

2016 Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

UMESC Tour 5:30 p.m.
Budget Hearing 6:45 p.m.
Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

UMESC (Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center)
2630 Fanta Reed Road - French Island
La Crosse WI 54601

PRESENT: Marc Schultz (Chairman LORPD), Ralph Whiting, Kathryn Lammers, Bruce Friell, Steve Miller, Sabrina Chandler, Randy Hines, Don Brenengen, Dan Reburn, Jack Schwartz, Mike Wellik, Ben Lachecki, Brian Tippetts, , David Heath, Shawn Giblin, David Paudler, Susan LaPoint, Joyce Weber, Kerrie Hauser, Kevin Kenow, Jim Fischer and Barbara Friell

Call to Order – by Marc Schultz, Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Chairman

Chairman Marc Schultz called the Budget Hearing to Order at 6:45 p.m.. Chairman Marc Schultz presented the 2016-2017 proposed Budget. The following Income and Expense sheet was available for attendees. Steve Miller made a motion to approve the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District's Proposed 2016-17 Budget, Bruce Friell seconded the motion. The Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District's Proposed 2016-17 Budget was unanimously approved.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Proposed 2016-17 Budget

INCOME

2015-16 actual	2016-17 proposed
Interest \$.30	\$.30
Maps \$ 298.00	\$ 300.00
Donations \$ 800.00	\$ 300.00
Total \$ 1098.30	\$ 600.30

EXPENSE

2015-16 actual	2016-17 proposed
Admin -0-	\$ 50.00
Annual Meeting \$ 262.16	\$ 140.00
Newsletter \$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Intern -0-	\$ 100.00
Pontoon Tour \$ 200.15	\$ 200.00
Social \$ 261.62	\$ 250.00

Total

\$773.53

\$ 940.00

Item 1: The Annual Meeting was called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Marc Schultz.

Item 2: Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting –David Paudler made a motion to approve the minutes, Bruce Friell seconded the motion. No discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 3: Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Kathryn Lammers. David Paudler made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Steve Miller seconded the motion. No further discussion. The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District
Treasurer’s Report-annual meeting
September 13, 2016

BMO Harris Bank for District
M&I Bank changed ownership to BMO in 2012-2103

	Description	Sub-totals	Totals
Income	Sale of Maps Interest	\$0 0	
Expenses	Miller Quik print (estimate) to be paid Mailing costs (275x\$.47) to be paid La Crosse County IT productions Printing & mailing	\$100 \$129.25 0	0
	Balance		\$3,974. 72

River Bank for the Fred Funk Landing Donations

	Description	Sub-totals	Totals
Income	Donations deposit Interest	0 2.84	
Expenses			0
	Balance		33,535.5 9

Submitted by Kathryn Lammers Treasurer

Commissioners August 2016:

- Marc Schultz, Chairperson
- Barbara Friell, Secretary
- Kathryn Lammers, Treasurer
- Ben Lachecki
- Rick Cornforth, County Board Representative

Messages to the Commissioners at lakedistrictona@yahoo.com

This yahoo email will provide a method for commissioners to send out messages to membership for newsletters and key meetings.

Item 4: Lake District Activities over the last year – Social at The Red Pines was a successful event. Attendance exceeded the previous year’s attendance. Several agencies were on hand with displays and materials and an tremendous amount of knowledge to share with those interested. Bricks for the Fred Funk Landing were also available for sale during this Social. Refer to Item 7 regarding the Pontoon Lake Tour.

Item 5: Commissioner Election - Kathryn Lammer’s three year term is ending. There were no additional nominees from the floor. Ralph Whiting made a motion to approve Kathryn Lammers for a second term. Steve Miller seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Item 6: Budget Adoption for 2016-2017 – A copy of the proposed 2016-2017 Budget (see below) was provided to all attendees. A motion to approve the Budget was made by Dave Paudler and seconded by Bruce Friell. The Budget was approved.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Proposed 2016-17 Budget

INCOME

2015-16 actual		2016-17 proposed
Interest	\$.30	\$.30
Maps	\$ 298.00	\$ 300.00
Donations	\$ 800.00	\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 1098.30	\$ 600.30

EXPENSE

2015-16 actual		2016-17 proposed
Admin	-0-	\$ 50.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 262.16	\$ 140.00
Newsletter	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Intern	-0-	\$ 100.00
Pontoon Tour	\$ 200.15	\$ 200.00
Social	\$ 261.62	\$ 250.00
Total	\$773.53	\$ 940.00

The **Item 7: Results of June Pontoon Lake Tour** – The event was well attended. There were four pontoons available to accommodate the approximately forty people. Agency(s) were well represented and very informative.

Item 8: Presentation by Shawn Giblin on River Water Quality

See attachment to this email for Shawn’s PowerPoint presentation.

