

**Otter Lake Water Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes**

March 10, 2026

Chairman Jake Rettberg, with all Commissioners, except John Gudgel, convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, and Meghan Theel.

MINUTES:

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 13, 2026. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote with John Ulery voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

Travis Hopkins spoke with the board about concerns regarding his campground waiting list removal. He was removed from the waiting list after not responding to our letter and calls. After further discussion with the board, Jake Rettberg made a motion to follow the current policy regarding the campground waiting list and deny Mr. Hopkins' request to be put back in his spot on the wait list. John Ulery seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

BILL LIST:

John Ulery made a motion to approve the January bills totaling \$284,500.93 for payment. Larry Mouser seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the February bills totaling \$498,845.28 for payment. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for January was \$5,395.18 with a year to date of \$5,395.18

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for February is \$29,944.22. With a total owed to date of \$0.

Total income for February was \$2,520.17 with a year to date of \$7,915.35

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for February is \$20,443.95 With a total owed to date of \$20,443.95

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Joe Hogan spoke about a conflict with the April Commission Meeting night due to a water conference. Dave Skinner made a motion to cancel the commission meeting for April 14 and resume like normal on May 12, 2026. Mike McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **Campground Winter Projects-** The campground crew has continued working on winter projects. They have updated the ceiling in the overnight campground restroom, started the updates needed to finish an extra camping area in the overnight grounds, as well as numerous other projects. The campground officially opened on March 1st.
- **West Campground Trespasser-** On January 15th, we were notified by a camper that they had footage of someone walking around the westside campground in the early morning. The Macoupin County Sheriff's Office was notified. They performed a check of the campgrounds that day and told us they would patrol the area closely to see if it happened again. When the campground opened on March 1st,

a camper noticed their power cord had been stolen. Shannon, Austin, and Morgan then checked all campers. A total of two had been taken, as well as one that was visibly torn.

- **General Liability Insurance**- I have been working with Tom Kavanagh from Gallagher (insurance broker) for renewal numbers for this year. We will at least be seeing an increase due to expanding the umbrella coverage. We had to do this for the railroad companies on Route 104 to receive the required permits. Also, there was a normal market increase.
- **Audit**- We received a quote for our annual audit. We will also have to have a single audit performed because of the IEPA loan for the Route 104 project.
- **Operator Opening**- We currently have an opening for a water plant operator.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality**- February 2026 saw an average lake temp of 42 degrees and an average pH of 8.2. The lake level was recorded at 618'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are currently operating the UV system DIS mode only.
MIB and Geosmin Sample Results
February 9, 2026, Raw Geosmin 3.6 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2 ng/L
February 9, 2026, Raw MIB <2 ng/L and finished MIB <2 ng/L
- **Rt 104 Water Main Project**- All the services that needed to be moved to the new water main on the east leg of the project have been moved over. Our crew was on site while Petersburg moved them. The pressure regulating valve on Frazee Rd was tied in and start up on it was completed. It will now reduce pressure for all our customers to the north in Glenarm. In February all services on the west leg of the new main were moved to the new main. The tie in at BAB Rd. was completed and the middle tie ins were also completed. After the tie ins were completed, we received many air complaint calls. We have been flushing to purge the air from the main. To essentially complete the project a line, stop at AEBS needs to be installed. This will happen March 11, 2026. Landscaping will be done in the spring.
- **Distribution System Leak**- January 7, 2026, we had a water main break west of Purdom Rd on Rt 104. The crew cut out a 109" crack to restore service. I am confident that this break could have been avoided had we known Pawnee was going to be closing the valve at their meter vault. This was the last break on the old main on 104 that we'll have to repair.
- **Thayer Tank Actuator**- The actuator that we use to remotely fill Thayer tank broke. Our crew was manually filling the tank twice a day 7 days a week. The actuator was rebuilt by Allied Valve and was reinstalled by our crew.
- **Raw Water Pump #1 VFD**- Our variable frequency drive (VFD) on raw water pump #1 was burned up by an electrical surge. Ameren was doing some work on a transformer that required Rural Electric to do some switching. Since rural electric was doing some switching, we were going to run our raw water pumps and plant on the generators. When we were switching over to generator power the drive got hit with a surge causing it to fail. The drive was under warranty and has been replaced.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Joe spoke briefly about the proposed data center, in Talkington Township, just west of Thayer.

At 6:05pm John Ulery made a motion to adjourn. Terry Davis seconded the motion. With no further business to discuss the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The next Commission Meeting will be at the Commission Office - 6475 W Montgomery Road in Virden on Tuesday May 12th, at 5:00 PM

Meghan Theel

Approved by Board 05/12/2026