

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: Election of Commissioners

The following LOPRD Resolution on expanding the Board from three to five elected members was read by Marc Schultz. Discussion occurred and approval was made to expand the number of Commissioners by two.

Nominations accepted were Dave Paudler, Jeff Reabe and Mark Tierney. Ballots were distributed and collected. Jeff Reabe and Mark Tierney are the new LD Commissioners.

Barbara Friell (three year term ending) with no additional nominations from the floor was approved to serve a second term.

Item 5: 2018-2019 Budget Adoption

The proposed 2018-2019 Budget was presented and approved.

Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget 2018-2019

INCOME

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

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
Total	\$550	\$750

Item 6: Lake District Activities

Tony Christovich presented an update regarding his work on finalizing the Fred Funk Landing Project. He also provided visuals prior to the meeting and during his presentation.

A Social Event was held at Red Pines. The purpose of the Event was to continue to promote Lake Quality and Access, discuss the prevention of excessive vegetation in the Lake, ways to repair one’s Shoreline and the Backyard Tours planned for June 6th with representation from the DNR (Department of Natural Resources), USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Services), USCOE (United States Corp of Engineers), USGS (United States G Services), and the La Crosse County Zoning Department.

Item 7: Vegetation Survey

Chad Knapmiller, owner of Schafer’s River Rentals shared the results of the Survey he had prepared and distributed prior to the Annual Meeting. The Survey was included in the Lake District Mailing and also sent via online using the Lake District Email List. See Survey below.

Attn: Lakefront Property Owner

As you are aware aquatic vegetation is a continuing issue for property owners as well as boaters on Lake Onalaska. Over the past two years Schafer’s River Rentals has been exploring solutions for this problem. We believe that we have narrowed down the most sustainable method to mechanical harvesting of the aquatic vegetation to help shoreline owners with this issue.

To create a sustainable business model, we would appreciate your honest participation in the short survey provided. These questions will help determine the financial viability of the weed harvester as well as some other services that would support its operation. If you have any further questions or would like to learn more about what we are trying to do feel free to stop in or call the shop!

Included with this letter is a prepaid envelope that you

can use to return the completed survey! If it is more convenient feel free to complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JKBK6T>

Thanks,

Chad Knapmiller
Schafer’s River Rentals
(608)781-3100



1. Do you operate watercraft on Lake Onalaska?
Yes No
2. Do you have a dock?
Yes No
3. Do you consider aquatic vegetation an issue in front of your property?
Yes No
4. Does aquatic vegetation prevent you from using/enjoying the lake?
Yes No
5. Homeowners are permitted to have 500 Square feet mechanically removed from their waterfront. Is this a service that you would consider paying for?

- Yes No
6. The cost for mechanically cutting is estimated to be around \$500 per cut, with a discounted rate for multiple cuts per season. At this rate would you still be interested in this service?
Yes No
 7. In addition to the harvester we are also considering offering additional services. Please indicate any of these services that you would be interested in:
 - a. Dock Installation/Removal
 - b. Dock Repair
 - c. Dock Cleaning
 - d. Shoreline Cleaning
 8. Feel free to add any questions comments or concerns on the back of the page

Survey Responses were as follows:

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Response</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	76	16		92
2	65	26	1	91
3	73	19		92
4	68	24		92
5	56	31	5	87
6	38	48	6	86
7	*41 responses		51	92
8	** 25 Responses		67	92

* Dock installation/removal	25	
Dock Repair		14
Dock Cleaning	7	
Shoreline Cleaning	27	

Item 8: Reggie McLeod – Editor, Big River Magazine Reggie provided a wealth of information to those in attendance. His presentation was appreciated by all.

