

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 1977
Courthouse Auditorium

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*
Charles Pierce*
Donald Verthein*
Rosalie Schnick*
Elizabeth Gundersen*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. Minutes of previous meeting were read by Dick Williams and approved.

Pierce reported the treasury balance at \$849.08. Donations to the District for the following amounts have been received since the last report:

Present*

Guests

Ken Brown
Leif Marking
Steve Taff
W. G. Wassmandorf

Bank of Onalaska.....	\$ 100.00
First Federal Savings & Loan.....	\$ 50.00
Holmen Rod & Gun Club.....	\$ 99.00
Fraternal Order of Eagles.....	\$ 25.00
TOTAL	\$ 274.00

The Lake Onalaska feasibility report due on March 1 from the River Studies Center was discussed. It was suggested that the District Commissioners meet again Tuesday, March 29, at 4:00 P.M., at which time Dr. Claflin will be requested to be present by letter from Chairman Hawkins.

The aquatic shoreline weed control program was discussed. Among the problems involved in last year's program was the width of application options available to the shore owners. Also, an improved method of identifying participating property owners and the responsibility of distribution of the contracts between the contractors and the applicator needs to be improved. Mr. Schein of Lake Biologists, Incorporated is to be invited to the March 29 meeting to discuss possible solutions to these problems.

Don Verthein moved that the District submit a weed control application to the Department of Natural Resources. Seconded by Gundersen and passed. Leif Marking and Dick Williams are to proceed with the application.

The workshop on operating a lake district scheduled for March 24 in Eau Claire cannot be attended by any of the Commissioners. Williams was instructed to send a letter to UW-Extension requesting two reference handbooks be made available to the District.

Rosalie Schnick reported on activities within the GREAT program and various aspects of work study groups that might affect Lake Onalaska. Of special concern was the proposed Riverine dredge spoil disposal program which could possibly affect Lake Onalaska.

Another problem relating to the Lake Onalaska restoration project may be the presence of endangered species within the Lake, which would limit restoration methods that could be used.

Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

March 29, 1977

Courthouse Auditorium

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*
Charles Pierce*
Donald Verthein*
Rosalie Schnick*
Elizabeth Gundersen*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Schnick/Pierce).

Pierce reported the District had received the following donations since the last meeting:

Present*

First National Bank.....\$ 50.00
James Ash, CPA.....\$ 25.00
Richard Hawkins, CPA.....\$ 50.00

Guests

Leif Marking
James Holzer
Patt M. Wagner
James Cropper
Richard Wedepohl
Don Winter
W. G. Wassmandorf
Thom Downer
John Ellenbecker
Norm Schein
Tom Claflin
Dick Williams

Williams reported that on April 2 at 1:30 P.M., a film of interest to the Commissioners entitled, "Inland Lake Demonstration" by UW-Extension will be shown on Channel 8 TV.

Doctor Tom Claflin, Director of UW-La Crosse River Studies Center, was called on to report the progress of the feasibility study. He displayed and commented on the hydrographic map and vegetation study. There has been an average 40 per cent water volume loss in the Lake since the construction of the lock and dam system. The vegetation study indicates that wind seems to be the only resistance to weed growth in the entire center of the Lake, and that when the growth threshold is reached, encroachment in the inland Lake area will be very rapid. Based on a 6/10 of 1" per year sedimentation rate, the threshold would be reached between ten and twenty years.

Doctor Claflin indicated that twenty copies of the final report will be available to the District by April 1. Some of the possible engineering considerations will include:

- (1) Dredging - severe environmental and engineering difficulties
- (2) Inflow Control - 80 per cent of sediment load carried during high water periods
- (3) Water Level Manipulation
- (4) Mechanical and/or chemical weed control treatment
- (5) Scattered Spot Dredging - spoil disposition problem

In summary, he reported the study has been very important because it has quantified existing theory and knowledge.

Norm Schein of Lake Biologists, Incorporated was asked to discuss a possible weed control program. Numerous questions were asked concerning the depth of control, types of vegetation and chemical, shoreline owner participation and identification. Schein proposes to identify four different treatment areas to be known as: (1) Brice Prairie Dike Area (2) Brice Prairie open area to Halfway Creek (3) Access Channels (4) French Island. Cost would vary from 30 cents per frontage foot to 75 cents per frontage foot, depending on width of control area. He also proposes a continuous algae control program which would cost the Lake District \$420.00 per complete treatment. This figure would be reduced proportionately if the area needing treatment were smaller.

(over)

Rosalie Schnick suggested a meeting with the shoreline owners at which time the aquatic weed control program would be presented by Schein and a summary of the feasibility study could be presented by Claflin. April 19, at 7:30 P.M. in the Courthouse Auditorium, was selected. Schein suggested that the District appoint a committee to survey the Lake in August to determine the program's effectiveness. He also suggested that the District should adopt a weed control program for the entire Lake and finance it through special assessments, thereby assuring a total control program and spreading the cost among all District members rather than only those shoreline owners who wish to participate.

Meeting adjourned.

First National Bank.....\$ 50.00
James Ash, CPA.....
Richard Macklin, CPA.....\$ 50.00

Present:

Guests:

Left Meeting
James Holsen
Paul M. Wagner
James Gropper
Richard Wedepohl
Don Winter
W. G. Wassermann
Thom Downer
John Klemmbecker
Norm Schein
Tom Claflin
Dick Williams

William reported that on April 2 at 1:30 P.M., a film of interest to the Commissioners entitled, "Inland Lake Dam-Construction" by UW-Extension will be shown on Channel 8 TV.

