviewed new research of the effects 2-4-D has on fish. Canada had banned the use of 2-4-D in all Canadian lakes. He requested the Board examine data from UW-Madison that he would provide to the Board at a later time. T. Godar was aware of the issue and noted a study from 2017 that disagreed with the referenced UW-Madison report.*

*Peter Puestow, N52W35021 Lake Dr., thanked the weed cutting crew. In 1976 his property used to have weeds but did not any longer. There were also no fish by his pier. A water current was strong in front of his property, and he believed the effects of the spraying were overconcentrated in his area. Additionally, he believed that the chemical spraying was killing too much in the lake. He suggested if spraying were to be continued, notice should be given well in advance so activities can be planned. He would like to opt out of spraying in his area.*

*Doug Larsen, N53W34257 Road Q, noted Tearney Bay did not get sprayed this year. When the weeds were surveyed this past spring there were not many, but they were quite prolific now. The response time was so long that when problems were addressed, the turnaround time was not quick enough. Fishing was impossible in Tearney Bay because the weeds were so thick. More responsiveness, interaction, and adjustments with the DNR were needed. Regarding 2-4-D, a new product (Proselicore) was supposed to last three years without additional spraying required. He will send D. Schriver the information. Having the DNR meet with some residents for an interactive meeting to address everyone's needs would be helpful.*

*Tom Kozenski, W345 N4940 Oak Ln., questioned chemical distribution in the lake and noted water currents should be accounted for at the time of application.*

*D. Schriver thanked everyone for their comments and reviewed the spraying program, plant surveys, chemical spraying permit, costs, and the notification process used in the last few years. The DNR can approve or not approve areas of the lake. She noted that a resident could opt out of spraying in front of their property, but that did not mean an adjacent neighbor would not be treated. T. Godar added that the DNR website has a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) on chemical spraying. In response to a question, D. Schriver stated the chemical spraying budget could be adjusted to the mechanical weed harvesting section, but this would not solve the problem.*

*Susan Lincoln, W345 N5288 Tearney Rd., questioned what other areas were denied in addition to Tearney Bay. D. Schriver reviewed the DNR's reasoning for not treating Tearney Bay this year and noted other areas were denied, including Bay Five, the channel, downstream from Golden Mast, and a couple areas along the north side of lake.*

*John Butler, W53 N34278 Road Q, asked if residents could pay for the plant survey and if OLMD could*

*pay for the spraying. D. Schriver stated in the past, residents treated the areas in front of their properties, but she was uncertain whether this was still allowed by the DNR at this time.*

*Dan Terry, W358 N5088 Lakeshore Dr., questioned whether there was an option to allow lake operations go to two shifts in order to use the equipment to the fullest extent. D. Schriver explained that extending the hours of operation had not been studied, but the number of people, boats, and hours available would make extending the schedule too difficult to make this a viable alternative.*

*David Johnson, W352 N6460 Road J, confirmed that the term of the loan was five years.*

*Susan Lincoln, W345 N5288 Tearney Rd, requested DNR presence at a regular meeting to discuss/justify a new weed harvesting plan for Tearney Bay. C. Wilson will contact the DNR to attend a future OLMD meeting.*

*Mark Philips, N52 W34498 Peterson Rd, questioned OLMD weed cutting efforts in Tearney Bay. D. Schriver explained the DNR restriction on mechanical harvesting in the bay. In the past the bay was only allowed a very specific cutting map which described as looking like a huge "Y". B. Mullikin commented that it is almost impossible to see what was cut due to lack of visibility.*

*Madlyn Campione, N53 W35413 Road Q, questioned past cutting violations. D. Schriver had been working with the DNR on this issue, specifically those in Tearney Bay, but no answer from the DNR had been received at this time.*

*Richard Koch, N55W34649 Road E, requested that a water biologist attend a future meeting.*

*In response to a question from Lori Cook, N52W34538 Peterson Dr., regarding whether DNR officials are elected or appointed, C. Wilson stated the top DNR officials were elected, but those in Waukesha, i.e., lake biologist, DNR warden, fish & wildlife biologist, waterways person, were hired by the Wisconsin DNR.*

*Discussion ensued regarding a boat washing station at the DNR launch. T. Godar explained that although OLMD attempted this in the past, no volunteers were found to assist in this endeavor and when the DNR installed the launch, no water was put in for such an activity.*

*Dan Terry, W358 N5088 Lakeshore Dr., questioned why a fee was not charged at the DNR boat launch in the same manner that fees were imposed on various Wisconsin bike trails. C. Wilson responded that the State of Wisconsin required a public launch with a specific number of "free" spaces. Seventeen boats were allowed at the DNR launch at one time.*

*In response to a question from Ron Borowski, W340N4859 Road O, Nashotah, D. Schriver explained that the OLMD owned four cutters. R. Borowski inquired about the loan approved last year for cutter engines. D. Schriver explained that the loan was not obtained last year but purchases were made by using available OLMD funds. If the loan is not available to the OLMD, only two engines will be purchased this year.*

*In response to a question from Scott Kirkendall, N53 W34286 Road Q, D. Schriver confirmed the length of the loan was five years and clarified the loan amount would be up to \$80,000. While the engines were the largest part of the expense, there were other pieces of equipment that needed to be maintained. Debt service was explained.*

**There was no further discussion. All were in favor of the budget, with one person opposed. Motion carried.**

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

C. Wilson explained that Commissioner Dee Schriver's three-year term was complete, and her Board position was up for re-election. C. Wilson explained the nomination process, the responsibilities of the OLMD Commissioners and then asked three times whether anyone in the audience would like to run for this Commission seat. No one from the audience wished to pursue nomination to the OLMD Board.

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

D. Schriver introduced herself, noting she was willing to serve another three-year term on the Board.

Election of Commissioner

**Diane Appleby, W340 N6205 Breezy Point Rd., nominated Dee Schriver to the role of Commissioner on the OLMD Board. Brian Sichi, N63 W33875 Lakeview Dr., seconded the nomination. D. Schriver accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

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

**Dan Terry, W358 N5088 Lakeshore Dr.,** questioned how properties with multiple boat moorings could use the moorings as rentals and how to correct a violation if one was found. T. Godar stated this was addressed in the 2021 OLMD newsletter and this newsletter could be found on the OLMD website. He reviewed the DNR rules for boat moorings; noting the number of moorings were based on lakefront footage and violations were a complaint driven process with the DNR.

D. Schriver informed the group that a survey of Starry Stonewort showed a dramatic reduction, but not elimination. Further treatments were not planned at this time.

Concern was expressed regarding denial of improvements by Waukesha County for houses located within a certain distance to the lake. T. Godar explained the OLMD was not involved in this approval process and the Town of Oconomowoc and Waukesha County officials should be contacted regarding this issue.

Report on Results of Election

Dee Schriver was re-elected and would be reinstated as Commissioner for a three-year term from 2021-2024 for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

**Dan Terry, W358 N5088 Lakeshore Dr., moved to adjourn from the 2021 Okauchee Lake Management District Annual Meeting. Wei Shen, N52 W34498 Peterson Rd., seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**