

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

April 11, 2016-- 7 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

www.olmd.org

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Meeting Notice Announcement

The meeting notice announcement was distributed to local newspapers, posted at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall, two 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 (arrived 7:02 P.M.)

Dee Schriver

Absent

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

C. Wilson moved to Item 8 on the agenda.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

None.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Presentation by Representative of Oconomowoc River Adaptive Management Plan

Don Heilman, Executive Director of the Clean Water Association (CWA), Tom Steinbach, City of Oconomowoc Operations Manager for the Utilities and Wastewater Treatment Facility and Susan Buchanan, Executive Director of Tall Pines Conservancy, were present. D. Heilman explained he sat on the Steering Committee and Public Relations Committee for the OWPP as a representative of the CWA. The CWA worked to gather representatives of lake management districts and lake associations, researchers, engineers, farmers, municipalities, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies and business owners to discuss goals, coordinate efforts and raise funds for protection and improvement in water quality. A community board was being formed with participation required in quarterly meetings that would make decisions as a whole on how to move efforts forward related to protection and improvement of the water quality within the Oconomowoc River watershed. The Clean Water Alliance was a group founded similarly in Madison, Wisconsin in years past. Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Board was a similar farmer-led extension of the Clean Water Alliance. The six-member Yahara Pride Farms Conservation Board organized and educated farmers about various best management practices for soil improvement and water quality practices. The CWA was holding a Healthy Lakes Conference on June 17, 2016 at the Oconomowoc Community Center with several workshops featuring educational information on lake conservation, shoreline management and invasive species. Farm tours, pontoon boat rides touring shoreland restoration projects, and a water quality monitoring demonstration including instruction for potential volunteers were also slated as conference activities. A Lake Science Academy related to lake issues was planned at the Delafield Library with additional information available in the future. The CWA was seeking donations of \$100 as a membership for interested organizations.

T. Godar questioned whether the CWA would be engaged in any potential lobbying efforts. D. Heilman explained that it could potentially engage in lobbying efforts in the future but only if that was the desired direction of the CWA Community Board achieved through consensus.

T. Steinbach explained his primary role in his 24 years of service to the City of Oconomowoc had been to manage the operations of the City's utilities and wastewater treatment facility. He was now very involved with the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP). While similar to efforts undertaken in years past, the OWPP was the first adaptive management program of its kind in the state and in the nation. The OWPP included a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS). This partnership was formed because of a mandated reduction of phosphorus levels in water discharged from wastewater treatment facilities. The history of the impairment of the Oconomowoc River and Rock River basins was provided. As a result of the mandated actions, options were considered for improvement of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) of phosphorus entering waterways post treatment. One option considered resulted in the formation of the OWPP. This option would work to reduce phosphorus loads from non-point source polluters, often using the vehicle of

stormwater runoff from farm fields and landowners, from entering the watershed waterways. With farmland this was accomplished through cooperative efforts with the NRCS that incentivized the use of rotational grazing, buffer strips, stream bank restoration, cover crops, low-till or no-till areas near waterways. These projects offered in conjunction with the NCRS would span five to ten years. Two such projects had recently been completed and a great deal of interest was being shown by area farmers in learning more about the programs. A \$500,000 grant had been received for the OWPP from the NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program that was designed to further educate and distribute information about the OWPP. More than 30 partners, including municipalities, government agencies, farmers, business owners, lake management districts and lake associations supported the OWPP at this time. The OWPP would benefit lake property owners through education and enhanced awareness regarding the impacts of lakeshore property owners on area lakes. Best management practices, such as use of phosphorus free fertilizer, bagging leaves instead of allowing them to fall into the lake, and connection of older septic systems to sanitary sewer, were all considered of benefit to lakeshore property owners by improving the water quality of the adjoining lake for the future. Through education of lake residents and awareness of simple protective actions taken many improvements to the watershed's water quality could be realized.

S. Buchanan noted shore land gardens were beautiful and could also provide mitigation of stormwater runoff of phosphorus into area lakes. She further explained Tall Pines Conservancy was a local land trust whose mission was to preserve land in the Lake Country area. Approximately 1,500 acres had already been protected through the Conservancy and the amount of protected acreage was growing in number. The Conservancy was a partner in the OWPP as well.

