



Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District

Meeting Minutes (**DRAFT**)

www.LakeOnalaska.org

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Location: Brice Prairie EMS & Rescue, with Zoom remote option

1. Call to Order by Chair Marc Schultz at 4:31pm.
Commissioners present: Marc Schultz, Rob Gonzales, Tom Ready, Luke Marcou, Dave Balduzzi, and Fritz Funk. Others present included: Robin Schmidt, Brad Dinsmoor (Remote), Barbara Friell (remote)
2. Approve Minutes: Motion to approve as amended by Balduzzi/Marcou, passed unanimously.
3. Approve Treasurer Report: No activity since last meeting. Main account balance \$ 9,789.49. Treasurer reported not getting weed cutting account statements. Motion to approve by Ready/Balduzzi passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: Robin Schmidt offered help in establishing a facilitated effort to envision future collaborative efforts for Lake Onalaska.
5. Agency reports. Tim Miller (USFWS): Upcoming performance of the Fish Thief, April 8, 530pm at Weber Center, about invasive species in the Great Lakes. Dikes at Halfway Creek are in need of repair, doing assessment of what is needed. Hoping to get biological technicians with American Conservation Experience for work on the Refuge, over all the four Districts. A River Rat Relay-type event is coming up for the 250th anniversary. Trying to get another Lake Onalaska agency team, likely April.
6. Discuss and act on facilitated meeting for collaboration and funding of Lake Onalaska's future. Motion by Funk/Gonzales to open the floor passed unanimously. Robin Schmidt noted that University Extension does not have a vested interest in the outcome, hence would be a good neutral party facilitator. The process might inform the Lake District about potential expansion. Outcome would elucidate which entity has authority for what in the initial phase. Concept would be to involve all stakeholders and agencies involved in Lake Onalaska.
7. Discuss and act on Lake District Expansion Strategy: Outcome of the facilitated meetings could drive what the optimal future role of the Lake District should be.
8. Discussion and possible action to appoint a Lake District Commissioner. Carryover from last meeting: will wait until after the April election. At last meeting LOPRD agreed to draft a letter to Town of Campbell requesting a representative candidate for LOPRD commissioner.
9. Discussion of summer events, including One Mississippi River Days of Action. Marcou/Gonzales made a motion to work with La Crosse Sailing Club for a social which passed unanimously. Social would occur on a weekday night between June 1 and 15 to coordinate with One Mississippi's River Days of Action.
10. Dredge Project fundraising report and planned operations update (BPCA). Event was successful, very large turnout. Will likely have a preliminary financial result at the next BPCA meeting, Wednesday March 25. BPCA is still planning to go ahead with the dredge project this summer, permits expire in October.

11. Lake District Mail list from County. County recommendation was to use provided mailing list for Lake District management, but not to broadcast. Discussion about no more than weekly updates to not overwhelm members.
12. Schedule next meeting: April 22-23.
13. Adjournment: Motion by Balduzzi/Ready to adjourn passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Submitted by Fritz Funk, Secretary