

# 2019 Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

**UMESC** (Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center)  
2630 Fanta Reed Road  
French Island, WI 54601

Budget Hearing 6:45 p.m.  
Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

\*Present: Marc Schultz, Sue Schultz, Tim Miller, Ben Lachecki, Marcie Reabe, Pam Knudtson, Mark Knapmiller, Paul Jahimiak, Janet Jahimiak, Leif Hanson, Amy Hanson, Fritz Funk, David Ford, Melinda Knutson, Sheryl Bollom, Duane Bollom, Ruth Nissen, Ray Marinan, Kathryn Lammers, Chad Knapmiller, Shawn Giblin, Mike Schultz, Karen Schultz, Tony Christnovich, David Skoog, Amy Cooper, David Heath, Vicki Burke, Jeff Reahe, Kay Ward, Mark Tierney, Mike Wellik, Randy Hines, Barbara Friell

**Call to Order** – Chairman Marc Schultz called the Budget Hearing to Order at 6:47 p.m. Marc presented the following 2019-2020 **Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget**. Sue Schultz made a motion to approve the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District’s Proposed 2019-20 Budget. Marcie Reabe seconded the motion. The proposed budget was approved.

### Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget 2019-2020

**INCOME**

2017-2018 actual		2018-2019 proposed
Interest	-0-	-0-
Maps	\$95	\$250
Donations	\$215	\$40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$310</b>	<b>\$650</b>

**EXPENSE**

2017-2018 actual		2018-2019 proposed
Admin	-0-	-0-
Annual Meeting	\$275	\$275
Newsletter	-0-	\$100
Intern	-0-	-0-
Pontoon Tour		
Social	\$275	\$275
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$750</b>

**Annual Meeting Agenda**

**Item 1:** Call to order - Introductions at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Marc Schultz.

**Item 2: Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting** A motion was made by Mike Schultz to approve the Minutes and seconded by Amy Cooper. The Minutes were approved.

**Item 3: Treasurer’s Report** A motion was made by Sue Schultz to approve the Treasurer’s Report and seconded by Fritz Funk. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District  
Treasurer’s Report-annual meeting  
September 05, 2018  
12 month report  
BMO Harris Bank for District  
M&I Bank changed ownership to BMO in 2012-2103

	Description	Sub-totals	Totals
Income	Sale of Maps	\$95	
	Donations	215	
	Interest	0	

Expenses	Mailings, printing for events	735.22	0
Balance			\$2,753.04

River Bank for the Fred Funk Landing Donations

	Description	Sub-totals	Totals
Income	Donations deposit	\$ 578.53	
	Interest	33.24	
Expenses			0
Balance			34,336.60

**Item 4: 2019-2020 Budget Adoption**

The proposed 2018-2019 Budget was presented and approved. Motion to approve was made by Sue Schultz and seconded by Karen Schultz.

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**Item 5: Fred Funk Landing**

On Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> a public dedication was held at 10 a.m. at the Fred Funk Landing for the completed project located at W8023 CTH ZB Brice Prairie. Pontoon rides for the public were offered which allowed those interested to see and experience the project's boat travel route that was cut by a lake vegetation harvester.

**Item 6: Update on Vegetation Cutting and Removal**

The opportunity to cut aquatic vegetation for public boat travel lanes and for individual property owners to contract for cutting around their docks is now a reality. The vegetation cutting for public lanes 40 feet wide would cost about \$20,000.00 for all the routes. A map of the approved travel lanes is available on the Lake District web site as well as at tonight's meeting.

**Item 7: Lake District Funding**

The Lake Onalaska District board is working to secure adequate and dependable funding for projects and programs to protect and restore Lake Onalaska. This includes matching funds for a planning grant, for cutting public boat travel routes, for collaborating with river agency partners in water quality and habitat projects, for lake district administrative costs plus outreach and education programs.

**Item 8: Public Comment**

This has been an unprecedented year of high water starting with the river rising before the ice melted causing large mats of floating vegetation to be torn loose and travel down river. Huge volumes of sediment have washed in from tributaries and filled the backwaters including Lake Onalaska. With the high flow came lots of nutrients which caused vegetation to flourish. The Lake District promotes water quality and user access.

**Item 9: Speaker Ruth Nissen - Friends of the Refuge - Mississippi River Pools 7 & 8 Past, Present & Future**

**Item 10: Agency Reports**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - David Heath**

Public Fish Regulation Survey Summary. The plan is to go forward. Wi and Mn did 6 May 2018 public meetings to rewrite angling regulations in both states. IA is not involved at this point. Had on-line and paper public opinion survey available until July 31, 2018. These two states received over 850 responses to this 77-question survey. The survey did not provide any regulation suggestions but rather asked what the public wanted for fish regulations.