Doctor Tom Claflin, Director of UW-La Crosse River Studies Center, was called on to report the progress of the feasibility study. He displayed and commented on the hydrographic map and vegetation study. There has been an average 40 per cent water loss in the lake since the construction of the lock and dam system. The vegetation study indicates that wind waves to be the only resistance to weed growth in the entire center of the lake, and that when the growth threshold is reached, encroachment in the inland lake area will be very rapid. Based on a 6/10 of 1" per year sedimentation rate, the threshold would be reached between ten and twenty years.

Doctor Claflin indicated that twenty copies of the final report will be available to the District by April 1. Some of the possible engineering considerations will include:

- (1) Breeding - severe environmental and engineering difficulties
- (2) Inflow Control - 80 per cent of sediment load carried during high water periods
- (3) Water Level Manipulation
- (4) Mechanical and/or chemical weed control treatment
- (5) Scatterbed Spot Breeding - spoil disposition problem

In summary, he reported the study has been very important because it has quantified existing theory and knowledge.

Norm Schein of Lake Biologicals, Incorporated was asked to discuss a possible weed control program. Numerous questions were asked concerning the depth of control, types of vegetation and chemical, shoreline owner participation and identification. Schein proposed to identify four different treatment areas to be known as (1) Ridge Points like Area (2) Ridge Points open area to Highway Creek (3) Access Channels (4) French Island. Cost would vary from 30 cents per frontage foot to 75 cents per frontage foot, depending on which of control areas. He also proposed a continuous algae control program which would cost the Lake District \$450.00 per complete treatment. This figure could be reduced proportionately if the area needing treatment were smaller.

A map of Lake Onalaska, showing the lake's irregular shape and several islands. The words "LAKE ONALASKA" are printed across the map, with "LAKE" at the top, "ONALASKA" written vertically down the center, and "A" at the bottom right.

LAKE
ONALASKA

PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

CORRESPONDENCE:
UWEX Room 112 Courthouse
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
608-784-9494

SPRING 1977 NEWSLETTER

Dick Williams
UW-Extension District Advisor

DISTRICT INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 1977
7:30 p.m. Onalaska Town Hall, Midway

AGENDA

Feasibility Study Report - Dr. T. Claflin, UWL Rivers Studies Cen.
Aquatic Weed Control - Norm Schein, Lake Biologist, Inc.
Questions and Suggestions from District Members

In a preliminary report to the Commission, Dr. Claflin reported on the sedimentation and vegetation aspects of the study. There has been an average of 40 percent water volume loss in the lake because of sediment since the completion of the lock and dam system. Wind seems to be the only resistance to weed growth in the entire lake center and when the growth threshold is reached, rapid weed encroachment of the total lake will take place. Based on the average of 6/10 of 1 inch per year sedimentation rate, the threshold would be reached between 10 and 20 years.

* * * *

Norm Schein, of Lake Biologist, Inc. has worked with the Commission on a proposed weed control program for this year. Treatment zones have been established as follows:

ZONE ONE: Brice Prairie inside Dike

ZONE TWO: Brice Prairie outside of Dike, southeast to Halfway Creek

ZONE THREE: French Island

Zones were established to coincide with the treatment required plus the D.N.R. regulations. Contracts have been included with this newsletter. For those on Brice Prairie, you will have to determine if you should use the Zone One or Two contract. The District Commissioners urge your participation in this weed control program so that the treatment will be total. If you have questions, contact your closest Commissioner. Names and addresses are included at the end of this letter.

* * * *

A copy of the new "Reference Handbook For Lake District Commissioners" is available for your use at the University Extension Office, room 112, Courthouse. It explains the proper procedures for District Operations, Agency relationships and the state law regulating Districts.

* * * *

Please check to be sure we have your correct address on the envelope. If not call the changes in to 784-9494.

* * * *

You can become active in the Great Rivers Environmental Action Team (GREAT) by contacting Dan McGuiness, Coordinator, Public Participation Workgroup, 149 Main Street, Wabasha, Mn. 55981. They normally meet once a month to discuss citizen concerns on the Mississippi. These concerns are then presented to the appropriate GREAT workgroup for action. GREAT offers the most promising interagency approach to maintaining the desired qualities of the River. We will need their assistance and support for Lake Onalaska.

* * * *

"Friends are but strangers we've yet to meet" is an old quote which expresses this areas typical attitude toward visitors. Lake Onalaska draws many visitors and sportsmen throughout the year providing many dollars for our area schools and businesses. I hope you continue to express this hospitable attitude.

* * * *

District Commissioners

Richard Hawkins, Chairman
Mrs. Rosalie Schnick
Charles Pierce
Elizabeth Gundersen
Donald Verthein

2823 Bayshore Drive, LaCrosse 54601
3033 Edgewater Lane, La Crosse
Route 1, Onalaska 54650
Route 2, La Crosse
Route 2, Box 234D, Onalaska

* * * *

Plan to attend the April 19 meeting at Midway.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

April 19, 1977

Onalaska Town Hall

COMMISSIONERS

Richard Hawkins*

Charles Pierce*

Donald Verthein*

Rosalie Schnick

Elizabeth Gundersen*

Doctor Tom Claflin, Director of UW-La Crosse River Studies Center, was introduced by Chairman Hawkins to the forty (40) District members in attendance. He presented the District with copies of the completed feasibility study. The following were some of the comments made to the gathering regarding the study:

Present*

(1) One thousand (1,000) copies of the hydrographic contour map will be turned over to the District the first part of May.

