

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

June 10, 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

Dennis Johnson

Bruce Mueller

Dee Schriver

Absent

Also Present

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

Brian Suffern, Marine BioChemists

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Comments from the Floor

David and Jen Ernst, N53W34297 Road Q, requested consideration of purchase of an oscillator to be used in the small pond near Tierney Bay. D. Ernst explained the history of this request, noting his neighbor, Doug Grant, had worked with the OLMD in 2017 to purchase a water thruster and oscillator to assist in control of the duckweed and watermeal in Tierney Bay. D. Ernst requested partial reimbursement for a second water thruster and to make the thruster OLMD property in the future. In addition he proposed purchase of an oscillator to gain coverage area in Tierney Bay. He had run electricity to the shoreline in order to make the equipment properly functional at his own expense. D.

Grant's equipment covered 100-125 feet in the bay. His use of the proposed equipment would cover approximately 150-200 feet. The addition of a second oscillator and water thruster would help the situation but not remove the watermeal entirely. There would still be excess watermeal in the pond. In addition, he noted a YouTube video showed how watermeal could be sucked from a waterway through a vacuum system as another means of control. In either option, the goal was to remove the watermeal from this small pond near Tierney Bay. An estimate of expenses for the water mover and oscillator was provided at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the limited chemical weed spraying areas allowed by the DNR in recent years and the effect that it had on this area of the lake. **Brian Suffern, of Marine BioChemists**, explained that duckweed/watermeal preferred stagnant conditions so increased circulation would help. Duckweed and watermeal could provide such strong weed growth that the conditions became anaerobic. Discussion further ensued regarding OLMD expenses directed toward a small area of the lake. D. Ernst could be reached at 414-687-5654 for additional information regarding the proposed options. No action was taken at this time.

7. Comments from Committee Members

None.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of the Treasurer

P. Furno reported the following:

Total Revenues:	\$339,105.99
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$82,851.85</u>
Total:	\$256,254.14

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 to be paid for June 2019. T. Godar seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unan.

10. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

D. Johnson moved to approve the May 10, 2019 Meeting minutes as presented. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Update on 2019 Muskrat Control Program

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper, provided an update on the spring muskrat program. He noted numbers of muskrats were lower than last year. A few people contacted him since the last meeting regarding trapping. Most of his remaining work for this spring included filling in the burrows with gravel and dirt to eliminate future burrow use or caving of the lawn. He had worked his way around the lake beginning near the Oconomowoc River and Highway C, to Foolery's, then to the island area, followed by Elm Street and Road Q. Lately his efforts had been concentrated in Tierney Bay. He had only caught five muskrats this year in Stumpy Bay in comparison with many more last year. He would finish up near Breezy Point and then move to the Yacht Club. He anticipated pulling traps near the end of this week due to heavy weed growth. His only disappointment this year was related to the amount of previous burrows that were beginning to show up. A great deal of retaining wall damage and collapse were evident in resident's wall structures and lawns. Burrows needed to be dug and filled with gravel and dirt in order to prohibit future muskrats from entering and using the past burrows.

b. Discuss & Act on Okauchee Lake Chemical Weed Spraying Program

D. Johnson thanked B. Suffern for his time and attention to Okauchee Lake chemical weed spraying efforts. Board members were provided a copy of a letter from Heidi Bunk, Wisconsin DNR - Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, that explained the terminology for the reduction in chemical weed spraying allowed in Okauchee Lake. D. Johnson explained approximately 90% of the weed spraying budget had been used at this time because spraying was only allowed after July 4th in the navigational lanes. B. Suffern explained there were unique issues posed with having to spray this early in the season. At this time of the year, the weeds had not fully begun growing so it seemed that little weed growth existed in some areas that were completely overgrown later in the season.

Discussion ensued regarding the information provided from the DNR to the Board regarding chemical weed spraying. Some information given by different DNR leaders as to reasons why the spraying could not take place in certain areas of the lake seemed to be contradictory. B. Mueller expressed concern regarding the lack of DNR support in this matter and noted the information provided did not answer specific questions posed. Discussion took place regarding the response provided and the ability to challenge the information in this matter. Standards were noted in chemical weed treatment; however, once the treatment area was reduced, increase dilution resulted and treatments then became less effective overall.

Martin Finn, N57W34344 Nichols Point Road, questioned whether there was a mechanical way to remove the weed growth. B. Suffern explained standards had been loosened with regard to dredging; however, this would only provide a short-term fix. The DNR had indicated it would not want any mechanical removal in certain areas so that disturbance of the lake bottom did not occur.

Additional discussion took place regarding what could be done to challenge the DNR restrictions regarding current chemical weed spraying standards and approvals. Legal resources could be helpful, along with a coalition of interested lake districts, to challenge statutory authority in this matter. Additional information on this topic would be provided at a future OLMD meeting.

D. Johnson noted procedural changes had taken place pertaining to the Goose Round-Up. No date for the Round-Up had been set at this time; however, it was anticipated in mid-June.

12. Update on Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant Program

Monies from the 2018 Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program had been returned due to lack of volunteers in the program. No further action was required.

13. Discuss Website Items

Updated lake level information, monthly updates to the Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive Species newsletters, the 2019 spring newsletter, the OLMD barging policy, cutting/ barging information and some new photos had been added to the website since the May 13, 2019 meeting.

14. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next regular OLMD meeting agenda:

- Update on 2019 Muskrat Control Program

- Discuss & Act on Okauchee Lake Chemical Weed Spraying Program
- Presentation by Bridget Manteufel regarding USGS Survey Results

15. Set Future Meetings

The next regular meeting of the OLMD is scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

16. 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)

D. Johnson Moved to Convene into 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) at 8:05 PM. B. Mueller 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.

17. Reconvene into Open Session

D. Johnson moved to reconvene into Open Session at 8:05 P.M. B. Mueller 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.

18. Discuss & Act on Closed Session Item

D. Johnson moved to provide a compensation adjustment to the Lake Operations Manager with annual wage review and bonus options to take place each year beginning with 2019. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

19. Adjournment

D. Johnson moved to adjourn the June 10, 2019 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D. Schriver seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.