

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

JULY 10TH, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC TOWN HALL

1. Call to Order

T. Godar called the meeting to order at 7:03 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:

John Foley
Dee Schriver
Bruce Mueller
Tom Godar

Absent:

Carol Wilson

Also Present:

Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager

Pat Furno, Accountant for the District

Linda Goehre, Website & Security

5. Correspondence

- a. D. Schriver received an email from a riparian owner that one of the slow no wake buoys was missing after the 4th of July festivities. Brady responded that he already located the buoy and returned it to it's location. D. Schriver also received a notice from the DNR, but it was for Oconomowoc Lake, which is not in our jurisdiction.
- b. The OLMD received a letter from the DNR that an owner by the crane's nest requested a permit to dredge a specific area in front of their property. We do not have an issue with this request.

- c. J. Foley reported that he made a call to the DNR about a boat that was in Ice House Bay that had caused an oil spill. The DNR took care of it in a timely manner. He also reported that he received two calls about weeds that needed to be picked up. Brady was able to take care of the request the same day.
 - d. B. Mueller reported that William Grey and Jodi Armada have issues with piers that are being built and the disruption that it is causing on the lake near their residence.
6. Comments from the Floor
- a. William Grey, N52W35211 West Lake Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 stated that they live across the peninsula from 4 rental cottages. They moved in 2010 and in 2018 there were 4 piers put in. As of now, there are 10 boats being kept in a very narrow spot. This can be dangerous to surrounding neighbors. The boat traffic from the piers being rented out is causing the homeowners issues and raising safety concerns. William told the neighbor that he had too many slips and the neighbor replied that he was grandfathered in. There was a pier built where there was a tree growing and this has raised concern about the destruction of the forestry and natural resources.
 - b. Suzette Metcalfe, 5801 W. Washington Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53202 stated that while she thinks that the new neighbor may not realize what they are doing is wrong, they are creating a danger on the lake. She has been friends with William for over 20 years and frequently visits their home. The problem with multiple piers being built is an ongoing issue and has been hindering their comfort and safety on the lake.
 - c. Brian Sichi, N63W33895 Dr. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 reported that this is not an isolated incident. It is a growing problem on the lake and there are numerous reasons why this should not be allowed to happen. The riparian landowners are paying taxes to support the lake as determined for allowed number of piers per lake frontage. The piers that are being added without approval are not being accounted for economically. The owners that are paying the proper pier taxes are getting charged higher taxes to accommodate for this. The additional piers are also increasing boat traffic and causing safety issues. The new traffic that is coming onto the lake may not be aware of the safety rules.
 - e. Suzette Metcalfe, 5801 W. Washington Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53202 suggested that you can make a report to the state of Wisconsin if a business is providing a service for the public and they are not paying the correct taxes. She also asked if anyone had to approve their plans before the piers in question were built. B. Mueller responded that no, the piers were built with no approval.
 - h. Brady Mullikin suggested that the use of GIS (Geo Informational Survey) will be a helpful tool in aiding to see what was built on the lake and when. It is an online picture timeline gallery organized by season. This will be a way to determine who is grandfathered in and who is not, as well as what piers were built against the guidelines.

7. Comments from Committee Members

- a. D. Schriver agreed that we as a board need to focus on the issue of the overpopulation of piers going up and how we can enforce the guidelines. There is a process for applying for pier expansion, and also a way to see what was built and when.
- b. T. Godar commented that we can only go so far with this discussion as the committee does not have the power to police the areas in question. We will put it on the agenda for next month and invite the correct personnel.
- c. B. Mueller agreed that too many piers are being built and the extension of the ends of the piers are also very large. They are in talks with the DNR about the next course of action. He has taken pictures of the before and after since April 2023 and the change is significant. He also feels that this is causing a safety issue near his residence.
- d. T. Godar suggests that we need to amplify the fact that adding extra piers beyond what is allowed and renting them to the public is not being a good neighbor and lake community member in order to raise awareness.
- e. D. Schriver also reported that you can report the piers as a safety issue and that we are in talks with the DNR to see what next steps can be taken. She did invite Dan Hodge from the Waukesha County DNR to the August meeting and he will be asked to talk about the process and what needs to happen. In the meantime, to file a formal complaint, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWcomplaint>. You can also call the hotline number 1-800-847-9367 to report suspected violations. Dee has invited Travis Schroeder, the DNR Waterways Supervisor, to the Annual Meeting. She would like him to talk about how we can effectively respond to the situation. The DNR is aware of this ongoing problem in the area.

8. Discuss & Act on Report of Treasurer

D. Schriver reported the following:

- f. Total revenues: \$390,622.61
- g. Total expenditures: \$189,748.54

This leaves a budgeted balance of: \$200,874.07

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

9. Approved Checks & Vouchers

B. Mueller moved to approve payments submitted as of July 10th for approval by the Treasurer. J. Foley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Schriver stated that we did perform the Goose Round Up and that it was in the budget for this year.

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (06-12-2023)

D. Schriver moved to approve the minutes from the 06/12/2023 meeting. B. Mueller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Aquatic Plant Management Report

a. Brady Mullikin, Lake Operations Manager, reported that it normally takes 7 weeks to cover the 22 miles of shoreline. The first rotation is finished except for Little Okauchee. The crew will be starting the second rotation soon, and also figuring out where the hotspots are located in order to stay on top of rapid weed growth. All of the cutters now fit under the Foolery's bridge and the equipment has all been running smoothly with no issues. The crew has been doing well this Summer with minimal complaints. We are in the heavy part of the season and will soon be digging out eel grass as the Summer progresses.

b. D. Schriver stated that we applied to treat 150 acres in May 2023 and were approved to treat 75 acres. The areas of interest were identified by D. Schriver in May and a treatment plan was put into place. On June 23, 2023 the areas were treated and everything went smoothly.

c. Brady stated that the Goose Round up was successful and thanked D. Schriver for her diligence in aiding in the roundup. They were able to remove over 50 geese.

12. Discuss and Act on Website

a. An updated statement on pier regulations is to be added to the website and will be a topic of discussion for the annual meeting.

b. To file a formal complaint to the DNR, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWcomplaint>, or call the hotline number 1-800-847-9367.

c. Heidi Bunk previously provided a helpful link for the website regarding the identification of algae.

13. Future Agenda Items

- a. Presentation by Arnold Groehler, Animal Control Specialist
- b. Presentation by the Waukesha County DNR Warden Dan Hodge

14. Set Future Meeting Date

The next meeting is set for August 14th 2023 at 7:00pm.

The Budget workshop is set for July 25th at 6:00pm.

15. Adjournment

B. Mueller moved to adjourn the July 10th, 2023 Okauchee Lake Management District meeting. D. Schriver seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.