(2) Lake Onalaska has a low trapping efficiency, meaning that there is no storage capacity in relation to the Mississippi flow.

(3) There has been a 33-40 per cent water volume loss because of sedimentation since inundation.

(4) The most heavily established vegetation beds occur in the eastern reaches along with the highest nutrient concentrations.

(5) The nutrient project study indicates some plant sources alone and there is a net increase in nutrients approximating 21 tons of nitrogen and 650 tons of phosphates annually.

(6) The main concern is that the lake has progressed to the point of extreme eutrophication, which is a more critical stage than had been earlier thought.

(7) Several possible corrective measures:

- a. Water shed treatment -- impractical because of the water shed
- b. Chemical or mechanical weed control -- short-term cosmetic benefits only
- c. Alteration of the Lake's hydrology - increase flow and decrease inflow - possibly the only long-term answer for the Lake

Doctor Claflin then fielded several questions from those in attendance.

Norm Schein, of Lake Biologists, Incorporated, was introduced by Chairman Hawkins and he discussed at length with the members his proposal for the chemical aquatic weed control for the coming season. District members have contracts and information as to the procedure to follow for signing up for the shoreline weed control.

Following the reports on the feasibility study and the weed control program, the District Commissioners called a business meeting to order. Members in attendance: Gundersen, Verthein, Pierce, Hawkins and Williams.

A motion was approved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (Verthein/Gundersen).

(over)

Pierce reported treasury expenditures of \$8.00 for reference books and \$65.00 for postage, and interest income of \$10.16, leaving the District with a balance of \$911.24.

A motion was approved that Williams write to the Office of Inland Lake Renewal asking for their evaluation of the completed feasibility study, request for grant payment, and when the District would hear from the Office regarding possible management alternatives for the Lake (Gundersen/Pierce).

A motion was approved to contact Congressman Al Baldus to determine the status of federal funding for state inland lake renewal projects (Gundersen/Verthein).

The utilization of the 1,000 contour maps, in order that the public might most benefit from their availability, was discussed. It was decided that the maps should be made available to local marinas, bait shops, etc. on a consignment basis at a cost of \$1.00 each.

The possibility of expanding the size and tax base of the District by including, initially at least, the Town of Onalaska and the Town of Campbell, was discussed. No action was taken, with further discussion to be held at future meetings.

Williams was instructed to contact Norm Schein as to the possibility of a Lake tour on May 7 or 14 and get this information back to the Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
May 24, 1977
La Crosse Courthouse

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen*
Donald Verthein*
Rosalie Schnick*
Richard Hawkins*
Charles Pierce

Present*

Guests

Leif Marking
Steve Krizman
Steve Taff

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins.
A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes passed. (Gundersen/Schnick)

A resolution was introduced authorizing the Chairman and Secretary - Treasurer to secure a loan from the Bank of Onalaska to make final payment for the feasibility study. The resolution also authorizes the final payment to the River Studies Center and application for the balance of the DNR Grant. A motion to adopt the resolution was passed (Schnick/Verthein). Copy attached.

Mrs. Gundersen related a discussion she had with DNR staff Don Winter and Doug Knauer covering their possible solutions to L. O. problems. They indicated several possibilities such as selective dredging, flow control structures or gravel covering in aquatic weed sensitive areas to reduce growth. Dr. Simon, Colorado University, was suggested as a second expert opinion source by Rosalie Schnick.

The contour maps have not been received by the district yet.

The anticipated need for financial resources to accomplish connective programs led to discussions on the advisability and feasibility of expanding the district boundaries. The Towns of Campbell and Onalaska along with the City of Onalaska seem to offer the best potential.

Williams was directed to write G.R.E.A.T. advising them of the completion of our feasibility study and alert them to the possibility of anticipated dredging proposals.

A motion passed to contract with Norm Schein to chemically treat two access channels subject to last year's program and available funds (Verthein/Schnick). Approximately \$300 will be involved.

Steve Taff suggested that the Commission should continue to explore and seek sources of financial support. Even though the Lake is a national resource in scope, it will be up to the District to provide the impetus for rehabilitation projects.

A slide presentation on the river system will be made to the upper Mississippi Research Consortium at Winona on June 9.

The next meeting was set for June 21.

Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District Meeting
June 21, 1977 - University Extension Office, Courthouse, La Crosse

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen
Donald Verthein*
Rosalie Schnick*
Richard Hawkins*
Charles Pierce

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins.
Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as
mailed to the Commissioners.

Pierce's official resignation from the District,
because of his new responsibilities as La Crosse
County Board Chairman, was read and his resignation
accepted.

Present*

Guests

Charles Robers
Mark Riebau
Randy Graff

A motion passed to have Don Verthein serve as
the District treasurer (Schnick/Hawkins). The
treasurer's receipts were turned over to Don Verthein,
showing a balance of \$936.24 in the savings account.
As \$800.00 of this is earmarked for the feasibility
study, the actual balance available to the District
is \$136.24.

