

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MAY 8TH, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC TOWN HALL

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

4. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present:

Carol Wilson
Dee Schriver
Bruce Mueller

Absent:

John Foley
Tom Godar

Also Present:

Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager
Pat Furno, Accountant for the District
Linda Goehre, Website & Security
Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist

5. Correspondence

None

6. Comments from the Floor

a. Keith Granum N53W34296 Road Q Okauchee, WI 53069, What is the purpose of lowering the lake level in the Fall. C. Wilson replied that it is due to preparing for the snow melt runoff. They can only open the dam for so long to lower the level. This year with the lack of snow there was not as much runoff. Keith responded that it seemed like it was lower than normal.

b. Bob Sokolowicz N64W34899 Road J Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Bob agreed that the lake level was lower than normal and he happy that it was. He questioned if the newsletter he received was correct as there were 2 blank pages. D. Schriver acknowledged that it was a printing error and that we did not intend for there to be blank pages. Bob's newsletter is correct and we are making sure that in the future newsletters the printing error does not happen again.

7. Comments from Committee Members

a C. Wilson, announced that she is retiring from her service of County Rep. She has been with the OLMD since 1977. Keith Granum N53W34296 Road Q, Okauchee WI 53069, thanked Carol for her years of service.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

a. Total revenues: \$380,746.33

b. Total expenditures: \$36,079.49

This leaves a budgeted balance of \$344,666.84

B. Mueller moved to accept the report of the Treasurer as presented. C. Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Approved Checks & Vouchers

D. Schriver moved to approve payments submitted for approval by the Treasurer through May 8th. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (04-10-2023)

B. Mueller moved to approve the minutes from the 04/10/2023 meeting. D. Schriver seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Schriver made a motion to make an amendment to the 04/10/23 minutes. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

The amended portion of the April 10th 2023 Minutes include the question regarding if the weed disposal fees were in the budget. The determination was that yes they are under the line item for Equipment and Storage Fees.

11. Discuss and Act on Worker's Compensation Insurance

P. Furno, advised that we received a large bill from our previous Insurance Company after we were dropped from their coverage for worker's compensation. We have paid all premiums that were due to date. The bill amounts to \$4,600 and states that our machines were rated as "Farming machines" and that they rated us incorrectly. We were rated as such, as they had no other category to put our machinery in, we have always been rated as such. P. Furno questioned if we should pay the bill or if we should seek legal advice. C. Wilson stated that she thinks we should have an attorney look over the bill. D. Shriver also suggested that we wait and talk to an attorney. B. Mueller asked if T. Godar was aware of the bill. C. Wilson asked for the discussion to be put onto the agenda for the June 12th meeting.

12. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager, reported that this Spring has brought a lot of new equipment changes. Amongst these include 3 new outboard motors. The skimmer is in place and we drove to the Foolery's bridge to take measurements. We hope to be able to clear the bridge everytime and make the first cut in about 6 weeks. By next week all 4 of the Harvesters should have the new Kubota engines installed. The crane is also being inspected next week.

b. Brady reported that lots of crew from last season will be returning, along with 4 new staff who are very familiar with Okauchee Lake. They are very optimistic about having another great Summer!

c. Brady also reported that a resident in Finger Bay had requested how he could get a No Wake buoy installed. This area can be dangerous when boats create a wake for both the residents and the staff that may be working in that area as well. Brady requested and received the proper documentation to request a buoy. Brady agrees with the resident that we do need to have this buoy installed. It can be a difficult process to get approved for a buoy but he is hopeful that the DNR will approve for the safety of the residents, crew and equipment.

e. D. Schriver reported that the 1993 Suburban was retired and totaled in 2021. There are some funds in the budget leftover from the totaling and we are attempting to purchase a 2007 Diesel truck for use of the OLMD Lake Operations to replace the 1993 Suburban.

f. D. Schriver made a motion that we purchase the 2007 Chevy Diesel truck for \$18,000, using funds allocated from our budget and leftover from the equipment loan. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

g. D. Schriver reported that the chemical treatment company that we previously used, Marine Biochem, was purchased by Solitude Lake Management Company last year. Solitude is requiring a contract to be signed in order to keep treating the lake with the desired chemicals. **C. Wilson made a motion that we sign the contract with Solitude Lake Management company and that it should be signed by D. Schriver. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

h. Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist reported that the water level dropped 18 inches over the Winter. As a result the muskrat behavior changed and they headed towards the dam as it seemed like the lake was draining. He started getting calls in January, which is the earliest that he has ever received word, that the muskrats were headed towards Oconomowoc Lake. He has caught numerous muskrats and beavers and in March they started to head back North. He has recently received 50 calls in the last 4 days. There is still one known residing beaver on Okauchee Lake at this time and a population of muskrats. The DNR will be on the lookout for homes that are using water fans to attract the lush sea growth and fish. Arnold will continue to monitor the animal population.

i. Arnold advised that the shoreline of Okauchee Lake is currently 50% rocks and 50% seawall. He believes that the shoreline is being hurt by the use of wake boats sending a wave to the shore and many of the riparian lake owners are going to be needing to rebuild their seawall in the future. Arnold is reaching out to the DNR and starting to be more involved in the shoreline issue.

13. Discuss and Act on the Approval of destruction of records that are older than 7 years.

C. Wilson made a motion to destroy old records that are older than 7 years but to save the books containing all of the contracts that have been signed over the years. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion of the Road L properties for sale and the usefulness to the OLMD operation. Benefits to Okauchee Lake.

D. Schriver reported that every year we reserve funds from the budget for the potential to purchase properties to make the lake healthier. We would like to discuss the value of doing this. B. Mueller reported that the properties on Road L are still for sale and we will be notified if that status changes. Bruce will advise us when to put it on a future agenda for discussion.

15. Discuss and Act on contacts through Waukesha County on shoreline restoration.

D. Schriver gave J. Foley one contact for the Waukesha County shoreline restoration effort. Dee also advised that we have one contact at the Tall Pines Conservancy and they may be a potential partner for us if we purchase land in the future.

16. Discuss and Act on Website

It was acknowledged that there was not a link on the OLMD website to donate to the Okauchee Lake Firework Fund yet. Linda will add one to the website ASAP.

17. Future Agenda Items

- a. Discuss & Act on the insurance bill for Worker's Compensation
- b. Presentation by Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist
- c. Presentation by Tom Steinbach, Oconomowoc Watershed Operations Advisor.

19. Set Future Meeting Date

The next meeting is set for June 12th 2023 at 7:00pm.

20. Adjournment:

D. Schriver moved to adjourn the May 8th, 2023 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.