Goal is to achieve uniform regulations on both sides of the river. The public survey results have been compiled. The next step is to go back to the public fall/winter 2018 and get feedback on specific regulation suggestions generated by DNR's. Finally, in April 2019, these questions will appear on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring Questionnaire where they will be voted on by the public.

## **U. S. Geological Survey - Randy Hines**

Outreach & Partnership Coordinator / Wildlife Biologist  
Collateral Duty Safety & Environmental Program Coordinator

### **USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center**

LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

**September 2019 Meeting**

## **U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center – Science Update**

### **Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR) – Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) Element:**

- US Army Corps' Federal-State Partnership program aimed at restoring habitat and monitoring the ecological health of the UMR; USGS has science oversight for LTRM element of UMRR.
- Continue to monitor Fish/Veg/Water Quality annually with 6 State operated field stations
- Next round of systemic Land-Cover/Use Maps targeted for 2020
  - o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plane & new cameras; summer peak vegetation (August); entire UMR and Illinois Rivers
  - o online 2021-2025 = 6 Key Pools (4, 8, 13, 26, Open, and LaGrange-IL) first; Pool 7 (~2022), HREP pools and IL Waterway (pre & post closures)
- Budget & Support:
  - o 2017-2019– President's/Congress/Final budget = \$33.1M full authorization
  - o 2020 proposed – President's/Congress = \$33.1M full authorization
  - o ***Measure of success = model for national-international restoration-partnerships***

### **Characterizing ecological-hydrological processes in the UMRS to inform large-river management**

- Floodplain-River Connectivity
  - o Leverage the floodplain inundation model along with other existing UMRR datasets to:
    - learn about how connectivity influences ecosystem dynamics
    - contribute to the improved health and resilience of the UMRS by developing concepts, maps, and models relevant to management activities.
- Nutrient Cycling - Pool 8 Nutrient Processing
  - o Phosphorus is retained on the floodplain when P is taken up by biota or incorporated into the soil
  - o Nitrogen is more mobile and removal enhanced by drying/wetting cycles
- Floodplain Forests

- o Dispersal, growth, and mortality affected by flooding
- o Can guide the selection of floodplain forest restoration projects that maximize restoration value
- Sedimentation Rates in Backwaters
  - o Since 2017 have been revisiting backwater sediment transects in Pools 4, 8 and 13 surveyed in 1997-2002 to determine average rates and patterns of sedimentation over a 20-yr period.
  - o Results of this work will improve predictions of management actions and restoration projects intended to maintain the habitat diversity within the UMRS.
- Freshwater Mussels

**Quantitative Sampling (COE-funded)**

  - o FY19: quantitative sampling for native freshwater mussels at ~300 sites in each of Pools 8 and 13
    - data will be used to estimate the distribution, abundance, diversity, and recruitment of mussels to inform management decisions
      - status and trends of mussel resources
      - baseline data to evaluate the effects of water level management on mussels.
  - o FY20/21: assess geomorphic indices to predict the distribution, abundance, diversity, and recruitment of native mussels across 6 pools (3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 18)
    - inform management decisions related to design and implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement projects to benefit mussels.

**Ecosystem Services (USGS Mid-Continent Region funded)**

  - o FY19: Compile data on freshwater mussels, nutrients, and fishes in one pool of the UMR to assess if restoring mussel assemblages may also improve water quality and aquatic ecosystem health.
  - o FY20/21: Identify, quantify, and value key ecosystem services (e.g., biofiltration of nutrients and sediments) provided by mussels and conduct a cost effectiveness analysis between biofiltration by mussels and human-built infrastructure (e.g., WWTPs) in select reaches of the UMR.

## **USGS RESEARCH:**

### **Migratory Songbirds:**

Assessment of floodplain forest habitat use by neotropical migratory birds; Pool 4, 8 completed in 2017, Pool 26 & Open River in 2018; Pool 13 in 2019; comparison of habitat use, density and distribution with 1990 survey data. FY20 Flood effects

### **Invasive Species:**

#### *ASIAN CARP –*

- Pool 19 – USGS research on-going to understand the Life History of Asian carp on the UMR **\*\***(tagged 100+ carp over past 2 yrs = mostly Silver carp & some Bighead carp)
  - Tagged fish in Pool 19 to evaluate behavior of the leading edge of dense carp population
  - Carp moving between IL and UMR
  - Reproduction beginning above L&D 19