The weed control program by Lake Biologist, Incorporated has not been
completed yet due to the weather conditions. Best information available in-
dicates the French Island shoreline has been treated and some portions of
the Brice Prairie shoreline, with the rest of the Brice Prairie area, scheduled
for June 22. No evaluation of the success of the control program has been
made to date.

Verthein reported that he has received approval from the Town Board of
Onalaska to spend \$300.00 from shoreline leases for the treatment of the
two access channels along the Brice Prairie shore.

The contour depth maps of Lake Onalaska have been received from River
Studies Center and Verthein has already distributed 110 of them. A total
of 935 maps was received and the Commissioners will be distributing most of
them. Williams was instructed to send out a press release on the avail-
ability of the maps.

The annual meeting date was set for August 30. Commissioners will have
to establish the District's involvement in next year's aquatic weed control
program in addition to developing a District budget, which would have to in-
clude any proposed taxes or special assessments for rehabilitation projects
during 1978. The Town of Onalaska Hall will be used, if available.

Schein is to be invited to the next District meeting to discuss cost
estimates for total lake weed control program.

Charlie Robers discussed with the Commissioners the exciting potential industrial development for the north end of Brice Prairie. Involved is a smelting operation by Exxon Corporation, which is seeking a development site. This area would meet their requirements if main navigational channel access could be provided to Brice Prairie.

The District Commissioners expressed a desire to work with La Crosse Area Industrial and Economic Development Corporation to determine if lake rehabilitation projects and channel access to Brice Prairie could be combined in some manner. Robers indicated he would be contacting Winter of D.N.R. Inland Lake Renewal.

The next Lake meeting is scheduled for July 19 at the Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

July 19, 1977

La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen*

Donald Vertheim*

Rosalie Schnick*

Richard Hawkins*

Present*

Guests

Sue Maier

Terry Collins

Dick Williams, UWEX

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed. Vertheim reported treasury receipts of \$25.00 donations from the Blue Moon Supper Club and \$50.00 from Mrs. Rosalie Schnick. Cash donations from the following were received from the sportsmen map program.

Frank-Len, \$17.00; Fish Lab, 2.00; Onalaska Bait Shop, 26.00; UW Extension Office 46.00. With these additions the treasury stands at \$277.24.

Williams reported the following correspondence was sent since the last meeting.

Resignation letter of acceptance to Charles Pierce Sportsmen Map News Release

Lake Biologist, Inc. price request

Grant Reimbursement request to DNR

Letter of intent and information to U.S. Corp.

The feedback to date indicates the aquatic weed control program has worked along French Island. Brice Prairie results are spotty with corrective treatment scheduled for July 20, 1977. Mr. Schein was not present to discuss a District program for 1978. Vertheim said he would be seeing him and would request his attendance at the next meeting, scheduled for August 9.

Williams was asked to contact DNR for more information on management alternatives by August 9 and also to request their participation in the annual meeting on August 30, 1977. The E.P.A. is also to be contacted regarding possible funding sources.

Rosalie Schnick mentioned the cost and time involved in studying rehabilitation project proposals because of endangered species and the concern for fish and wildlife habitat. Agreement was reached that the District should gear up for these studies during 1978 in order to proceed with corrective action projects during 1979.

Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

August 9, 1977

Courthouse UW-Extension Office

Commissioners

Rosalie Schnick*

Donald Verthein*

Richard Hawkins*

Elizabeth Gundersen*

Charles Pierce

Present*

Guests

John Daggett

Meeting called to order by chairman Hawkins. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Verthein reported the following financial activity.

Receipts: D.N.R. Final Feasibility

Study grant payment \$ 4 750.00

Savings book interest 9.40

E. Gundersen-Donation 25.00

Bank of Onalaska-Donation 84.91

Map Donations

Red Sails 8.00

Schaeffers 23.00

Gundersen 25.00

UWEX 11.0067.00

Total Receipts 4 936.31

Expenditures:

Feasibility Study Loan Repayment
with interest4 834.91

Net increase in treasury

101.40

August 9, 1977 Balance

378.64

A motion to approve the treasurer's report passed (Schnick/Gundersen).

A comprehensive discussion on how to prepare the 1978 budget ensued. The two main issues were District assumption of the fiscal responsibility for the aquatic weed control program and additional planning, engineering and environmental impact study funds for anticipated rehabilitation projects.

A proposal of approximately \$10,000.00 was submitted for weed and algae control by Lake Biologist, Inc. A motion passed that the financial burden for weed control should be left on a voluntary basis with the individual shoreline property owners and the District should concentrate its financial efforts on longer range rehabilitation projects. (Gundersen/Schnick).

There was general agreement that monies for engineering those projects determined by D.N.R. and the District to be feasible are needed. A motion to submit the following budget for District member approval at the annual meeting passed. (Gundersen/Schnick).

1978 Lake Onalaska District Proposed Budget

Revenues:

Donations	300.00
District Tax @2.5 mills	15,000.00
DNR Engineering Grant	45,000.00
E.P.A. (or other) Engineer- ing Grant	<u>15,000.00</u>

Total Revenues \$ 75 300.00

Expenditures:

Postage and Office	100.00
Directors Improvement	200.00
Planning, Engineering, E.I.S.	<u>75 000.00</u>

\$ 75 300.00

It was recognized by the Commissioners that the engineering expenditures are estimates and exact amounts can only be ascertained after the final D.W.R. Lake Management Report followed by a bidding procedure and/or cooperation with other State and Federal agencies.

