

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

June 10, 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 Gudgel arriving at 5:06 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, and Laura Sommerfeld.

MINUTES:

Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 13, 2025. John Ulery seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote, with Mike McCarthy and Hank Sutton voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

None present.

BILL LIST:

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$766,618.49 for payment. John Ulery seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote, with John Gudgel voting present.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for May was \$99,853.90 with a year to date of \$280,120.79.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for May is \$19,561.10. With a total owed to date of \$0.00.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

Shannon Collins reported:

- **Landscaping-** I have redone the landscaping in the front of the bait shop. Placed flowers in all of the pots going into the campgrounds.
- **Waiting List-** We filled all the original open lots. We have had three more open and ready to show.
- **Equipment Maintenance-** The tractor is currently at Bowman's getting the hydraulics put on for the grapple bucket. They replaced some old screens with vents in the southeast bathrooms.
- **Summer Help-** We have completed the hiring process for the summer help. The outside crew has hit the ground running. The inside crew is slowly coming together.
- **Memorial Day Weekend-** Weather played a factor this weekend. All in all, it was a smooth weekend. Saturday was busy on the lake and in the campground. We had our first food truck that weekend and it was very welcome. Dennis started a tradition of handing out ice cream in the evening on the holiday weekends. Kids always look forward to this. This year with a little help, we stepped it up a notch.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

None to report

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- **Route 104 Project Update-** The crews are continuing to make their way east towards Interstate 55. The bores for Frazee Road and I-55 should be taking place in the next few weeks. Construction is currently on schedule. After the Frazee and interstate bores, they will backtrack and complete the Route 104 and BAB Road bores and tie-ins.
- **IDNR Fishing Survey-** On May 6th, IDNR Fisheries Biologists conducted 4, 30-minute electrofishing surveys. As in previous years, we had a very good report. They reported 112 bass per hour, which was much higher than their 60 per hour goal. Otter Lake continues to be one of the best Largemouth Bass lakes in our area in terms of numbers and size ranges. They also caught 148 Crappie per hour in the 6-12" range. Along with Bass and Crappie, they also were able to catch numerous other types of fish, including- Catfish, Bluegill, Hybrid Striped Bass, Muskie, Shad, and others.
- **Campground Water Meter-** Our crews changed out a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on one of our campground water meters. The valve was failing, causing multiple unintended pressure fluctuations throughout the campgrounds. The pressure has been stable since installing the new PRV.
- **Annual Audit-** I have received a draft of our 2024 audit report. The numbers look very promising for the year. Our auditor will also be reviewing and finalizing it in the next few weeks. She should be present at our July meeting to present her findings to the Board.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- **Water Quality-** May 2025 saw an average lake temp of 65 degrees and an average pH of 8.3. The lake level was recorded at 620'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are currently operating the UV system in AOP/DIS mode. We are monitoring lake pH and lab results for MIB and Geosmin. We will continue running in AOP mode until the lab confirms low to no MIB and Geosmin.
MIB and Geosmin Sample Results
May 5, 2025, Raw Geosmin 17 ng/L and finished Geosmin 4.7 ng/L
May 5, 2025, Raw MIB 47 ng/L and finished MIB 37 ng/L
May 15, 2025, Raw Geosmin 11 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2.0 ng/L
May 15, 2025, Raw MIB 92 ng/L and finished MIB 34 ng/L
May 27, 2025, Raw Geosmin 9.4 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2.0 ng/L
May 27, 2025, Raw MIB 78 ng/L and finished MIB 33 ng/L
- **Rock Barge-** The crew prepped then painted the hull of the rock barge. The plan is to get the deck and cab painted in June. We used a marine grade macropoxy 646 from Sherwin Williams.
- **Dredge-** The dredge has been set up. We are going to start dredging an area to the north of where we have been dredging. North of the in-lake dam. Before picking the area that we did the crew probed the sediment in the areas that have been dredged and found the sediment to still be at the depths we left them at last year. The plan is to operate the dredge until the fall.
- **Cone Building Dehumidifiers-** Humidity in the cone building was 70-80%. Everything in the cone building was always dripping wet. Since purchasing and setting up the dehumidifiers the humidity has been brought down to 40% and the cone building is no longer wet.
- **Filter Actuators-** The influent valve actuators for filters 1, 2, and 3 have been replaced.
- **UV System Maintenance-** The crew swapped out the wiper collars and gel on both trains. This is done once every two years according to the manufacturer's recommendation.

- **Distribution System**- All large meters were tested for accuracy. This is done annually. All large meters were found to be registering flow accurately. They will be tested again next year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None to report.

At 5:47pm Jake Rettberg made a motion to adjourn. Hank Sutton seconded the motion. With no further business to discuss the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The next Commission Meeting will be at the Maintenance Building – 13812 Emmerson Airline in Girard on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:00pm.

Laura Sommerfeld

Approved by Board on 07/08/2025