

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2025

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

MINUTES:

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 8, 2025. Larry Mouser seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote, with John Gudgel voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

Our Engineer, Scott Hunt with WHKS was present to give an overall construction update on the current Water Main Replacement Project on Route 104. Petersburg Plumbing has installed water main from Auburn East to Panhandle property. They are likely to start RR crossings, IDOT highway crossings, and hot taps on the west end within the next week or two. Pay request # 1 in the amount of \$506,381.20 has been submitted to IEPA.

There have been a few construction issues to date:

1. J&L Properties clearing – notified owner and issue was resolved
2. Stephen Castleman tree removal – met with customer and will work with him after construction to plant some trees/shrubs.
3. IDOT Utility Permits – Had to obtain an additional private easement due to IDOT changing their minds on I-55 crossing. We are waiting on IDOT approval of the revised water main alignment.

BILL LIST:

Terry Davis made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$311,044.98 for payment. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for March was \$132,420.51 with a year to date of \$180,266.89.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for April is \$20,039.78. With a total owed to date of \$0.00.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

Shannon Collins reported:

- **Tractor** – We received the new grappler attachment for the tractor; this was in our special project budget.
- **Propane Class** – Austin, Morgan and I went to a propane class on May 5th. We are all three now propane certified.
- **Waiting List** – We currently have three open spots in two weeks we will have three more come open. We have 2 lots that still have not paid their 2nd Installment that was due May 1st.
- **Equipment Maintenance** – The zero-turn mower is currently at Bowman's getting looked at. Not sure what the issue is, other than it was blowing out hydraulic fluid. We also had to have the hydraulic bed fixed on the pump truck.
- **Summer Help** – Applications have started coming in for summer help. We trained one of our maintenance crew in the bait shop, so he can help cover shifts until summer help gets here.

- **Water Leak** – We were able to find the water leak and get those repairs done.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

None to report

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **ISAWWA Conference**- Denzel and I attended WaterCon last month. This is the second year of the conference being held in Peoria instead of Springfield. We attended multiple hours of training. As a trustee for the association, I also volunteered in numerous areas of the conference and welcomed in the new Board.
- **Health Insurance**- As I stated last month, Health Alliance announced they are closing their doors at the end of the year. We have contacted our insurance consultant and are in the process of gathering information on new plans and premiums. Once we have a few options, I will present them to the Board.
- **Northwater Consulting**- Our watershed management consultant, Jeff Boeckler, and his partner have sold their business to a larger firm. The new firm's name is Spheros Environmental. Jeff will remain an employee there and the business should run like normal for Otter Lake, with no real changes on our side of operations.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality**- April 2025 saw an average lake temp of 56 degrees and an average pH of 8.5. The lake level was recorded at 620'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We were currently operating the UV system in DIS mode only but will monitor the MIB and Geosmin numbers then switch to AOP mode if needed.

MIB and Geosmin Sample Results

- April 7, 2025, Raw Geosmin 6.8 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2.0 ng/L
 - April 7, 2025, Raw MIB 4.2 ng/L and finished MIB <2.0 ng/L
 - April 22, 2025, Raw Geosmin 8.6 ng/L and finished Geosmin 2.1 ng/L
 - April 22, 2025, Raw MIB 6.2 ng/L and finished MIB 4.0 ng/L
- **Solar Bee**- The crew found a solar bee not spinning. After troubleshooting the unit, it was determined it needed a new motor control system and battery. The crew swapped out those components. At the time of this report all solar bees are operational. The crew will be checking the solar bees monthly like we have been.
- **Treatment Plant**- Peerless Midwest came out and did annual maintenance on our raw water pumps, high service pumps, backwash pumps, and sludge pumps. The pumps were repacked and got oil changes. No issues were reported.
- **Hydrant Flushing**- All hydrants were flushed April 14th-25th. All hydrants were oiled, and all nozzle threads were greased. The crew has also been painting the hydrants. The crew will finish painting hydrants in May.

- **New Operator**- We conducted interviews to fill an operator position. We have offered the position to Jordan Bacon. He will be starting in May.
- **Distribution System**- We exposed the 16" and 10" water mains on Auburn Park and Dickey John. We were looking for a suspected water main leak. The mains and all fittings were inspected, and no leak was found. We worked with the landowner on a new access point. We will be blocking this spot off with steel posts to prevent farming equipment from being driven over our valves.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None to report.

At 6:00pm John Ulery made a motion to adjourn. Jake Rettberg 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, June 10th, at 5:00pm.

Laura Sommerfeld

MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD – 6.10.2025