- Lab & Field Trials - - Continue to examine possible control techniques & technologies as part of integrated pest management
- CO2 Barrier –
  - o Fox River near Kaukauna, WI – CO2 Barrier Testing (August 2019)
  - o large-scale commercial barrier testing; potential for IL River barrier use (multiple technology systems)
- Sound Barrier –
  - o FY19: deployed on CAWS/Illinois River at electric barriers (spring 2019) in support of ACOE maintenance
  - o Fall 2019 - Lake Barkley Dam barrier evaluation; sounds/bubble/light design w/ contractor; partners Kentucky F&G, USFWS, Army Corps, USGS
  - o FY20: L&D 19 plans underway to deploy
- Microparticles –
  - o Antimycin registration with EPA has lapsed; USGS has acquired rights to product and working with new Companies to manufacture for continued use in microparticle for selective toxicant control of silver and bighead carp.
  - o Field study in Iowa USFWS hatchery ponds with dye-loaded microparticles to assess baiting and delivery systems on targeted Asian carp feeding behavior and unintended exposure of non-target native fish.

#### *ZEBRA MUSSELS –*

- Dubuque Mississippi River Museum –
  - Assay trailer placed at Museum to assess the use of copper sulfate (EarthTec QZ) to prevent zebra mussel veliger (juveniles) attachment on native mussels in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Genoa Hatchery mussel propagation cages maintained in the harbor.
- Lake Minnetonka –
  - Lake applications of copper sulfate in St. Albans Bay to evaluate the ability to prevent zebra mussel veliger (juvenile) attachment to substrates. A 10-day application period was evaluated for target zebra mussel effects and unintended consequences on native invertebrates, fish and mussels.

### **U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Tim Miller**

#### **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**

#### **REFUGE UPDATE**

*Presented at the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting  
September 11, 2019*

#### *Biology/Management projects*

- **Forest Inventory:** Forty staff members and volunteers assisted with a forest inventory project to complete survey plots in the Black River Bottoms one of the core flood plain forest habitat units for the La Crosse District. This project was a joint effort of the UMRCC (Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee). During this two day blitz 90 plots were surveyed

providing the refuge with valuable information for managing and understanding this important resource.

- **Slow No Wake Posting and other sign maintenance** – It's that time of year to get out and make sure refuge signs are visible and the "slow no wake"/"voluntary avoidance areas" and "Closed to Migratory Bird Hunting areas" are marked before the start of the hunting seasons.
- **Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Areas**- Staff will be deploying the buoys on Lake Onalaska for the Voluntary Waterfowl Avoidance Area. Waterfowl need a place or rest and refuge to feed and gain necessary resources for migration. Please help us by avoiding this area from October 15 to the end of state duck hunting season.
- **Survey of Great Blue Heron Nest Colony:** Biology staff mapped and monitored a Great Blue Heron nest colony. Many of the nest had fledgling chicks present. Surveys are intended to determine status and changes in size from year to year.
- **Wild Celery Winter Bud Sampling:** In about a month staff will begin taking core samples to measure the biomass of wild celery winter buds in Pool 8. The primary objective of the project is determining if there is a relationship between LTRM aquatic vegetation data collected in the summer (annual LTRM monitoring) and wild celery winter bud data collected at the start of the fall migration. A secondary objective is determining how much wild celery winter bud biomass remains after the fall migration and is available at the start of the spring migration. This will be a M.S. research project for Kirsten Schmidt from UW - Stevens Point.
- **Flood Damage:** Staff have been working on the few days of low water to access flood damage to Refuge infrastructure and habitat. Surveys are being completed on roads boat landings, parking lots and constructed islands along with noting habitat damage.
- **Wildfire Support:** The La Crosse District has supported the national wildfire response this season sending to staff members this fire season sending two staff members to help in Alaska and California.
- **New Deputy District Manager:** La Crosse District welcomes Cheryl Groom as the new Deputy District Manager. Cheryl joined the Refuge staff in June and brings a wealth of experience of 29 years working for the USFWS Refuges. Cheryl moved from Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City Iowa.
- **Vegetation Cutting on Lake Onalaska:** A Refuge Special Use Permit was issued to the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District for harvesting aquatic vegetation to improve access on an agreed travel corridor. The Refuge has supplied red and green navigation buoys to mark the corridor and harvest path. See attached map for the approved, maximum 30 foot wide paths.

#### *Wildlife update!*

- **Waterfowl Counts** - Fall is right around the corner, and Biologist, Erin Adams (District Biologist), will soon begin fall waterfowl counts from the bluffs above Goose Island County Park.
- **Black Tern Surveys:** Biology staff conducted Black Tern surveys at Blue, Target and Lawrence Lakes on Pool 8, and at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. High waters may have had effects on the numbers of nesting bird. Biologist are working on the final reports for this effort.
- **Survey of Great Blue Heron Nest Colony:** Biology staff mapped and monitored a Great Blue Heron nest colony. Many of the nest had fledgling chicks present. Surveys are intended to determine status and changes in size from year to year.
- **Photo points:** Staff have completed five years of photo point surveys of refuge grassland and wet meadow habitats. Surveys look at vegetation composition and density, both important characteristics for grassland birds.