Item 9: Update on proposed Refuge Compatibility Determinations – The following information was taken from part of Tim Miller’s Report. Compatibility determinations (CDs) are documents written, signed, and dated by the refuge manager and the regional chief of refuges that signify whether proposed or existing uses of national wildlife refuges are compatible with their establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. All recreational activities and economic or other uses of a refuge by the public or other non-Service entity require CDs. We reevaluate CDs for existing wildlife-dependent recreational uses when we prepare or revise a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP), or every 15 years, whichever is sooner. We reevaluate other uses every 10 years or sooner,

if conditions change or significant new information about the use or its effects becomes available. As several new recreational activities have arisen on the refuge since the “Upper Miss. Refuge” CCP was signed in 2006, all of our compatibility determinations have been reviewed and re-evaluated. These CDs are available for public review on the refuge website (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/); written comments are due to Deputy Refuge Manager, Timothy Yager (51 E. 4th Street, Winona, MN 55987) by October 1, 2016.

Item 10: Update on Shore land rules - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ShorelandZoning/About/rules.html>

Item 11: Agency Reports – Presenting Reports were as follows:

US Geological Survey – Randy Hines

See attachment to this email for Randy’s PowerPoint presentation.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Kerrie Hauser

Spoke about the Corps regulatory jurisdiction. That information can be found on our website: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

US Army Corps of Engineers – Dan Reburn

Richmond Island: Approximately 8 acres of woody invasive species control and follow-up planting. Invasive control and planting also focuses on areas expected to be impacted by EAB

Rosebud Island: Site visit by summer staff in August; tree plantings are doing all right, with red oak doing best. Walnuts have died back but are sprouting from the base. Some crown vetch is still present, and black locust and Siberian elm are regenerating. Likely follow up treatments in 2017 to control invasive and potential do some replanting.

Gibbs Chute/Goose Chute Area: Forest inventory data collected in 2015. Working with K. Pedanault and other FWS staff to coordinate writing of forest management prescriptions yet this fall. There may be some work in the area in the upcoming year or two.

Pool 8, Goose Island: Replanting of willow cuttings on Eagle Scout Island with Meredith Thomsen

We own the shoreline in different distances from the water’s edge and if folks want to do tree cutting, or retaining walls or erosion control or build sheds etc. They need permission from our (ES) office first. If we grant permission then they probably need to follow up with other governing agencies.....like regulatory if its riprap, or the town of Onalaska, and or La Crosse County. There is a 75' shoreland zone in this area and building activity in this area is controlled by the Town and/or County. It may or may not involve us depending on our ownership.

US Fish and Wildlife Service - Sabrina Chandler

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
Authority

Public Law No. 268 – 68th Congress, An Act to Establish the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, changed in 1998 to reflect a name change of Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: The refuge shall be established and maintained (a) as a refuge and breeding

place for migratory birds included in the terms of the convention between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds, concluded August 16, 1916, and (b) to such extent as the Secretary of the Interior may by regulations prescribe, as a refuge and breeding place for other wild birds, game animals, fur-bearing animals, and for the conservation of wild flowers and aquatic plants, and (c) to such extent as the Secretary of the Interior may by regulations prescribe as a refuge and breeding place for fish and other aquatic animal life.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918): Designates the protection of migratory birds as a federal responsibility. This Act enables the setting of seasons, and other regulations including the closing of areas, federal or non-federal, to the hunting of migratory birds.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (1965): Uses the receipts from the sale of surplus federal land, outer continental shelf oil and gas sales, and other sources for land acquisition under several authorities.

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (1997) PL 105-57: This Act amended portions of the Refuge Recreation Act and National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966. Defines the National Wildlife Refuge System and authorizes the Secretary to permit any use of a refuge provided such use is compatible with the major purposes for which the refuge was established. The Refuge Improvement Act clearly defines a unifying mission for the Refuge System; establishes the legitimacy and appropriateness of the six priority public uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation); establishes a formal process for determining compatibility; established the responsibilities of the Secretary of Interior for managing and protecting the System; and requires a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for each refuge by the year 2012.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: Requires that federal agencies, and thus the Service, follow basic requirements for major actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. These requirements are: 1) consider every significant aspect of the environmental impact of a proposed action; 2) involve the public in its decision-making process when considering environmental concerns; 3) use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to decision making; and 4) consider a reasonable range of alternatives.

Cooperative Agreement with the Corps of Engineers: As the Corps purchased land needed for and affected by the navigation system many of those lands were put under management by the Refuge. To help clarify agency roles and responsibilities, cooperative agreements were negotiated and signed in 1945, 1954, 1963, and 2001 (amended the 1963 agreement), each time bringing more clarity to who managed what within the Refuge. The cooperative agreement, with some reservations, grants to the Service the rights to manage fish and wildlife and its habitat on those lands acquired by the Corps of Engineers as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

US Fish and Wildlife Service - Tim Miller

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

REFUGE UPDATE (La Crosse District)

***Presented at the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting
September 13, 2016***

Root River Tract: USFWS MAT Team (Maintenance Action Team) began heavy equipment work in mid-July to restore the hydrology of the Root River Tract in Houston County. Teams work 14 days and are replaced by another team. Habitat restoration projects include: removing or breaching dike/levees, building ditch plugs, restoring old meander channels, and removing spoil piles. Funding for this project is being provided through a grant by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Program in MN. Forestry projects have also been completed on this tract during 2016 including two timber-stand improvement projects and a cottonwood- willow planting project.