Item 9: Lake District Funding – How to Proceed Talking Points for funding of the Lake District were as follows: (1) Educational events need at least \$500 to send out mailing to lake shore owners, email fliers, print fliers to put in doors/newspapers boxes, print fliers for business/library/public areas, and a couple homemade yard signs. Another \$500 could be used for better signage and mailing to contacts. We have been hosting 3 events per year. \$1000 x 3=\$3000. (2) Funds could be used for signage for boating routes due to heavy vegetation. The boating routes are useful to cut the vegetation with boat motors. The estimated amounts would be \$3000-5000. (3) Funds are needed to seek out partnerships related to water quality, sustainability, run off, or other environmental topics. The lake district would like to promote more cooperation related to water issues. An estimated \$2000 needed to host events and sponsor other events. (4) Harvesting services of local vendor could provide some temporary relief of the heavy vegetation in the Lake Onalaska. An estimated \$50,000 to 100,000 would be needed for areas used by the public.

Item 10: Shore Issues: Discussed ice, high water, dead ash trees, beaver, and loud motors.

Item 11: Agency Reports

U. S. Geological Survey – Randy Hines

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 5, 2018

Biology/Management projects

Forest Inventory: Staff and volunteers have been working hard this season to complete 80 points on the Refuge Forest Inventory plots. The crews exceeded our goal completing transects in the Root River and Black River Bottoms in Pools 7 and 8.

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.

Wild Celery Sampling: Staff, agency partners, and volunteers worked to collect data about wild celery and other aquatic vegetation on Lake Onalaska in early August. These surveys collect information about aquatic plant abundance and diversity. Wild celery is a very important food source for canvasback ducks and other migratory waterfowl during the fall migration; the winter buds of wild celery provide them with the carbohydrates they need to sustain their energy on their long journeys! This is one of the longer-term annual studies conducted on the Refuge. Data summaries from this year are in progress!

Blue winged teal mortality: A couple dead blue-winged teal were discovered last week and are being tested for trematode infestation, a condition caused by ingesting invasive faucet snails.

Wild Celery Winter Bud Sampling: In about a month staff will begin taking core samples to measure the biomass of wild celery winter bud. As mentioned above this plant is a critical resource for migrating waterfowl in both the fall and spring. The objectives of the study:

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. **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. Data collection periods have been or will be: summer and fall of 2018; spring, summer and fall of 2019; spring of 2020.

Wildfire Support: The La Crosse District has supported the national wildfire response this season sending three staff members to: Montana, Oregon, and Michigan. This was and continues to be a very busy wildfire season.

Wildlife update: Rusty-patched bumblebee surveys – Biology staff will be working to finish up bumblebee surveys in late August.

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.

Visitor Services projects: Webcam – In partnership with the Raptor Resources Center, a new webcam is slotted to go up on Lake Onalaska to help showcase raptors and other migratory waterfowl. Preliminary operations are in the works to figure out a way to display the camera footage in the Visitor Center and to train volunteers to monitor the webcam. **Fred Funk Landing** – The La Crosse District has received some money through Visitor Facility Enhancement funding that will help provide an ADA fishing platform at the Fred Funk Landing. This landing is scheduled to undergo renovation in mid-September 2018 as part of a long-term project organized by the Brice Prairie Conservation Association and Town of Onalaska. Stay tuned for more information! **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 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.

Interpretation: Local photographer, Phil S. Addis, will be leading a public photography class at the Visitor Center on Tuesday evening, Sept 4th to cap off our summer interp programs and help celebrate the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative's "Year of Art, Music, and Culture." A group of Boy Scouts will be visiting on Saturday, Sept 8th. Visitor Services staff are also getting ready to welcome two new "naturalists on deck" to help provide informal interpretation at the Brownsville Overlook this year on three weekends in November. The new naturalists will attend training in September and October.

- **Special Events:** Our large "eerie animal" **Creepy Critters** themed special event is right around the corner! Staff, partners, and volunteers are hard at work planning and prepping for the event on Thursday evening, October 18th. Over 650 visitors attended this family-friendly event last year.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Shawn Giblin

[Water Quality Shapes the Health of the River](#). This article was written by Shawn and published in the July/August, 2018 Big River Magazine. Also please reference Item #8.

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.

Jim Fisher WDNR

US Army Corps of Engineers

Ray Marinan

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District