Mr. Doug Farmer was elected to represent the Soil & Water Conservation District on the District Commission replacing Charles Pierce.

The chairman opened nominations for a three year term for District Commissioner to fill the expired term of Rosalie Schnick.

Rosalie Schnick and Carl Helke, both of French Island were nominated (Verthein/Gundersen). A ballot will be prepared for the annual meeting.

Verthein supplied the District with an updated mailing list and assessed valuation for members from the Town of Onalaska. Schnick is working with the Town of Campbell to obtain theirs.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting on August 30 at the Onalaska Town Hall.

A stylized map of Lake Onalaska, showing the lake's irregular shape and several smaller islands. The text "LAKE ONALASKA" is written across the map in a bold, sans-serif font.

LAKE

ONALASKA

PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

CORRESPONDENCE:
UWEX Room 112 Courthouse
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
608-784-9494

FALL 1977 NEWSLETTER

Dick Williams
UWEX Lake District Advisor

2ND ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Tuesday, August 30, 1977

Onalaska Town Hall, Midway

7:30 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order - Introductions

Approval of the August 9, 1977 Minutes

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman's Report

Election of One Commissioner

Adoption of 1978 Operating Budget

(Note:) A 2.5 mill rate tax is proposed)

DNR Office of Inland Lake Renewal Report

Other Business

1977
FINANCIAL REPORT

1976 Balance - - - - - \$ 807.77

Source of Funds:

Interest on Savings	104.72
Donations-including Sportsmen maps	766.91
DNR Feasibility Grant	<u>4 750.00</u>

Total Revenues 5 561.63

Use of Funds:

UWL-Feasibility Study	5 550.00
Interest on Loan for Study	84.91
1976 Weed Control	282.85
District Stationery	<u>73.00</u>

Total Expenditures 5 990.76

Decrease in Funds 429.13

Balance as of August 30, 1977 \$ 378.64

1978 PROPOSED BUDGET

Expenditures:

Postage and Office Expense	100.00
Directors Improvement Expense	200.00
Project Planning, Engineering and Environmental Impact Reports	<u>75 000.00</u>

Total Expenses 75 300.00

Revenues:

Donations	300.00
District Tax @2.5 mills	15 000.00
State Grants	45 000.00
E.P.A. or other Federal Grants	<u>15 000.00</u>

Total Revenues \$ 75 300.00

Note: Specific authority for the District to proceed with projects costing in excess of \$5,000.00 or impose a tax on the District must be approved by voting at the annual meeting.

Nominations for 3 year term as District Commissioner:

Rosalie Schnick, French Island
Carl Helke, French Island

A ballot will be passed out at the Annual Meeting.

Latest News - - - - - from Don Winter's letter - August 3, 1977

DNR Office of Inland Lake Renewal

"As I indicated to you and several other people concerned with the rehabilitation of Lake Onalaska, this Office will furnish the Lake District management alternatives by the end of this summer. Based on these alternatives, the Lake District may wish to develop a plan which when approved by this Department will be eligible for State cost-sharing. The Legislature has appropriated \$1.15 million for each fiscal year of the current biennium for aid to lake districts for feasibility studies and rehabilitation projects. No more than 10 percent or approximately \$115,000 can be spent on any one project.

In addition to State cost-sharing it appears that Federal cost-sharing will be available for lake protection and rehabilitation projects throughout the country. We are not certain at this time as to the amount of the Federal funds which might be available, but it appears that it will be between \$5 and \$15 million during the coming fiscal year, which for the Federal government begins October 1. In addition to these funds which are administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has available approximately \$5 million annually for aquatic plant control. In the past the majority of the Corps monies have been spent in Southern States, although there is some effort being made by the St. Paul District Office of the Army Corps to utilize a portion of these funds in the Northern States."

Controlling Waterweeds

A brochure describing types of weeds and control procedures is available from the La Crosse County Extension Office. The District Commissioners intend to cooperate with Lake Biologist, Inc. on a voluntary shoreline weed control program during 1978.

It has been a busy year for your District Commissioners. They have attended monthly business meetings and have devoted considerable time to securing donations, implementing the weed control program and distributing the Sportsman Contour maps. I know each of them is personally committed toward rehabilitation project implementation during 1978.

REMEMBER - your tax deductible donation to the District is still necessary for operating expenses.

District Commissioners

Richard Hawkins	French Island
Rosalie Schnick	French Island
Elizabeth Gundersen	Brice Prairie
Don Verthein	Town of Onalaska
Doug Farmer*	La Crosse Co. Soil & Water Cons. District

* Replaces Charles Pierce who resigned June 1977.

* * * *

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Second Annual Meeting

August 30, 1977

Onalaska Town Hall

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen

Donald Verthein*

Rosalie Schnick*

Richard Hawkins*

Douglas Farmer*

Commissioners present: Hawkins, Verthein, Schnick, Farmer, plus 45 District members.

