

**OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

April 12, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.  
Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

[www.olmd.org](http://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  
Dennis Johnson  
Bruce Mueller  
Dee Schriver

Absent

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

None.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$358,523.88
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$31,090.92</u>
Total:	\$327,432.96

**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

It was noted the checks and vouchers list included invoices received and paid since the October 12, 2020 OLMD Commission meeting as was customary. A down payment of \$16,866.78 was made for repair of the cutters as noted at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

**B. Mueller moved to approve the bills paid for the months of October 2020 through March 2021. T. Godar seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**D. Johnson moved to approve the bills to be paid for April 12, 2021. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting- October 12, 2020

**B. Mueller moved to approve the October 12, 2020 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

D. Johnson explained the application for the 2021 chemical weed spraying permits had been submitted to the DNR. OLMD residents were notified by mailing of the chemical spraying application and weed spraying process. An updated 5 Year Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan had not yet been received from DNR Senior Water Management Resources Specialist Heidi Bunk. A copy of this plan was required to be placed on the weed cutters. Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Supervisor, would contact

H. Bunk to determine what could be done to have the APM in time for the start of the weed cutting season.

B. Mullikin noted weed cutting operations were on schedule at this time. Preliminary maintenance had been completed in 2020 in anticipation of the cutting season. The cutter motors were anticipated for delivery by the second week in May of this year. Hiring for the weed cutting crew was underway at this time. Six new people would need to be hired with the remainder of the weed harvesting crew returning from last year. Training of the harvesting crew had been pushed back to coincide with actual cutting of the lake in order to be more cost effective this year.

T. Godar questioned whether the short lake ice season would impact the growth pattern of weeds this year. D. Johnson explained the weather was entering a cold pattern again and despite the early ice-out situation, it would work to hold cutting and training at the same time. B. Mullikin would also work with USDA staff regarding the Goose Round-Up for this year.

a. Discuss & Act on Aquatic Plant Management Plan

D. Schriver provided an update on the DNR grant related to the treatment of Starry Stonewort in 2020. Approximately \$8,700 had been reimbursed as part of the grant and all receipts had been submitted. The grant had not yet been closed out. Commissioners were encouraged to promptly submit any expenses related to the Starry Stonewort chemical treatment to D. Schriver.

In February 2021 H. Bunk met with D. Schriver regarding a survey of current Starry Stonewort plants remaining after the ice was out on the lake. The treated site at the bridge near Foolery's had not changed. It was not growing or moving. H. Bunk thought that the treatment at the Golden Mast site was effective. Divers had visited that treatment site a month after treatment took place and still were able to hand-pull Starry Stonewort plant material. At that site, the chemicals had killed some Starry Stonewort but did not completely eradicate it. This had been anticipated. The Golden Mast site would need to be closely monitored in the future. The DNR would continue to monitor several sites in Wisconsin that had a variety of options for treatments, including no treatment, and an update on treatments and effectiveness in all lakes would be provided later in the year.

**Ben Kenyon, W351N5281 Road C**, questioned whether the weed harvesting crews were trained to spot Starry Stonewort in the lake. D. Johnson explained the weed harvesting crew had been trained on how to spot Starry Stonewort and what to do if it were located.

T. Godar questioned whether the DNR would continue to insist on conducting a costly Point Intercept study annually. Discussion ensued regarding the cost associated with having to conduct a study each year and whether other lake districts were faced with the same direction from the DNR. Concern was expressed for the lack of information provided to the District in conducting the study annually relative to expenditures. Regulatory word changes could provide some relief to lake districts in these instances. T. Godar would work to contact local legislators regarding what could be done in working with the DNR on this type of requirement.

12. Report on Boat Damage Claim & Related Litigation

T. Godar explained that in early February 2021, a complaint had been received from an insurance company relative to a claim against the OLMD that suggested a boat moored at the docks available to the tenants of the Golden Mast had incurred damage caused by the use of algaecides for combatting Starry Stonewort in the area around the Golden Mast restaurant. The process of response was reviewed, noting Attorney Kay was present at this meeting regarding litigation of the claim that would be discussed further in Item 18.

13. Discuss & Act on Resignation Letter & Appointment of New Commissioner

C. Wilson explained the process of resignation and appointment of a new Commissioner at this time. No action was taken to accept a resignation letter from Dennis Johnson or appoint a new Commissioner at this time. This item would be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**T. Godar moved to commend Dennis Johnson for his 15 years of extraordinary service to the OLMD with deep appreciation from all served. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

14. Discuss & Act on Spring 2021 Newsletter

Potential articles for inclusion in the 2021 OLMD newsletter were reviewed. A suggestion was made to include information pertaining to the correct number of boats and/or slips allowed for each riparian parcel.

**Erik Mullett, N56W34526 Road F**, questioned the enforcement process for the correct number of boat slips on Okauchee Lake. He was concerned about an excessive number of boats on the lake relative to boating safety. T. Godar explained enforcement of boat slip regulations was complaint driven with the DNR. According to the DNR website, *“The law states that for non-commercial properties or properties with less than three dwelling units, up to two boat slips are allowed for the first 50 feet of shoreline owned*

*and one for each additional full 50 feet of shoreline owned.”* There were some exceptions to this law with existing piers prior to April 17, 2012 as well as some commercial establishments with commercial marinas. There were also limits on the number of boats launched through the DNR public access site.

15. Discuss Website Items

Updated information about lake level information, monthly Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletter, and a Help Wanted Ad had been added to the website since the last regular meeting.

Earlier in the day, the OLMD was notified that the current website hosting software would be undergoing a major update in late April 2021. This update had the potential to cause severe issues with the functionality of the existing website. Options to maintain functionality of the site were reviewed. Commissioners discussed this emergent situation, noting it would be better to migrate the website to a new host as an option rather than upgrading the site to a new design at this time. Costs to migrate the website (roughly estimated to be \$500-\$800) and costs to upgrade to a new website (more than \$2,000) were noted. S. Keefe of Accurate Business Communications, Inc., was directed to work with an OLMD Board member to determine options available to migrate the website prior to the software update and to contact the OLMD Chair regarding findings and a course of action to maintain the existing website if possible. More information would be available at the next OLMD meeting.

16. Future Agenda Items

Agenda items for the future meetings should be directed to C. Wilson in advance of the next meeting.

17. Set Future Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for May 10, 2021.

18. Motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g): “Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation. (Related to claim of boat damage.)

**B. Mueller moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g): “Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation (Related to claim of boat damage.) at 8:06 P.M. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Carol**

**Wilson, aye; Dennis Johnson, aye; Bruce Mueller, aye; Dee Schriver, aye; Tom Godar, aye. Motion carried.**

19. Reconvene into Open Session

**B. Mueller moved to reconvene into Open Session at 8:31 P.M. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Carol Wilson, aye; Dennis Johnson, aye; Bruce Mueller, aye; Dee Schriver, aye; Tom Godar, aye. Motion carried.**

20. Discuss & Act on Closed Session Item

No action was taken.

21. Adjournment

**B. Mueller moved to adjourn the April 12, 2021 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. T. Godar seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.**