

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

May 8, 2017 – 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 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

Residents

Tim Pierret, W358N4956 Harbor Court, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Doug and Wendy Grant, N53W34359 Road Q, Okauchee, WI 53069
Tom Nicloy, N53W34387 Road Q, Okauchee, WI 53069

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

There was no one present that wished to speak at this time.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$311,466.30
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$57,344.91</u>
Total:	\$254,121.39

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

B. Mueller moved to approve the bills paid from April – May, 2017. D. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion took place regarding the use of banners in the summer weed harvesting crew hiring process. **There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

10. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

B. Mueller moved to approve the April 10, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Aquatic Plant Management Report

D. Johnson reported the weed harvesting crew was hired and ready to go. Many members of the crew had been re-hired from last year with four members new this year. A weed harvesting start date was not determined at this time. There were two new locations for the harvested weed loads. One farmer wanted 100 loads. All weed harvesting equipment was ready and would be placed in the water in the next few days. Weed growth was starting and was weather dependent. Earlier weed growth was anticipated due to the little ice/snow cover and warmer temperatures this winter.

12. Discuss Small Pond on Tierney Bay

Doug and Wendy Grant, N53W34359 Road Q, introduced themselves. They were interested in learning how chemical treatment of Tierney Bay was handled in the past as well as whether there were any future treatment plans. D. Johnson explained chemical spraying of Tierney Bay was requested through the DNR chemical weed treatment application; however, it was unlikely that it would be sprayed due to lack of DNR support for chemical treatment and a preference for other methods, such as mechanical removal or aeration. D. Grant was concerned about the lack of long-term solution for resolving the issue of weed growth, treatment and general ability to navigate the bay. To that end, he offered to allow placement of an aerator under his dock to assist in keeping the water flowing in the bay to prevent stagnation which promoted additional weed growth.

Tom Nicloy, N53W34387 Road Q, explained the board that had been installed in Tierney Bay to prevent outflow of duckweed was no longer in place. If the DNR did not want to chemically treat the area, then he thought an aerator should be installed to assist with the water flow. D. Johnson

explained the removal of the board would not contribute to a solution of the current weed growth issue in Tierney Bay. While duckweed did not like turbulence, an aerator would only help the problem, not solve it. The DNR remained concerned about a fish kill or removal of native plants with the methodologies that might prove more effective in removing the duckweed, such as a product called SONAR. Discussion ensued regarding whether placement of an aerator would require a permit, the cost of an aerator and liability for the placement of the aerator. T. Godar suggested that additional information be provided by residents regarding the potential costs associated with installing an aerator. While there was not an opportunity for expenditure from this year's budget, an estimate would allow the matter to be discussed at future budget meetings. It was suggested that the riparian owners might contact the DNR to alert them that Tierney Bay concerns remain by the riparian owners in that area and to potentially work with the DNR to determine a course of action.

13. Discuss & Act on Marina/Gas Proposed By Foolery's

C. Wilson explained several Board members recently attended a Town of Oconomowoc Public Hearing on the marina/gas item being proposed by Foolery's. While few details were available, the proposal was an amendment to an existing Conditional Use for the property. Concerns remained regarding the proposed location. The proposed area near the bridge going into Lower Okauchee was already congested. The proposal included an above-ground 550 gallon gas tank located approximately 10 feet from the lake. The gas tank would be placed in concrete with a six inch lip around the edge to assist in the event of a spill. The gas service would be fully staffed on Saturdays and Sundays with a call button for service during the week. While there was discussion of bars being placed around the tank and "No Smoking" signage, there was little discussion of how to handle any spillage and how to protect the lake. The next Town of Oconomowoc Plan Commission meeting on this matter was slated for May 15, 2017. T. Godar explained there were two issues related to safety and environmental impacts to the lake that also remained a concern. It was noted that the Okauchee Fire Chief and Town of Oconomowoc Police Chief had not yet been asked to provide input on this proposal. Bob Sokolowicz also noted that there was a 50 foot hose to the gas tank to cover a large area. He questioned what would prevent someone from filling a car with gas from that tank. The Town allowed a fence four feet in height; however, the proposal included a request for a six foot high fence. It seemed a bit unfair that riparian owners could not place a shed within 75 feet of the lakeshore; however, a 550 gallon gas tank would be allowed.

Concern was expressed about the location of the tank relative to the lake congestion, safety for all with adequate engineering and training in place as well as a lack of safeguards in place to prohibit negative environmental impacts.

T. Godar moved to opposed immediate approval until there is satisfactory review of congestion and safety issues of the current location and that the engineering and training process for delivery of gas is sufficient to satisfy the OLMD Board of Commissioners that there is not an environmental issue associated with this matter that could negatively affect the lake. D. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discuss Muskrat Nuisance Remedy

Tim Pierret, W358N4956 Harbor Court, introduced Arnold Groehler to the OLMD Board. A. Groehler was considered the foremost expert working with the DNR regarding muskrats. T. Pierret shared information regarding A. Groehler's opinion on muskrats in and around Okauchee

Lake, trapping experience, pricing for removal and contact information. Several areas lakes had contracted with A. Groehler regarding nuisance rodent removal; however, Okauchee Lake had not yet done so. T. Pierret requested this service be included in the OLMD budget for next year.