Wild Celery Sampling – Volunteers and Refuge Staff conducted sampling surveys in early August to gather information about the abundance of wild celery plants on Lake Onalaska. Using a square metal sampling frame to define their search area, “divers” pulled aquatic plants from the river bottom and carried them up to teams aboard their boat to identify. The “winter buds” on wild celery plants are an important source of food for canvasback ducks and other waterfowl during the fall migration.

Lake Onalaska Overlook Bank Stabilization: Shoreline stabilization at the Lake Onalaska

Overlook – A native plant vegetation mat has been installed on the steep bank of the Lake Onalaska Overlook to help stabilize the shoreline.

Compatibility Determinations: Compatibility determinations (CDs) are documents written, signed, and dated by the refuge manager and the regional chief of refuges that signify whether proposed or existing uses of national wildlife refuges are compatible with their establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. All recreational activities and economic or other uses of a refuge by the public or other non-Service entity require CDs. We reevaluate CDs for existing wildlife-dependent recreational uses when we prepare or revise a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP), or every 15 years, whichever is sooner. We reevaluate other uses every 10 years or sooner, if conditions change or significant new information about the use or its effects becomes available. As several new recreational activities have arisen on the refuge since the “Upper Miss. Refuge” CCP was signed in 2006, all of our compatibility determinations have been reviewed and re-evaluated. These CDs are available for public review on the refuge website

(https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River/); written comments are due to Deputy Refuge Manager, Timothy Yager (51 E. 4th Street, Winona, MN 55987) by October 1, 2016.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation approves \$75,000 for Wisconsin Driftless Area Monarch Butterfly Initiative project - Huge congratulations to Private Lands Biologist, Bill Kiser; the grant he submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to continue to restore and improve prairie lands has been approved! This money hugely supplements his annual budget and helps to leverage funds in further grant applications.

Voluntary Avoidance Areas begin October 15 - During the fall migration, visitors are asked to voluntarily avoid areas on the water to allow waterfowl to rest and feed without disturbances. Signs are now posted along these areas on the refuge to better inform folks of their locations.

Trap tag permits will be issued in early October - For those interested in trapping fur bearing animals on refuge lands, special use permits will be sold in early October – please stay tuned for exact dates.

Film tour for Discover Wisconsin - Visitor Services Manager, Hallie Rasmussen and Biological Technician, Calvin Gehri, led a boat tour of the new Lake Onalaska Canoe Trail for a television crew from “Discover Wisconsin.” Footage of their journey is set to air in a water trails episode during the spring of 2017.

Let's Go Outside Backpacks - Visitors can now borrow “Let's Go Outside!” backpacks with activities and tools to help them explore the outside trails. Contents of the backpacks include a journal, bug viewer, weather equipment, suggestions for short activities to do outside, a pair of binoculars, and more.

Lake Onalaska Canoe Trail Grand Opening - Despite rainy weather, we had a wonderful celebration for the Grand Opening of the Lake Onalaska Canoe Trail in late July, with over 50 people in attendance including USFWS Midwest Region Chief of Refuges, Charlie Blair.

Creepy Critters - Refuge Staff and the Friends of the Mississippi River - Pools 7 and 8 have been hard at work preparing for our third annual Creepy Critters special event coming up on October 12th! Geared toward multi-age families, visitors walk around our outside paths, stopping at different animal tables to learn facts and fiction about some of nature's more eerie wildlife. Each table offers a non-candy giveaway and visitors who stop at every table receive a prize to take home. We will have a storyteller and puppet show, as well as face painting and a "bat cave," followed by an evening interpretive program.

Volunteers

Creepy Critters - More information about volunteer opportunities for Creepy Critters will be coming out the week of September 12th.

Gardening- Volunteers are needed to help maintain the garden beds at the Lake Onalaska Overlook. Please contact volunteer coordinator, Katie Julian, 608-799-2391 if you might be interested in helping.

Volunteer Picnic - The USFWS volunteer picnic will be on Wed. September 14th at Swarthout Park on Brice Prairie. Over 100 volunteers have donated almost 3,000 hours of their time since August 1st, 2015. Using the “Independent Sector’s” value of volunteer time as \$23/hour, that equates to almost \$69,000 of additional project time! We are so thankful!

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Shawn Giblin See Agenda Item number 8
See attachment to this email for Shawn’s PowerPoint presentation

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – David Heath

See attachment to this email for David’s presentation.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Jim Fischer

See attachment to this email for Jim’s PowerPoint presentation.

