

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Monday, August 31, 2015 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 7:00 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; posted on the board outside of the Town Hall; and posted on the OLMD website.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson will open the meeting:

Introduction of Commissioners

Chairperson Carol Wilson introduced herself and the OLMD commissioners: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Dennis Johnson, Liaison Aquatic Plant Management; Tom Godar, Secretary; and Bruce Mueller, Town Representative, noting Jan Husak, past OLMD Commissioner, had retired and Bruce Mueller had agreed to complete her term on the Commission. B. Mueller introduced himself.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Steven Godfrey, Godfrey Island, moved to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting as presented. Jane Knollenberg, W345N5732 Road G, 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 Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2015 and reported the following:

Revenues	\$312,144.92
Expenditures	<u>147,039.78</u>
Balance	\$165,105.14

Bob Knollenberg, W345N5732 Road G, moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Lori Larson, N53 W34257 Road Q, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Police Department Reports (Taken after the Invasive Species Report)

Due to the unavailability of Town of Oconomowoc Police Officer Rob Wiercyski at this time, and without objection, C. Wilson moved to the "Discussion on Invasive Species" on the agenda (see page 3 of these minutes).

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Officer Rob Wiercyski was present and reported the following:

2014 Okauchee Lake Boat Tie-up-number of boats provided:

DNR	6
Town of Oconomowoc Police	2
Town of Merton Police	2
Waukesha Co. Sheriff's Dept.	1
Total number of arrests	11 (Operating while intoxicated)

YTD statistics as of August 30, 2015

Patrol hours to date	350
Accidents	0
Citations issued	76
Boating OWI's	6
Warnings issued	150 (a ratio of 1 citation/4.79 hours on the lake)
Boater Safety Classes	1

Statistics from 2014 were:

Patrol hours to date	609
Accidents	1
Citations issued	74
Boating OWI's	5
Warnings issued	221 (a ratio of 1 citation/8.23 hours on the lake)
Boater Safety Classes	1

One accident occurred this year involving a watercraft operator and a fishing boat.

Historical accident statistics were as followed:

2011	3
2012	1
2013	0
2014	2
2015	1

A reduction in the total number of patrol hours this year was due to the result of three part-time officers retiring. It is anticipated that these positions will be filled by the 2016 boating season.

S. Godfrey noted aggressive aimless watercraft use that disturbed many boaters on the lake. He questioned enforcement options. Concern was also expressed for the additional presence of flyboards on the lake. Officer Wiercyski explained tickets typically given to watercraft were for safety violations. B. Sokolowicz also noted the presence of people speeding in the “Slow No Wake” zone north of the island area. Officer Wiercyski suggested that all help police the lake. If a registration number and any other identifiers could be provided to police, it would be very helpful. Reporting information was available to residents through the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department website, phone calls or through Town of Oconomowoc Police Department personnel.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson, Liaison for Aquatic Plant Management, reported that things were going very well this year. Weed cutting would continue to take place through September with barging occurring only on Mondays and Fridays. Cutting started two weeks later in the season and harvesting was able to keep up with growth this year. If anyone would like lake weeds to use as fertilizer, please notify the OLMD. *Without objection, C. Wilson, moved to the agenda item Discussion on the Proposed 2016 Budget (see page 5 of these minutes).*

Discussion on Invasive Species (Taken after the Treasurer’s Report)

Kathy Aron, Consultant, shared examples of Starry Stonewort, an invasive species new to Wisconsin lakes, noting it first appeared in September, 2014 in Little Muskego Lake. Originally, this invasive arrived from Europe through the St. Lawrence Seaway and impacted more than 200 lakes in Michigan and Indiana. It could now be found in four lakes in Wisconsin with recent discovery in two additional lakes, Silver Lake and Pike Lake, in Washington County. Starry Stonewort was not currently present in Okauchee Lake. In each infested lake, this invasive was easily spread through boat launch activity. It resembled the native Chara plant; however, Starry Stonewort had the presence of white starchy bulbiles responsible for growth. The plant could grow five to six feet tall and formed a carpet of growth that would not allow plants or fish to get through it. Fragmentation of the plant through wave action from a boat also caused the plant to

spread. DNR removal efforts included hand pulling and diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). This type of harvesting was costly and tended to spread the plant rather than remove it. Chemical treatment was a method of removal; however, it would need to be applied at certain times of the year and often killed other native plants along with the Starry Stonewort. Chemical treatment efforts were considered helpful around boat launch areas because this was where the plants seemed to originate and spread throughout the lake as boaters traversed the waterway. It was important for anglers and boaters that moved from lake to lake to check and clean all watercraft, trailers and lifts prior to transporting them to another lake. Trapped fragments and plants on trailers would continue to spread Starry Stonewort if dropped into the next lake. Prevention was considered critical in the efforts against Starry Stonewort. For this reason, signage was being placed to educate people using the boat launches on Okauchee Lake in order to keep Starry Stonewort from entering the lake. T. Godar explained the OLMD had also been proactive in writing to DNR representatives and elected officials regarding the need for aggressive approaches in this issue. It was important that all continued to monitor the lake, launch sites, watercraft and trailers to ensure Starry Stonewort did not make its way into Okauchee Lake.