#### *Visitor Services projects*

- **Webcam on Lake Onalaska-** A web cam was placed near Sommer's Chute in the late summer of 2018 by Raptor Resources is up and running. You can visit the site <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/upper-mississippi-onalaska-cam/> The Refuge Visitor Center located in Brice Prairie, is streaming footage from the web cam now.
- **Fred Funk Landing Fishing Platform** –The Refuge received funding to install a ADA compliant fishing platform at the Fred Funk boat landing. This project has been awarded a contract and will be install by mid-November.
- **Duck Bag Checks** – Staff and volunteers are planning to go out on the opening days of the Wisconsin and Minnesota waterfowl hunting seasons to talk to hunters about their first impressions of the season and gather age/sex/species data on the birds they bring in. Information from these meetings helps estimate how many birds hunters are bringing home in comparison to the time they spend hunting. Car counts are also conducted to better understand visitor use of boat landings and walk-downs during the hunting seasons.
- **Waterfowl Observation Day/Overlook Naturalist:** Waterfowl Observation Day will be held at the Brownville Overlook on November 9, 2019. Naturalist will be

**United States Army Corps of Engineers - Ray Marinan , Daniel Reburn**  
Mississippi River Project Master Plan | FACTSHEET

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The Army Corps of Engineers want your comments

To view the 2011 Land Use Allocation Plan and to submit your comments electronically go to our website:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/UpperMississippiRiverMasterPlan/>

Upper Mississippi River Project Master Plan Revision

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District is revising the Upper Mississippi River Project Master Plan.

This plan, while conceptual in nature, will serve as the vision for both environmental stewardship and recreation as the

Corps continues to serve the public in the 21st Century.

The plan was last updated in 1988 and supplemented in 2011 (Land Use Allocation Plan) and is in need of revision to

address changes to the environment, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE policy. The primary goals of the plan include:

- ◆ Establish an overall land use management plan;
- ◆ Identify resource objectives; and
- ◆ Identify associated design and management concepts.

About the Mississippi River Project

The Corps' Upper Mississippi River Project, encompasses 240 miles and nearly 52,000 acres on the Mississippi River from

Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam (Minneapolis, MN) and Lock & Dam 10 in Guttenberg, IA. The Project is a

congressionally authorized mission that encompasses navigation, recreation and natural resource conservation.

What are Master Plan Land Classifications?

The Master Plan identifies management classifications for federally owned lands which guide sustainable development

and determine what types of developments are permitted. For example, campgrounds are permitted in areas classified

as recreation intensive use but not in areas classified as wildlife management.

Why Update Land Classifications?

When updating a master plan, the land allocation and land classifications are also updated in order to ensure consistency with the authorized purpose of the land. Updating the land classification would reflect current policy guidance, management practices, and comments received during the scoping phases with agencies and public.

#### New Land Classifications

**Project Operations** - Lands required for the dam, spillway, offices, maintenance facilities, and other areas that are used solely for project operations.

**High Density Recreation** - Lands developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including day use areas and/or campgrounds. These could include areas for concessions (marinas, resorts, etc.), and quasi-public development.

**Mitigation** - Lands acquired or designated specifically to offset known impacts to an existing historic or natural resource.

**Environmental Sensitive Areas** - Areas where scientific, ecological, cultural, or aesthetic features have been identified.

#### Multiple Resource Management

a) **Low Density Recreation** – Lands with minimal development or infrastructure that support passive public recreational use.

b) **Wildlife Management** – Lands designated for the stewardship of fish & wildlife.

c) **Vegetative Management** – Lands designated for the stewardship of forest, prairie, and other native vegetative cover.

d) **Future or Inactive Recreation Areas** – Areas compatible with potential future recreational development or recreation areas that are closed. These areas are managed as multiple resource lands until developed or reopened.

#### Water Surface

a) **Restricted**. Water areas restricted immediately up and downstream of locks and dams for project operations, safety, and security purposes.

b) **Designated No-Wake**. Specifically at Blackhawk Park used to protect recreational water access area from disturbance, and/or public safety.

\*All information regarding land classification is derived from current regulations (EP 1130-2-550, 30 Jan 2013).

Contact: UMRMasterPlan2019@usace.army.mil

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Motion was made by Sue Schultz and seconded by Mike Schultz.

