

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2019

Chairman Jake Rettberg with all Commissioners present except Hank Sutton and John Gudgel convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Tom Moroney, and Andrea Hanney.

MINUTES:

Ron Jombock made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on April 18, 2019. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote with David Skinner voting present.

Fred Fickas made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 14, 2019. Ron Jombock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Mike McCarthy and David Skinner voting present.

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from August 14, 2018. David Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Terry Davis made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from September 11, 2018. Ron Jombock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from October 9, 2018. Ron Jombock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Fred Fickas made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from November 13, 2018. Ron Jombock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Fred Fickas made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from December 4, 2018. David Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from April 9, 2019. Fred Fickas seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote with David Skinner voting present.

Fred Fickas made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from May 14, 2019. Ron Jombock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Mike McCarthy and David Skinner voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

James Pierson submitted a request to the board for approval to complete and install a directional sign at Otter Lake for his Eagle Scout project. James submitted a cost estimate for the project totaling \$1250.00. The board is considering a donation to the project with the balance being raised by James through fundraising efforts. The board directed James to continue planning the project and submit a sketch of the sign with dimensions. The project and donation request will be added to the agenda for a board vote at the July 9, 2019 meeting.

BILL LIST:

David Skinner made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$176,451.79 for payment. Fred Fickas seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for May was \$111,060.83 with a year to date of \$269,865.72. Total monthly expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for May is \$27,364.20. With a total owed to date of \$0.00.

Overnight Camping Rental Statistics:

May

Primitive Site – 20

Electric Site – 33

Dock Rental – 11

YTD

Primitive Site - 22

Electric Site - 87

Dock Rental - 25

Canoe/Kayak Rental Statistics:

YTD

Kayak Half Day – 2

Kayak Full Day – 1

Canoe Full Day - 0

Canoe Full Day - 0

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tom Moroney reported:

- IDNR was here on May 9th & 10th for their annual electrofishing survey. The following is their preliminary report from their first day:
 - Largemouth Bass - 110 bass collected, fish ranged from 4.5-21", high density of fish 12-16", 8 fish over 4lbs (two of which were over 5lbs), big fish 21.2" - 6.06lbs, bass looking great, many bass that we collected had shad in their mouths.
 - White Crappie - 127 white crappie collected, 5.6-12.6" range, 6 fish over 10", big fish 12.6" - 1.2lbs, strong year class in the 6-7" range coming up
 - Bluegill - 149 bluegill collected, 2 fish over 7", competition with Gizzard Shad will always hinder Bluegill quality
 - Channel Catfish - 6 fish collected, 18.8-22.4" range, big fish 22.4" - 3.7lbs, fish looked healthy
 - Hybrid Striped Bass - 1 collected, 22" - 5.9lbs, good body condition
- No Vacancy – We are currently at full capacity in the seasonal campground.
- Nice crappie – We are hearing reports of a lot of small crappie being caught, but we've also seen a few nice ones. 3 beer cans equal 15 inches, only to be topped by a 16 ½ incher.
- Boat Accident: On Saturday evening I received a call that a young lady had fallen from a boat and had been hit several times by the boat's propeller. 911 was called and emergency personnel from Girard Fire and Rescue, along with Macoupin County Sheriff's Office and an IDNR Conservation Officer responded to the boat ramp. Several of our campers assisted with the search and rescue operation. A seasonal camper transported two EMT's to the North end of the lake, where they found victim and two other individuals in a disabled boat. They towed boat to boat ramp, where the victim was treated and transported to NorthMac football field. Victim was then airlifted to Memorial Hospital. Victim had significant cuts to arm, chest, and leg.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Board reviewed the Travel Expense Report 2019-15R submitted by Dennis Ross.
- Ordinance No. 2019-01 - An Ordinance Establishing a Prevailing Wage for the Otter Lake Water Commission, ADGPTV was presented. Ron Jombock made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-01. Jake Rettberg seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- Water Rate Increases: The Commission should consider small step increases in water rates to maintain a healthy bottom line. I propose a three step plan of 2% each year. This would equal \$.10 per thousand gallons each year. Increased revenue is estimated to be \$48,000 the first year, \$96,000 the second year and \$144,000 the 3rd year. The national average for a household is 7,000 per month. Using this average, the impact on an average household would be \$.70 per month the first year.
- Recreation Rate Increases: There have been no changes in fees since 2018. Any increases would be for the 2020 camping season. These small increases would offset our increased cost of the campground operations.
- 319 Grant: The rock staging area is full, and the barge is in the water. Crews have begun work on the project. We will be protecting 5,300' of shoreline this summer.
- Raw Water Pump #2: We received two bids for the pump replacement. Layne was the low bid at \$34,939. Budgeted amount is \$47,500. We expect the replacement to begin in 4 weeks.
- Office Roof Replacement: We received two bids with the low bid being disqualified. Bolash Roofing was the accepted bid at \$14,245. The budgeted amount was \$13,000.
- Fish Rearing: The bass are doing well this year, with one side being pellet fed and the other side being minnow fed. This year we are trying floating gardens in the tanks to uptake nutrients from the water.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- New Water Plant Operator- Otter Lake Water Commission hired a new treatment plant operator, Patrick Morrison; who has since been dismissed.
- Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention Class- I attended a 3-day ERTC sponsored class on cross connection control and backflow prevention devices. Licensed plumbers and IEPA certified water supply operators are they only people who can become certified inspectors of backflow devices. Water operators can only test their plant and booster station devices. We have always had an operator certified so we can check our own each year. We have 5 RPZs that we test annually at the water plant.
- Large Meter Flow Testing- We have Midwest Meter come out each year to perform flow tests on our master meters. Each meter passed this year.
- Plant Generator Maintenance- Altorfer completed annual maintenance on our two generators. They passed all checks.

- Palm Road PRV- Dennis Ross, Rudy Rodriguez, Otis Foster, and I set the new pressure reducing valve to our desired PSI. Our system pressure varies throughout that area. We will always check current pressures before using that as a supply.
- Water Quality- The treatment plant has seen normal conditions for this time of year. Raw water pH is between 8.0-8.5, turbidity is less than 50 NTU, and lake temperature is just under 70 degrees.
- Claricone Instruction- Bruce Smith from Aquaflo Technologies visited the water plant. He gave an informal presentation to all operators on general startup, use, and maintenance of our cones.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- None to discuss.

At 6:28 pm Fred Fickas 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 followed by the annual Lake Tour will be at the Otter Lake Water Commission Maintenance Building - 13812 Emmerson Airline Rd, Girard on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Andrea Hanney

These Minutes Were Approved on 7/9/2019