Present*

Prior to the District Annual Meeting, the Commissioners met with Don Winter, Office of Inland Lake Renewal, DNR, to discuss the report entitled, Onalaska District Management Alternatives, received by the Commissioners on August 25. In discussing the report, Winter concurred that sufficient information was still not finalized to put the Commissioners in the position of project implementation. Leif Marking raised the possibility of another alternative to alter the depth of the Lake by raising the water level rather than dredging. Winter advised the District that there would be no advance grant money for pre-construction engineering, but if a plan was developed for implementation, retroactive funding for this phase could be applied for.

Winter suggested the establishment of a committee, including the Commissioners and other agency specialists, to develop a specific management plan that could then be put out for project bidding. Winter committed the specialists within his staff to assist with planning development.

ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman Hawkins called the Annual Meeting of the District to order at 7:30 P.M. He introduced the District Commissioners, Dick Williams, University Extension, Ron Nickles, DNR Fish and Game Habitat Specialist and Don Winter, DNR Office of Inland Lake Renewal.

Don Verthein presented the 1977 financial report, reporting that the balance as of August 31, 1977 is \$378.64. Balance of the report is included in the Fall 1977 Newsletter.

Chairman Hawkins' report consisted primarily of presenting the management alternatives developed by the Office of Inland Lake Renewal, which report is part of the District records. He emphasized the necessity of environmental impact assessments and/or statements, assuming the development of a management plan.

The election of one District Commissioner was the next item of business. The Board of Commissioners nominated Rosalie Schnick and Carl Helke. Helke henceforth declined the nomination. The Chairman called for nominations from the floor three times; there were none. A motion was passed unanimously that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rosalie Schnick (Doug Farmer/Jeff Chatterton).

Don Winter was called on to report. Highlights of his comments are:

1. It is the District's responsibility to develop a plan based on the alternatives provided by DNR.

(over)

2. A committee should be established which includes the various governing agencies, plus the Commissioners, to assure input from all sources.
3. A consultant to draw specifications and develop cost analysis will need to be hired by the District.
4. This plan can then be submitted to DNR for approval, including a public hearing, and the acceptance of such projects would be eligible for cost sharing from DNR and EPA.

The meeting was open to questions from the District membership at this time. Some were:

Q. How does the Lake bottom filling affect future flooding?

A. Probably will worsen in the future.

Q. Why was the District not enlarged? The burden of cost to each member is too great and the Lake has been declared dead anyway.

A. Through cost sharing and possible application to other local governmental units, the District member's share would be reduced to an appropriate percentage. The Lake being already dead is an opinion, not an accepted fact.

Q. Why is there only interest being shown by shoreline owners and none from the various agencies? DNR should bring forth the plan and then request financial help for implementation.

A. None

Q. Why not raise the water level?

A. Probably not possible without extensively changing the locks and dam and the spillway. Will be explored during development of a plan.

Chairman Hawkins commented that delay of imposing a District tax would delay the planning and implementation process by at least one year.

Q. Why should shoreline property owners pay when they don't even own the shoreline, only lease it from the Corps?

A. Once again, the burden of cost is spread in many directions through cost sharing and grant programs.

Rosalie Schnick's comment that the members' decision on whether or not to tax themselves should be based on whether they feel something can be done to improve the Lake or not.

Q. Can't dredge spoil be put on existing islands?

A. Will be explored in the planning process.

Q. People don't own the Lake. The speculation expenses for planning should be borne by the Lake owners; i.e., various government agencies.

A. It appears that local interest and effort is needed to accomplish this.

(continued)

Q. Why not recess the meeting and have it one or two weeks later in order for more people to be present?

A. All District members were properly notified by mail of the Annual Meeting and the proposed tax levy. If interested, they should have been here this evening.

A motion to recess the Annual Meeting subject to recall by the Commissioners when the plan is completed, including a \$500.00 operating budget for the District, was declined on a show-of-hands vote; 20 No, 13 Yes (Sontag/ Wassmandorf).

A motion to accept the Commissioners' report and approve a tax of 1.25 mills per dollar of equalized valuation was passed on a show-of-hands vote; 22 Yes, 9 No (Clark Nixon/Ron Schnick).

Throughout the voting process concerning the tax levy, there was considerable heated debate.

A motion to empower the Board of Commissioners to contract for the engineering projects, cost analysis and environmental assessments necessary, was passed on a show-of-hands vote; 23 Yes, 7 No (Wassmandorf/Garvalia).

Chairman Hawkins assured that all members would be kept aware of the progress of the District Commissioners throughout the year.

Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

September 27, 1977

La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen*

Donald Verthein*

Rosalie Schnick*

Richard Hawkins

Douglas Farmer*

Present*

Guests

Leif Marking

Ken Brown

Randy Graf

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gundersen. The minutes of the August 9 and August 30 meeting were approved as mailed (Schnick/Verthein).

Verthein reported the treasury balance has increased by \$79.00 from donations for the maps, to a total of \$457.64. A motion to approve the payment of \$65.00 for District postage was passed (Schnick/Verthein).

The procedures involved in adopting the 1.25 District tax were discussed. Verthein reported the equalized valuations have not been received by the two Towns. In the case of Campbell, the State has yet to receive their statement of assessments, which is needed to determine the equalized valuations. The District has notified both Town Clerks of the District tax, by certified, notarized mail. Williams will continue to work with the Department of Revenue and the Town Clerks to facilitate the adoption of this tax.

