

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

August 12, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall
www.olmd.org

MINUTES

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Carol Wilson
Tom Godar (arrived 7:04 P.M.)
Dennis Johnson
Bruce Mueller
Dee Schriver

Absent

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

David and Jen Ernst, N53W34297 Road Q, noted the small pond near Tierney Bay was experiencing a large number of cut weeds floating into the area. J. Ernst had gathered the weeds and placed a five foot by three foot pile of cut weeds on the end of her pier hoping that someone would come to retrieve it. There was no pick-up of the weeds. They began to smell and she ended up throwing them back into the water. The weeds were coming from outside the pond area because cutters could not get to her area of the lake to cut due to the bridge height. Something needed to be done.

D. Johnson noted he had been on the Board a long time and never heard why the cut weeds would get back in that area.

Doug Grant, N53W34359 Road Q, agreed with J. Ernst, noting there had to be a way to get the floating cut weeds picked up from their area. Floating cut weeds had been a nuisance throughout the time he resided at his address and had affected the effectiveness of the aerator in the small pond that he operated with support from the OLMD. The cut weeds would get caught up into the aerator/oscillator and had to be removed in order for the aerator to work properly. With an east wind the cut weeds came into Tierney Bay and with a southwest wind the weeds floated back into the corner. These were grassy weeds not native to Tierney Bay and had come from Icehouse Bay. All other lake property owners had pier pick-up of weeds and this area did not. While he knew they paid a lesser percentage than other taxed Okauchee Lake property owners, they did not have anywhere to go with the weeds. He requested consideration be given to having someone come back into the area with a boat if possible to retrieve the cut weeds. D. Johnson questioned what was different from two years ago when D. Grant had approached the Board regarding the use of an aerator/oscillator for the pond area. D. Grant explained duckweed and watermeal still remain a concern; however, the cut weeds get sucked into the equipment. Multiple times per day he went to the aerator because it shut off due to the weeds being stuck in the aerator. It was not as effective and, due to the weeds, would not blow the weeds out as far as they used to go. This spring was colder and initially had fewer weeds; however, after the recent heat the weed growth was excessive in the bay. Algae were prolific as well.

J. Ernst explained she had turned the aerator on in front of her house at a \$300 per month cost. This was too expensive. She had decided not to do anything because of the floating cut weeds that clogged the aerator. The duckweed was multiplying rapidly and that area of the lake should have weed pick-up. D. Johnson explained the Crane's Nest portion of the lake also did not have weed pick-up because cutting/barging equipment could not get back into that area. There were ten homes along Highway C that did not receive weed cutting services due to shallow waters.

D. Ernst suggested the use of a small boat to bring the cut weeds out of Tierney Bay for pick-up. D. Johnson explained that perhaps additional efforts could be put toward doing a better job of skimming the floating cut weeds in that area. The Lake Operations Supervisor would be contacted also regarding placing a customized piece of plastic in area on the equipment that could help to keep floating cut weeds from occurring. Another suggestion could be to block off the screen in the entrance to the pond area during cutting in the nearby areas. This would require a cooperative effort between neighbors to proceed.

J. Ernst questioned the history of the pond near Tierney Bay. She wondered why the bridge was put in so low making it difficult for boats to traverse the area. Discussion ensued regarding contacting the DNR about the history of the area and the ecology of the pond. The pond was not a clear open lake. It was cleaner in the spring of the year, and when chemical treatments were allowed it was much better. While there were other effective treatments, the DNR had removed several of those types of tools and spraying that area was no longer allowed. DNR staff had viewed the pond area in the last month and all understood J. Ernst's frustration with the current situation. Recollections through the years indicated the pond had been there for a long time and the bridge was placed before the OLMD was formed, perhaps as early as the 1920's or 1930's. The aerator /oscillator had helped in the pond area; however, at certain times of the year, such as during June, July and August, weed growth was excessive. The oscillator was not able to keep the entire bay area open. D. Johnson agreed to meet with the Ernst's and D. Grant in the future to discuss the weeds in the pond near Tierney Bay.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

P. Furno reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$348,749.59
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$211,237.03</u>
Total:	\$137,512.56

D. Johnson moved to accept the Report of the Treasurer as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Approve Checks & Vouchers

T. Godar moved to approve the bills to be paid for August 12, 2019. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

D. Johnson moved to approve the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Mueller moved to approve the July 22, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.
D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Discuss & Act On Treatment Plan For Starry Stonewort

D. Johnson explained Starry Stonewort had recently been discovered in Okauchee Lake in two areas. One stand was near Foolery's in the channel and another stand near the boat launch at the Golden Mast. The stand near the bridge was roughly 2,000 sf and the stand near the Golden Mast much smaller. He had met with DNR Lake Specialist Heidi Bunk regarding options on how to treat Starry Stonewort. Options ranged from doing nothing to dropping the water levels in the winter and attempting to freeze the plants out of existence, Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), raking, pulling and some of these options in combination with specific targeted chemical treatment. Marine BioChemists staff consulted in this matter had done extensive surveying from Foolery's to the DNR launch and found no additional stands with only a small stand located by the Golden Mast. Plants were currently three feet tall near the bridge but that did not mean they would continue to grow. Starry Stonewort plants grew best in slower moving water. To do nothing was not considered a good option. A drawdown of the lake was not an option. One suggestion included isolation of the stand and placement of an impermeable curtain around the stand with aggressive targeted chemical treatment. Another option included isolating the stand, placing a "mat" in the isolation area to block all vegetative growth and then because the Starry Stonewort did not like competition of other plants, placing a pellet of native local plants to re-seed the area. Chemical treatment by itself was not an option under the bridge. The DASH method could be used to pull weeds as an option with mats and reseeding after that to establish native plants in the stand area. Typically some soil would be removed with the DASH method as well to remove the star bulbils that reproduce the plant. The DASH method would take a day of pulling near the bridge with traffic directed around there. This would likely happen after Labor Day. Efforts could begin to apply for a grant that could provide support in treatment of Starry Stonewort. Discussions were underway regarding what had changed in lake management plans and aquatic plant management plans through the years. Discussion ensued. It seemed prudent to plan to move forward with a treatment and to gather estimates with application through a grant to recover the treatment costs. At this time, preferred treatment could include placing an impermeable curtain around the stand near the bridge, removal of the plants and placement of a mat with reseeding of the area with native plants. Near the Golden

Mast launch, the area could be curtained off, plants removed and/or aggressive chemical treatment in the stand area if allowed.

T. Godar moved to authorize D. Johnson to develop a plan, get estimates and apply for available grants to fund the cost of aggressively treating Starry Stonewort in Okauchee Lake. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion also took place regarding the lack of ability to use chemicals to combat weed growth, the recent hiring of a new mechanic, weed disposal sites and winter storage equipment.

12. Discuss & Act On The 2019 Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing Notice

Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing Notice including the proposed 2020 budget had been granted at the July 22, 2019 OLMD meeting. No action was necessary at this time.

13. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake level information, monthly updates to the Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletter, weekly weed cutting updates, an ad for fall weed crew members and a mechanic had been added to the website since the July 8, 2019 meeting.

14. Future Agenda Items

The following item was requested for the OLMD August 26, 2019 Organizational Meeting agenda:

- Discuss & Act on Aquatic Plant Management Plan

15. Set Future Meetings

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

16. Adjournment

D. Johnson moved to adjourn the August 12, 2019 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D. Schriver seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.