



PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

CORRESPONDENCE:
W8155 COUNTY ROAD ZB
ONALASKA, WISCONSIN 54650
(608) 792-1445

Dear Lake Onalaska District Member:

You are invited to attend the 46th Annual Meeting of the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District. Our meeting is Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 425 Main Street, City of Onalaska, Council Chambers located in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

You are receiving this meeting notice (*Agenda and Enclosures*) because you live or own property within the boundaries of the Lake Onalaska District which comprises the shoreland area within portions of the Towns of Campbell and Onalaska. The Lake Onalaska District is a special purpose unit of government created by La Crosse County in 1975 under Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes after receiving a petition by citizens from the Towns of Campbell and Onalaska.

At each annual Lake District meeting residents vote to elect lake district commissioners for a three year term. You will be voting on two commissioner positions this year. A commissioner job description is included with this mailing.

Meeting Notice & Agenda for the 2025 46th Annual Lake Onalaska District Meeting

Budget Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Introductions
2. Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting
3. Treasurer Report 2024-2025 Financial Statement
4. LOPRD Audit for 2024-2025
5. Public Comment
6. Agency Reports
7. State of the Lake Report
8. Consider Expansion of Lake District Boundaries
9. Consider & Act on 2025-2026 Budget
10. Commissioner Election with Updated Information
11. Dredge Project Update
12. Set Next Year's Annual Meeting Date & Location
13. Adjourn

Marc A Schultz

Questions or assistance, call Marc A Schultz at 608.792.1445

Enclosures: Cover Letter with Agenda, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2024-2025 Financial Statement, 2024-2025 Audit, 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, and Commissioner Position Description



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2024-25

Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation 45th District Annual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

City of Onalaska – Council Chambers
425 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650

Budget Hearing, 6:30 p.m.

Marc Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Kim Smith welcomed those attending the meeting.

Mark Tierney reviewed the **Proposed 2024-2025 Budget**. A concern was raised at the meeting as the Proposed Budget was not included with the Annual Meeting mailing which then did not provide much time for people to review the information prior to tonight's meeting.

The motion to close the Budget Hearing was made by Dave Paudler and seconded by Betty DeBoer. MPU The meeting was closed at 6:50 p.m.

Recorded Hearing (audio track) m4a

Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Steve Anderson, Fritz Funk, Connie Welch, Eric Engholdt, Krista Engholdt, Dave Balduzzi, Mike Todd, Ben Lachecki, Sue Paudler, Nancy Wan, Betty DeBoer, Jeff Fimreite, David Paudler, Don Brenengen, Beth Sherden, Dave Sherden, Kim Smith, Kristina Pechacek, Tim Miller, Katie Sellers, Emy Monroe, Robin Schmidt, Mike Bohn, Nancy Whalen, Jim Whalen, Don Welch, Brian Tippetts, Donna Kateley, Claudia Schneller-Melby, Jim Melby, Greg Zitzmann, Dallas Werner, Gordon Bornitz, Marc Schultz, and Barbara Friell

Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions

The Annual meeting was called to order by Chairman Marc Schultz at 7:00 p.m. in Onalaska City Hall Council Chambers. Marc Schultz welcomed Mayor Kim Smith, Commissioners were introduced. Commissioners present were Fritz Funk, Ben Lachecki, Dave

Balduzzi, Barbara Friell, Marc Schultz, Mark Tierney and Connie Welch.

Item 2: Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting

Motion to approve the 2024 LOPRD Minutes was made by Jeff Fimreite and seconded by Mike Todd.

Item 3: Treasurer Report 2023-2024 Financial Statement (Income & Expenses)

The Treasurer, Mark Tierney reported during the Budget Hearing. Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Financial Statement was made by Jeff Fimreite and seconded by Mike Todd. MPU

Item 4: Public Comment

Jeff Fimreite shared that no report has come back regarding the results of the Inspection.

Item 5: Consider and act on proposal 2024-2025 Budget

Marc Schultz explained that the budget term is from this annual meeting until the next year's annual meeting. Betty DeBoer made a motion to defer this agenda item to the 2025-2026 Budget year. Sue Paudler seconded the motion. MPU

Item 6: Proposed Tax discussion and action for the 2024-2025 Budget cycle

Will defer this item for the 2025-2026 Budget cycle.

Item 7: Election of Commissioners

Motion made from the floor and seconded from the floor.

Item 8: Boat Travel Channel Update

An update was provided.