Lisa Nass, N53W34369 Road Q, questioned the possibility of chemical treatment for Starry Stonewort. K. Aron noted that once the plant was established, chemical treatments would only remove the top of the plant. Several rounds of chemical treatments were required and the DNR was reluctant to do so at this time. When treated early in the growth cycle, chemical treatment was effective.

Dave Patzer, 5265 Elm Avenue, questioned the use of boat disinfectant sprays to deal with Starry Stonewort at launches. K. Aron explained boats using infested lakes could be cleaned and still have fragments on the boat trailer bunks that might survive with wetness for two to seven days. Boat disinfectants would require a lot of volunteers, training and materials at boat launches with little efficacy.

Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, noted newspaper articles reported Starry Stonewort was an annual plant and would die back in the winter. K. Aron explained that during mild winters it could continue to grow as it had overwintered in Little Muskego Lake.

D. Johnson questioned the use of various chemicals to combat the plant. K. Aron explained certain chemicals were used to treat certain types of plants and often the native plants were removed along with the invasive species and were expensive.

Paul Bostrom, W342N4900 Oak Lane, questioned the negative effects of Starry Stonewort. K. Aron explained Starry Stonewort grew in areas that typically held food sources and hid or sheltered young fish. It smothered fish spawning areas in shallow zones and created a toxic environment for native plants. It also made navigation difficult because it would fill the water column. In some deeper areas of the lake, native plants could grow 10-12 feet deep. Starry Stonewort could grow 15-18 feet deep.

C. Wilson thanked K. Aron for her report on Starry Stonewort and discussion then returned to the Police Department report (see page 2 of these minutes).

Proposed 2016 Budget, Discuss & Act (Taken after the Aquatic Plant Management Report)

OLMD Accountant, Pat Furno reviewed the Proposed 2016 Budget. Revenues would be approximately the same for this year. A dump truck was in need of replacement this year which added significant expense to the budget. Monies had been set aside to replace the truck.

Carl Schwartz, N53W34068 Road Q, questioned the remaining debt owed for the Road L launch repairs. There was an easement of land purchased by the OLMD near the launch where the harvesters were stored. The note held by the OLMD would be paid off in approximately three to four years. The cost was approximately \$150,000.00. The launch work had been funded through a combination of grant and loan that would be paid off over time.

Information had been received from Lance Stock, DNR representative for the Road T boat launch project. He estimated completion of the Road T boat launch would take place in two to three weeks. A binder coat had been installed and landscaping around the pavement had been seeded and matted. Retaining walls were close to complete. T. Godar noted the addition of several new parking stalls including handicapped parking at the launch.

J. Knollenberg expressed frustration regarding the inability of riparian owners to launch their boats if the launch was full. C. Wilson agreed, noting several efforts had been made to remedy this situation with the DNR to no avail.

Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, requested a detailed budget for next year. In the past line item budgets had been shared that he found helpful.

B. Sokolowicz moved to approve the Proposed 2016 Budget as presented. Ned Pellman, N64W34863 Road J, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

C. Wilson explained that Commissioner Dee Schriver's three year term was complete and her position was up for re-election. D. Schriver agreed to serve another term.

Self-introduction and questions to candidate from the Board and Floor

Dee Shriver explained that she has lived on the lake for 12 years and would be honored to be elected to another three-year term.

C. Wilson then asked three times whether anyone in the audience would like to run for this Commission seat. There were no volunteers.

Election of Commissioner

T. Godar nominated Dee Schriver to the OLMD Board. The nomination was seconded by Philip Heinle, W342N5106 Road P. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Dee Schriver accepted the nomination and will serve a three year term from 2015-2018 as a Commissioner.

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

D. Patzer questioned what to do with an abandoned paddle boat on the easement access on Elm Avenue. He was concerned the boat was being dumped in this location and there was garbage being left on the site as well. It was suggested that he contact the Police Department.

S. Godfrey questioned the number of lifts allowed along the river entry into Okauchee Lake as it seemed that there were more lifts than property allowed. T. Godar noted this issue had been discussed in the past. Two lifts were allowed for every 100 feet of frontage per DNR regulation. The enforcement process was complaint driven and should be reported to the DNR for resolution.

Report on Results of Election

C. Wilson stated that Dee Schriver was re-elected and would be reinstated as Commissioner for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

N. Pellmann moved to adjourn from the 2015 Okauchee Lake Management District Annual Meeting. J. Knollenberg seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.