

# 2022 43rd Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 31, 2022  
 City of Onalaska – Council Chambers  
 425 Main Street  
 Onalaska, WI 54650

Budget Hearing 6:30 p.m.  
 Annual Meeting 6:45 p.m.

**Call to Order** – Chairman Marc Schultz called the Budget Hearing to Order at 6:30 p.m. and presented the following **Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget for 2022-2023**. The Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District's Proposed 2022-2023 Budget was approved. This Budget was included in the mailing and is as follows.

## Lake Onalaska District Proposed Budget 2022-2023

### CASH IN FLOW

<u>Proposed</u>	<u>2021-2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
Interest	-	-
Donations - General Fund	-	
Donations - Weed Cutting Account	\$20,055.22	\$15,000.00
Fundraiser/Raffle	\$20,818.00	
\$22,000.00		
Total	\$37,000.00	
\$40,873.22		

### EXPENSES

<u>Proposed</u>	<u>2021-2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
Annual Meeting	\$626.85	
\$650.00		
Fundraiser/Raffle	\$522.62	
\$550.00		
La Crosse County Zoning	\$ 28.00	\$
14.00		
Weed Cutting Permit - DNR	\$300.00	\$300.00
Weed Cutting	\$16,999.98	\$15,500.00
Total	\$18,477.45	\$17,014.00

1/1/2021

8/22/2022

Weed Cutting Account Balance	\$3,055.28	\$5,589.50
General Fund Balance	<u>\$6,220.09</u>	<u>\$26,081.64</u>
Total	<u>\$9,275.37</u>	<u>\$31,671.14</u>

**Item 1: Call to order & Welcome**- Chairman Marc Schultz called the 2022 43rd LOPRD Annual Meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mayor Kim Smith provided the Welcome.

**Item 2: Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting** - Attendees were provided a copy of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. Sue Schultz made a motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Darryl Washa. The Minutes were approved. Prior LOPRD minutes can be found at [www.lakeonalaska.org](http://www.lakeonalaska.org)

**Item 3: Treasurer Report** – Attendees were provided a copy of the Treasurer’s Report. Jerry Molnar made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Tony Christnovich. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

**Item 4: Commissioner Election** – Ben Lachecki and Fritz Funk are seeking another three-year term on the Board. There were no additional nominees from the floor. Jerry Molnar made a motion to approve Ben Lachecki and Fritz Funk for an additional three-year term. The motion was seconded by Mike Schultz. The motion was approved.

**Item 5: Budget Adoption for 2022-2023**

The proposed 2022-2023 Budget was presented by Marc Schultz. A motion to approve the Budget was made by Mike Todd and seconded by Vickie Burke. The Budget was approved.

**Item 6: Public Comment**

Fritz Funk had a display available prior to and following the meeting. Handouts available were: (1) Information regarding the ability to join the Mississippi River Network and (2) the Vierbicher report and the USGS report on “Sedimentation History of Halfway Creek March”. The full text for both of those publication are on the LOPRD website on the “Publications” page. The Agency(s) are continuing to work together regarding aquatic vegetation via an Agency Work Group that Tim Miller is working with. There are four agencies involved in the Pool 7 planning process discussing back water management. Please refer to Item 9, Agency Reports for additional information.

**Item 7: Report of Lake District Successes and Challenges**

Tony Christnovich provided an overview of the fundraising project that he spearheaded working with Connie Welch, Donnie St. Marie, Fritz Funk and Ben Lachecki.

The Fundraiser raised \$20,818. \$14,818 is reflected in the General Fund under cash inflow and \$6000 is reflected in the weed cutting account under cash inflow. The cost of the event prizes was taken out of the cash in from ticket sales and raffle games.

Please refer to Agency Reports under Item 9 for detail regarding LOPRD’s successes and challenges.

**Item 8: Speaker – Rylee Hince, Executive Director of Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance**

LPLA’s (Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance is a community organization. Rylee shared with us the organization’s five priorities. They are (1) Reduce Pollution through Education & Advocacy (2) Monitor Conditions (Government Accountability) (3) Improve Water Quality, Habitat, and Public Access (Restoration) (4) Build a Coalition (National Heritage Area) and (5) Celebrate (Art & Culture). Rylee’s powerpoint presentation can be accessed at [www.Lakeonalaska.org](http://www.Lakeonalaska.org)

**Item 9: Agency Reports**

**Tim Miller**

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**

The following is an outline of Tim’s presentation. Tim’s documents with extensive information can be found at [www.Lakeonalaska.org](http://www.Lakeonalaska.org)

A: Biology/Management projects:

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- (1) Vacant Biologist position
  - (2) Flowering Rush Control Efforts
  - (3) Prairie Burn
  - (4) Forest Inventory
  - (5) Black Tern Surveys
  - (6) Slow No Wake Posting and other sign maintenance
  - (7) Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Areas and

B: Wildlife update:

- (1) Waterfowl Counts
- (2) Waterfowl Disturbance Monitoring on Lake Onalaska Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Area
- (3) Bat Surveys

C: Visitor Services Projects:

- (1) World Migratory Bird Day
- (2) Environmental Education
- (3) Friends of the Refuge – Mississippi River Pools 7 & 8
- (4) Intern/Outreach/Special Events
- (5) Partnerships
- (6) Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Areas Outreach project
- (7) Website
- (8) Visitor Center Hours
- (9) Volunteers Needed. Contact Katie Julian at 608.779.2391 or [Katherine\\_julian@fws.gov](mailto:Katherine_julian@fws.gov) Tim also distributed a "Seeking Volunteers!" information sheet for those interested.

**Randy Hines**

**U.S.G.S. Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center**

Randy provided information regarding the Ecological Status and Trends of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The Online Report can be found at <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20221039> - Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers Widespread and Regional Changes. Additional documents with extensive information can be found at [www.Lakeonalaska.org](http://www.Lakeonalaska.org).

**Shawn Giblin**

**Wisconsin DNR**

Shawn provided the following presentation – "Brice Prairie Channel: A Case Study of Water Quality and Fisheries Habitat Decline". The focus area was the Blackdeer Channel (Brice Prairie Channel). Shawn's Study including maps and graph can be found at [www.Lakeonalaska.org](http://www.Lakeonalaska.org).

**Ray Marinan & Jon Schultz**

**Army Corp of Engineers**

While discussing Shoreline Guidelines, the COEs noticed several of their signs had been removed from the shoreline. Ray reminded attendees that the signs are government property and need to be kept in place as they define the Shoreline. They are in the process of reviewing shoreline guidelines. There was some discussion that occurred during the meeting regarding trees within the shoreline. Contact the COE if you have questions.

**Item 10: Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Darryl Washa and seconded by Mike Schultz.

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