

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025

Chairman Jake Rettberg with all Commissioners present except Larry Mouser convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm with John Ulery arriving at 5:02 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, and Laura Sommerfeld.

MINUTES:

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 12, 2025. John Gudel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote, with David Skinner voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

No visitors were present.

BILL LIST:

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the September 9th bill list totaling \$292,395.79 for payment. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

David Skinner made a motion to approve the October 14th bill list totaling \$643,651.17 for payment. John Ulery seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for August was \$34,427.41 with a year to date of \$407,081.28.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for September is \$22,327.17. With a total owed to date of \$61,880.56.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:

Shannon Collins reported:

- **2026 Season** - Campers have started paying their lot leases. I have heard through the grapevine of three people giving up their spots, but that is likely to change and be a few more.
- **Water Off** - We will start the water shut off process on the 20th of October. The campground has really slowed down and once the water is off, I look for it to be even slower until the end of the season.
- **Guard Rails** - They have redone and painted guard rails by the 1st south bathroom and along the westside entrance.
- **Maintenance Crew** - The crew is keeping busy with projects. They have gotten the west field of the burn pile mowed down. We are currently working on a list of winter projects for them.

OLD BUSINESS:

A letter was sent back in August to Tim McKarnen for the unauthorized dock and other items that have been installed along Otter Lake adjacent to his property. We received a letter from Patrick McKarnen, which is a brother who is taking care of the property. He has promptly removed all the items.

Lora Lee Mueller, the camper at lot 38as was sent a letter in August informing her the Board denied her dock request. She has sent a FOIA request for the meeting minutes from July and August. They have been mailed to her.

NEW BUSINESS:

None to report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **Route 104 Update**- The main tie ins at Auburn East Booster station are complete. Petersburg Plumbing will now start to fill, pressurize, disinfect, and turn on that part of the water main. We finally received fully executed agreements from the railroad companies. The railroad and 104 bores have been completed.
- **Thayer Tank Warranty Repairs**- We are still waiting for the contractor to schedule a date for the warranty inspection repairs. They will be completed sometime in the next few months.
- **Health Insurance**- As I stated earlier in the year, our current provider, Health Alliance, will be shutting down at the end of the year. We have been working with our insurance broker to find a comparable plan to move to. I should have options and pricing by next month.
- **2026 Budget**- Denzel, Shannon, and I have started preparing our budget for next year. We will have a draft budget to review next month.
- **Christmas Party**- We need to discuss our options for this year.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality**- September 2025 saw an average lake temp of 72 degrees and an average pH of 8.0. The lake level was recorded at 619'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are currently operating the UV system DIS mode only.
 - **MIB and Geosmin Sample Results**
 - September 15, 2025, Raw Geosmin 8.9 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2 ng/L
 - September 15, 2025, Raw MIB 20 ng/L and finished MIB 12 ng/L
- **Treatment Plant**- The valves on the east and west cone sludge blow down line were leaking and replaced by the crew. Due to the gritty material that passes through the valves the seat will wear down again. I am hoping to get at least 5 years out of the valves. We will address it again when it is necessary.
- **Hydrant Flushing**- Hydrants were flushed September 8th through 19th. All hydrants were oiled and greased. A list was made of any issues found while flushing. The list consisted of stripped oil plugs. We've ordered replacements and will get them swapped out when we get them.
- **Service Leak**- In August we had a leak on our portion of a service line for one of our customers on Wayside Meadows Rd. We had A.C.T.S. Inc complete the bore for us. We were able to pull a new service line to repair the leak and restore service to our customer.
- **Water Main Breaks**- We had a total of four water main breaks on RT 104 in September. September 18th into September 19th our old cast iron main near 3313 W State Route 104 cracked. We cut in a repair 87" long. When shutting down to make this repair we experienced a second break on the northwest corner of BAB Rd and RT 104. We cut in an 86" repair to restore service. September 22nd, we experienced another water main break on RT 104, East of the breaks we had earlier in month. We exposed and clamped the main to make the repair. While turning the water back on we experienced

another blowout near the repair clamp we installed. We were able to clamp that hole and restore service.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The compensation committee will be David Skinner & Jake Rettberg. They will meet with Joe Hogan before the next meeting.

The next meeting will have fallen on Veteran's Day, since our office is closed, the meeting will be held Wednesday, November 12th instead.

At 5:47 pm John Gudgel made a motion to adjourn. David Skinner 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 WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

Laura Sommerfeld

Minutes Approved by Board on 11/12/2025

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