

Otter Lake Water Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Vice-Chairman, Terry Davis, with all Commissioners present except, Mike McCarthy, and Jake Rettberg convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, Scott Hunt, Katie Bohrman and Laura Sommerfeld.

MINUTES:

Terry Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 8, 2024. John Ulery seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0-2 vote, with David Skinner and John Gudgel voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

None present.

BILL LIST:

David Skinner made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$279,487.40 for payment. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for October was \$150,714.23 with a year to date of \$537,600.27.

The total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for October is \$16,497.55. With a total owed to date of \$39,426.13.

PARK MANAGER`S REPORT:

Shannon Collins reported:

- **Water off** – Water shut off was completed on October 21, 2024. Everything went smoothly.
- **Lot Leases** – Lease payments were due on November 1, 2024. As with every year we have a few paying the \$15 per day late fee. We currently have 5 people who have not paid their leases. At the time of this report, we have sent out letters to those of whom we still need signed copies or the lease and up to date driver's license. We currently have 9 leases that are not being renewed. On average we have 8 to 12 lease holders drop out at the end of each season. Currently there are 151 names on the waiting list.
- **Bait Shop** – The last operating day for the bait shop will be Saturday, November 30, 2024. As the gates will be closed on December 1st.
- **Last day of the Season** – My last day of the season will be November 26th as the Holiday will be on the 28th. I will be around during the off season; in the event anyone needs anything. I will be returning on March 1st. It was a smooth transition into my new role, and I look forward to the spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our Engineers Scott Hunt and Katie Bohrman with WHKS & Co were in attendance to discuss the bid opening results from October 23, 2024 for the Route 104 Water Main Replacement project. We received bids from the following companies: EL Pruitt, Laverdiere, Petersburg Plumbing, and Fischer Excavating. Petersburg Plumbing was the low bidder at 3,260,458.00. The Engineers estimated the project construction cost at 4,974,609.00.

After some discussion David Skinner made a motion to issue a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract to Petersburg Plumbing, pending IWPA approval. Hank Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

We have received the employee health insurance renewal quote for 2025. We are seeing a 7.9% increase from last year. Per our broker anything under 20% is great. John Gudgel made a motion to approve the health insurance renewal contract. Larry Mouser seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

The 3-year farm lease contract is set to expire at the end of this year. We have reached out to the current farmers Rod & Shane Dowell to let them know we are considering increasing the rent from \$150 to \$250 per acre. This price has not been adjusted in the timeframe that the Dowell's have been leasing the ground starting in 2014. They wanted to run some calculations before getting back to us.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **Student Tour**- SIU-E's Environmental Resource Training Center (ERTC) visited last month for their annual class tour of our water treatment plant. The group has been touring our facilities for many years. Each year, the new students ask a lot of questions and get an insight into our water treatment process.
- **Fish Rearing**- This year we put 500 bass into the north sedimentation basin. We were able to retrieve over 300 fish from the basin. This result was much better than in prior years. Almost all the fish were over 10", with the largest coming in at 17".
- **Draft Budget**- Denzel, Shannon, and I have been working on the Commission's 2025 budget. You have a draft copy in your packets. We will look over and discuss it before finalizing it next month.
- **Commissioners**- We have 3 Commissioners whose terms will be expiring at the end of the year. I have sent out letters and resolution templates to each of their appointers, with the current Commissioners receiving a copy as well.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality**- October 2024 saw an average lake temp of 64 degrees and an average Ph of 8.1. The lake level was recorded at 618.5'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We were operating the UV system in DIS mode only.

MIB and Geosmin Sample Results

October 7, 2024, Raw Geosmin 3.8 ng/L and finished Geosmin 2.4 ng/L

October 7, 2024, Raw MIB 7.9 ng/L and finished MIB 6.6 ng/L

- **New Operator**- We have hired a new water plant operator, Dallan Rice. He has completed two weeks of day shift training and will do two weeks of second shift training in November. After that he will be back on the day shift where we will assess his working knowledge of plant operations and continue training him on our plant and equipment.

- **Source and Supply**- The crew finished dredging for the season. They removed the dredge, piping, and cables from the in-lake dam. They also cleaned the dredge this did the maintenance on it before moving it for storage.
- **Raw Water Pump # 3**- The pump and motor were removed from the intake to be rebuilt. Peerless Midwest is doing the work. The pump should be reinstalled by November 15, 2024.
- **Treatment Plant**- Metro Ag cleaned out our sludge pond. The sludge was pumped onto tanker trucks so it could be land applied. They will be back next year to clean out the next pond in rotation.
- **Filter # 2 Surface Wash Arm**- The crew swapped out a surface wash arm on filter # 2. The arm had stopped spinning when it was turned on.

Executive Session:

At 6:13 pm the Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel. At 6:42 pm the Board came out of Executive Session.

David Skinner made a motion to approve the employee raises and contracts as discussed in Executive Session. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The annual employee Christmas party will be held Friday, December 6th.

At 6:43 pm John Ulery made a motion to adjourn. Larry Mouser 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, December 10, 2024, at 5:00 PM

Laura Sommerfeld

Approved by Board on 12/10/2024.