Mike Cordes, of the La Crosse Area Industrial and Economic Development Corporation, reported their activities regarding the Corps of Engineers and proposed harbor facilities in the Brice Prairie area. L.A.I.E.D. has requested the Corps to do a reconnaissance study regarding the project. They feel industrial development land with rail/barge transportation access is needed for the future economic growth of the area. Brice Prairie is one potential site. The District Commissioners want to investigate the possibility of combining improving the Lake environment with the L.A.I.E.D. proposal.

A motion was passed instructing Williams to invite U.S.F.W.S., U.S. Corps, and Wisconsin D.N.R. staff to a project planning meeting for 7:00 p.m. October 26, 1977 (Schnick/Farmer).

Rosalie Schnick reported the D.N.R.'s Basic Lake Inventory of Lake Onalaska completed in June 1977 by Holzer and Ironside, has been received by the District. She noted that the report is very positive in the need for measures to be taken preventing the further degradation of the Lake, especially in regard to fishing habitat. This supports the District's contention that siltation and vegetation encroachment must be reduced.

The next District meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on October 19 in the Courthouse to develop plans for the October 26 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

R. K. Williams

District Advisor

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
October 19, 1977
La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Elizabeth Gundersen*
Donald Verthein*
Rosalie Schnick
Richard Hawkins
Douglas Farmer*

Present*

Others Present

Leif Marking USFWS
Steve Taff, MRRPC
Ken Brown, Tribune
Dick Williams UWEX

Meeting called to order by Mrs. Gundersen. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed (Farmer/Verthein.)

Verthein reported the current treasury balance at \$394.69 and that a money order had been prepared for postage in the amount of \$65.00. Report was approved (Farmer/Gundersen). Motion passed establishing a withdrawal procedure in that the treasurer and one other Commissioner must sign for the use of funds from the District's bank account, and that a copy of this motion be sent to the Onalaska Bank (Farmer/Verthein).

A general discussion was held on Lake rehabilitation management alternatives available to the District as determined by the Feasibility Study and other conversations. Steve Taff mentioned that his agency and G.R.E.A.T. are proposing a sludge compost experimental program for revegetating dredge spoil areas, otherwise known as sandbars.

There was general agreement that the District must adopt a unified stand toward specific action when meeting with other agencies on October 26. The obvious primary problem is loss of depth in the Lake and the resulting aquatic macrophyte development. From the knowledge available to the Commission at this time, it appears that dredging, both along the shorelines and in the Lake proper, is the best alternative for rehabilitation and long-term reduction of eutrophication.

A program was established for the October 26 meeting as follows:

Moderator and Introductions - Richard Hawkins; Explanation of the District's Present Status and Future Goals - Dick Williams; Initial reaction from non-District agency representatives and group discussion by agency people and District representatives.

Williams will set up the meeting room, including a display map of the Lake and a blackboard for discussion purposes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

R. K. Williams
District Advisor

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
October 26, 1977
La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*
Donald Verthein*
Elizabeth Gundersen*
Rosalie Schnick*
Douglas Farmer

Present*

Others Present

Don Winter, DNR
Dick Wedepohl, DNR
Ron Nicklaus, DNR
Jim Holzer, DNR
Mark Riebau, GREAT/DNR
Bob Post, U.S. Corps
John Lindell, USFWS
Jerry Schotzko, USFWS
Mike Vanderford, USFWS
Steve Taff, MRRPC
Scott Ironside, DNR
Dick Williams, UWEX

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. Everyone present introduced themselves and their positions with the various agencies.

Williams was called upon to explain the present status of the Lake District. He commented that the District was a legal governmental entity that has been working with the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Inland Lake Renewal Program. A feasibility study and mangement alternatives report has been completed. The District's objectives is to develop project plans which will benefit the lake environment and enable the District to determine costs through bidding.

It is hoped that by informing the agencies tonight, that this project plan can be developed with acceptable environmental considerations. Each person present was asked to comment on his thoughts regarding Lake District rehabilitation possibilities.

Post - District objectives are not adequate defined as to usage.

Vanderford - Overall lake usage objectives are not defined even with USFWS at present. Unanswered questions include how much recreation use is desirable compared to waterfowl habitat usage.

Schotzko - The resource is Federally owned and managed and what responsibility is assumed by the District. Response to this was that the District is primarily concerned for protecting and enhancing the lake environment overall.

Nicklaus - A need exists to compare District objectives with refuge objectives. A conflict exists between fish vs. waterfowl habitat. Certain areas, those with best food resources and least disruption are more important for the canvasback population.

Holzer - Reported a 1976-77 fish habitat study . . . listed 41 species of game and pan fish with 25 million bluegill caught during the 1976 ice fishing season. The fisheries currently is excellent but the future could be bad if the resource is not managed properly.

Williams then defined the Lake District objectives as determined by the commissioners and that they are now seeking ideas and input from the various

agencies to determine the feasibility. Basically, the District feels dredging along the North shoreline and channel access from public boat launching facilities could be a starting point.

Nicklaus *indicated* that the lake bottom varies from muck in the West to sand in the Red Sails area and then becoming muck again as you progress East from the Red Sails area.

Riebau *added* that the efforts the District will eventually have to be incorporated in G.R.E.A.T. because of the size and complexity of the resource and its problems.

Post said it would be difficult at this time to build the Onalaska situation into G.R.E.A.T. as they are finalizing the authorized study for presentation to Congress within the next two years. The Corps could only become involved in the project financially with Congressional authorization.