T. Steinbach noted the OWPP was a 15 year program with mandated compliance of reduction of phosphorus limits required in that time. The impacts to overall water quality within the watershed were expected in that time as well as a result of the OWPP.

9. Discuss & Act on Presentation regarding Oconomowoc River Adaptive Management Plan

A discussion on participation in the Clean Water Association was postponed to the May OLMD meeting agenda.

T. Godar moved to become a partner in the Oconomowoc River Adaptive Management Plan. D. Johnson seconded the motion. Participation in the presented plan was consistent with the vision of the Okauchee Lake Management District. The plan would enhance water quality within Okauchee Lake and beyond its borders. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

C. Wilson returned to Item 5 and the remainder of the agenda at this time.

10. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$312,373.64
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$52,416.84</u>
Total:	\$259,956.80

D. Johnson moved to accept the Report of the Treasurer ending March 31, 2016, as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Approve Checks & Vouchers

D. Johnson moved to approve the November, 2015 list of bills as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Wilson moved to approve the December, 2015 list of bills as presented. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

T. Godar moved to approve the January, 2016 list of bills as presented. C. Wilson seconded the motion. Clarification was requested regarding the costs associated with website and secretarial work included in the expenditures during the winter months when the OLMD did not regularly meet. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

D. Johnson moved to approve the February, 2016 list of bills as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

T. Godar moved to approve the March, 2016 list of bills as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. Clarification was provided regarding the Commissioners of Public Land debt payment. It was noted that this annual debt payment would be repaid in five years time. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

B. Mueller moved to approve the April list of bills presented. D. Schriver seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the expenditure for signage and advertising for employment opportunities with the OLMD. Employment information would be shared through the 2016 newsletter as well. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

12. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

D. Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2015 meeting as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

13. Review Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes would take place at the next Annual Meeting to be held on August 29, 2016.

14. Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson reported that eight positions remained opened for the summer crew. It was difficult to find employees this year. The dump site for lake weeks was not available this year and a new location was being sought. Due to the late spring weather, the equipment was still sitting in storage. The front end of the cutter had been rebuilt with a cost savings to the District and needed to be reattached to the cutter. A request for information from the DNR regarding an impaired waterway designation for Okauchee Lake would be made prior to the next OLMD meeting. Paperwork for the annual Goose Round-Up had been prepared.

15. Discuss & Act on Agreement with Town of Oconomowoc to Assist in Purchase of Property for Purposes of Lake Protection and Rehabilitation as part of the West Lake Drive Redevelopment.

T. Godar moved to approve an agreement with the Town of Oconomowoc to assist in purchase of property for purposes of lake protection and rehabilitation as part of the West Lake Drive redevelopment. B. Mueller seconded the motion. T. Godar provided historical information on the proposed agreement with the Town of Oconomowoc related to assistance in purchasing property for a retention pond as part of the West Lake Drive project. He noted issues of indemnification and maintenance had been included. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

16. Starry Stonewort Update

DNR staff had been contacted regarding placement of Starry Stonewort signage at the Road T boat launch. Signage was scheduled for placement in upcoming weeks.

17. Discuss & Act on Annual Meeting Date

The Annual Meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 29, 2016. No action was necessary.

18. Discuss & Act on Spring Newsletter

Commissioners discussed various topics to be included in the spring 2016 OLMD newsletter. The newsletter was scheduled for distribution to OLMD residents during the first week of May, 2016.

19. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake levels, meeting agendas, minutes and an advertisement for summer employment for the Weed Harvesting Crew had been added to the OLMD website since the last meeting.

20. Future Agenda Items

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the next regular meeting agenda:

- Closed Session on Personnel Matters & Financial Matters
- Review OLMD Special Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2015
- Discuss & Act on Oconomowoc River Adaptive Management Plan (OWPP)
- Discuss & Act on Participation in Clean Water Association

21. Set Future Meetings

The next meeting of the OLMD would be on May 3, 2016 at 7 PM at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

22. Adjournment

T. Godar moved to adjourn the April 11, 2016 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.