A. Groehler explained he had been trapping his entire life and had provided animal control measures for various municipalities, lake districts and golf courses for a long time. He first trapped muskrats on Okauchee Lake in 1972 in Stumpy Bay; however, his work spanned the entire lake over time. The lake had everything a muskrat needed including shelter, water and aquatic plant life for food. Muskrats were primarily located in quiet bays out of the wind with steeper shoreline that allowed them to put burrows into rocks, pylons or an old concrete wall. He found he was spending too much of his trapping time on Okauchee Lake in disjointed efforts. He preferred to trap once in spring and again in fall to be proactive and get ahead of the population increases. Muskrats had three litters a year. Every female in the spring was without predators and as a result, damage resulting from the litters would be found in late fall to early spring. His preference was to go out early in the spring when the water was clear and trap the muskrats at that time. To that end, he suggested the OLMD request a response from its residents to determine the level of muskrat nuisance on the lake. For \$1,000 he would come to Okauchee Lake in the spring for a week and again in the fall to trap and remove the muskrats. He had an excellent working relationship with the DNR for muskrat removal.

T. Pierret explained the \$1,000 request to remove muskrats from all of Okauchee Lake would be money well spent in his opinion and would be a minimal amount in comparison with other potential bids for the same removal. He thought all would dislike having a small child fall through the muskrat holes that were carved out below the shoreline surface while out playing in yards. Each spring muskrats caused massive damage to lakeshore resident's property. Because muskrats tended to go back to the same burrows in which they were raised, the muskrat problem continued for homeowners each year causing problems annually. He thought the problem could be managed with A. Groehler's assistance through the OLMD budget next year to keep the problem in control.

D. Johnson questioned whether a report could be provided regarding removal statistics. A. Groehler explained he worked with a point of contact to coordinate activities on the lake and would send pictures showing results to those interested. He relied on residents to provide him with information on where muskrats were problematic. It would be helpful to have the OLMD provide names of interested people. He would then secure all necessary permits from the DNR as a designated agent. Last year he removed between 200-300 muskrats from Okauchee Lake. It was ineffective to remove them by complaint from individuals over an entire season. He would like to remove as many as possible at one time. Currently a handful of individuals were bearing the removal costs for the benefit of all. He charged \$100 per homeowner currently and had worked with 35-50 homeowners last year. He preferred to visit the lake with a coordinated effort at a cost of \$1,000 for spring and fall trapping events to get ahead of the population. All parts of the trapped muskrat were used in various conservation efforts. The pelts were sold, oil and fat were rendered into 16 different oils, and the remainder of the animal was also used in pet foods.

C. Wilson invited T. Pierret and A. Groehler to attend the OLMD Annual Meeting on August 28, 2017 to discuss this issue and potentially include it in the annual budget. A. Groehler suggested an article soliciting interest in having a trapper come to Okauchee Lake for removal of muskrats be provided via website or newsletter to OLMD residents. This would assist the OLMD in determining a budget.

15. Discuss & Act on Insurance Coverage Quote

D. Schriver explained there were few insurance companies that provided coverage with groups similar to the OLMD. A small increase was being requested by the current insurance company. Coverage options were discussed relative to the liabilities covered. D. Schriver noted the renewal amount was within budget.

B. Mueller moved to renew the current Okauchee Lake Management District insurance coverage with the Glatfelter Insurance Group as presented for the next year. C. Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Discuss & Act on Employee Handbook Policies

This item was placed on the next OLMD meeting agenda.

17. Update on 2017 Newsletter

The draft newsletter was reviewed and would be distributed later in the week.

18. Website Items

- Website maintenance of information done since the last meeting included updated lake levels, monthly posts on Aquatic Invasive Species articles from Waukesha County, and updated weed harvesting information. An article on muskrats and conservation efforts would be placed on the OLMD website prior to the next meeting.

19. Future Agenda Items

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

- Discuss & Act on Employee Handbook Policies

20. Set Future Meetings

The next regular OLMD meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2017.

21. Motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(c): “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.” (Performance review and compensation for OLMD employees)

T. Godar moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(c): Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Performance review and compensation for OLMD employees) at 8:32 P.M. C. Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Wilson, aye; Godar, aye; Schriver, aye; Mueller, aye; Johnson; aye. Motion carried.

22. Reconvene into Open Session

D. Schriver moved to reconvene into Open Session. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A Roll Call vote was taken: Wilson, aye; Godar, aye; Schriver, aye; Mueller, aye, Johnson; aye. Motion carried.

23. Discuss & Act on Closed Session Item

D. Johnson moved to provide a compensation adjustment to the Lake Operations Mechanic. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

24. Adjournment

T. Godar moved to adjourn the May 8, 2017 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D. Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.