Vanderford *added* that G.R.E.A.T. is developing a management systems model for the river. If the study is adopted, the Congressional authorization for the Corps to become involved in backwater rehabilitation work could become a reality in less time than the average of 17 years. The G.R.E.A.T. study is due for completion in 18 months. The U.W.L. River Study Center is presently working on a Lake Onalaska simulation model which could predict the consequences of various management alternatives.

Winter suggested limited dredging as a near term possibility but the District needs to determine what kind, how much, the longevity of the project and a specific plan.

Post said he would check to see if the Corps aquatic weed control program could be utilized in Lake Onalaska. Also the Corps would prepare an EIS if required but most of the data would be the responsibility of the sponsor. Typical EIS permit procedure time would be 1½-2 years.

Nicklaus suggested working on defining narrower management objectives and continuing efforts towards urging Federal and State agencies to become involved in the resource management of the lake. The next step for the District to pursue is to determine where to dredge, how deep, spoil placement and the estimated social and environmental impact. The commissioners will meet with those agency people who are prepared to assist at 4 p.m. on November 10 in the Courthouse. Meeting adjourned.

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 1977
La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*
Donald Verthein*
Elizabeth Gundersen*
Rosalie Schnick*
Douglas Farmer

Present*

Others Present

Don Winter
Jim Holzer
John Lindell
Ron Nicklaus
Ken Brown
Dick Williams

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. Rosalie Schnick was designated moderator for the evening's meeting. She stated that the District has both long-term and short-term objectives to be reached.

The short-term objectives, within a period of five years, would be those rehabilitation projects the District feels capable of undertaking. Over the long-term, the District's responsibility is to encourage total resource management by working with other agencies and developing objectives.

For the short-term, selective dredging appears to be the most feasible rehabilitation area. Through discussion with all present, it was determined that:

- (1) Dredging is needed for the north and east area of Rosebud Island.
- (2) Culvert placements might improve flow on the west side of the existing Onalaska spillway.
- (3) Culvert placement might increase the flow on the east side of the dike off French Island.
- (4) Boat access to the main body of the lake is needed from the public access sites.

Further definition of dredging areas was defined to include a channel from the existing Brice Prairie dike all the way along the shoreline and around the east side of Rosebud Island to an area where a depth of 5 feet exists. Further discussion indicates the channel should be dredged to a depth of 6 feet, which is the average existing depth in the lake.

The width from the dike to the appropriate point to Red Sails should be 50 feet, at which point the width would expand to 100 feet around Rosebud Island. Ideally, these channel widths would be significantly larger to improve the fisheries; however, financial resources limit this possibility.

Discussions regarding the dredging project included possible consequences for water fowl and fisheries.

The District Commissioners will meet to more clearly define the short and long-term objectives and develop working drawings for the dredging project. Assistance will be asked of the Soil Conservation Service for these plans.

It appears that the District will have to apply for additional feasibility study funds to answer such questions as depth of existing sediment and the hydrological consequences of such a channel.

Next meeting scheduled for December 6 at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

R. K. Williams
District Advisor - UWEX

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of Meeting
December 6, 1977
La Crosse County Courthouse

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*
Donald Verthein*
Elizabeth Gundersen*
Rosalie Schnick*
Douglas Farmer*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed. The treasurer reported receipts of \$20.00 in map donations and \$4.05 interest from the Bank of Onalaska for a current balance of \$416.69.

Present*

Others Present

Dick Williams
Steve Taff
Leif Marking

A letter from the Laub Group quoting on public official's liability insurance was explained by Williams and placed on file. The premium of over \$800.00 was felt to be excessive. Steve Taff reported legislative effort is being made to assist with this type of liability coverage.

Jim Cropper, Soil Conservation Service reported on the dredging estimate of 250,000 cubic yards for the four mile channel was discussed. Leif Marking said the depth should be increased from 6' to 9 or 10' and others agreed.

There was additional discussion of this project as it relates to short and long term objectives. A motion passed that Schnick and Marking, with assistance as they desire, should prepare a statement of objectives (Verthein/Farmer). These would then be acted on by the Commission and circulated to the various agencies.

A motion to correspond with S.C.S. asking for assistance with bottom sampling in the proposed dredging areas - passed. (Gundersen/Schnick)

The next meeting was established for December 20th.

Respectfully submitted

R. K. Williams
District Advisor - UWEX

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

December 20, 1977

Courthouse - UWEX Conference Room

Commissioners

Richard Hawkins*

Donald Verthein

Elizabeth Gundersen

Rosalie Schnick*

Douglas Farmer

Present*

Others Present

Dick Williams

Steve Taff

Leif Marking

Ken Brown

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hawkins.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and mailed to the commissioners.

Steve Taff, MRRPC commented on legislation recently passed and signed by the Governor establishing the procedure for setting up an insurance pool which would enable the District to get public officials liability insurance. He suggested writing to the State Insurance Commissioner encouraging this.

Schnick and Marking presented their prepared District Objectives for discussion. Some alterations were made and Williams instructed to prepare the final draft for circulation to the various state and federal agencies. Comments are to be requested prior to the February meeting. (See attached copy)

Core samples of the bottom in the area proposed for dredging will be needed. Taff, Williams and Marking agreed to work on this with assistance from the UWL and SCS.

The next meeting was set for February 21, 1978 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. K. Williams

District Advisor - UWEX