Item 9: Discuss and act on Bylaws

A motion was made by Fritz Funk to

function under the Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 33. The motion was seconded by Dave Paudler.

Item 10: State of the Lake Report

The Report will be made accessible via the LOPRD website which will provide a link to the La Crosse County website. www.Lakeonalaska.org

Item 11: Set next year's annual meeting date - move to November

Discussion regarding when the meeting in 2025 could be held. A motion to meet between November 1st and the 30th, 2025 was made by Jeff Fimreite and seconded by Dave Balduzzi. The motion passed with one vote opposed. The Wisconsin Statute Chapter 33 does state when a Lake District's Annual Meeting should be held. The LOPRD will follow the dates set by Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin State Statute.

Item 12: Dredge Project Update

Mike Todd provided an update on the Lake Onalaska Dredging Project.

Item 13: Agency Reports

The following Agencies provided updates.

Tim Miller - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Randy Hines - U.S.G.S. Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
<https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20221039>

Item 14. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. was made by Jeff Fimreite and seconded by Mike Todd.

Additional documents can be found at www.Lakeonalaska.org



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2024-25 Financial Statement

Financial Transactions
Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District

REGULAR CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 9-5-2024 \$76,662.88

Transactions

August 26, 2024	\$50,000.00	Dredge Project Donation Pass Through
August 26, 2024	\$5,000.00	Dredge Cut Donation
August 29, 2024	\$273.00	Annual Meeting Expense
September 17, 2024	\$45.27	Office Supplies- Barbara
December 24, 2024	\$12.54	Office Max- Barbara
December 24, 2024	\$8.42	Office Max- Barbara
March 17, 2025	\$79.13	La Crosse Mail
May 19, 2025	\$169.85	La Crosse Mail Social
July 31, 2025	\$10,000.00	Surface Water Grant Payment to UW-L for Lake Study
		DNR will reimburse Lake District \$7,000.00
August 4, 2025	\$175.55	La Crosse Mail Pontoon Tour
October 23, 2025	\$659.47	Barbara's Annual Meeting Expense
Balance 10-23-2025	\$10,414.46	

WEED CUTTING CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 8-31-2024 \$21,586.21

Transactions

September 5, 2024	\$1,133.33	Sailboat Club Bay Cutting
October 25, 2025	\$11,333.33	Schafer's Marine Services
Balance 10-25-2025	\$9,119.55	

Lake District Expenditures on Weedcutting

2016	\$0
2017	\$0
2018	\$0
2019	\$140
2020	\$14,633
2021	\$17,000
2022	\$9,833
2023	\$11,333
2024	\$1,133
2025	\$11,133



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2025-26 Proposed Budget Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District

EXPENSES

Cutting Public Boat Travel Channels (2X)	\$12,464
Annual Lake District Convention (Travel)	\$500
Annual Meeting (Print & Mail Notice)	\$600
Annual Meeting (Handouts & AV)	\$300
Pontoon Tour (Print & Mail Postcard)	\$250
Social (Light Snack & Print & Mail Postcard)	\$450
Administration (Copies, Mail, Printing)	\$400
Miscellaneous (Fees, Printing, Legal)	\$1,000

TOTAL **\$15,964**

INCOME

La Crosse County Donation	\$10,000
Town of Onalaska Donation	\$3,000
Town of Campbell Donation	\$2,000
Sailing Club Donation	\$250
Explore La Crosse Donation	\$500

TOTAL **\$15,750**

Regular Checking Account Balance	\$10,414.46
Weed Cutting Checking Account Balance	\$9,219.56

TOTAL **\$19,634.02**



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Audit 2024-25

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District, also called the Lake District or LOPRD, requested an audit of the last year as part of their plan to be consistent with Chapter 33. The Lake District Commissioners has developed job descriptions and by law changes to be consistent with Chapter 33.

The Lake District provides a valuable service to the community with unpaid board members and minimal budget. The people who serve on the board typically stay for multiple years, which is a reflection of their dedication.

I served 9 years as Lake District Treasurer and enjoyed many educational and fundraising projects. I was asked to do the audit due to that work and history of administering a home care business and multiple grant programs. The five accounting courses have been helpful for many administrative roles on committees and leadership teams. I am not an accountant but was viewed as knowledgeable about Lake District expenses.

Barb Friell, Secretary, and Marc Schultz, Chairman, spoke individually with me explaining treasurer reports. Their description of expenses were consistent. I reviewed the last 6 years of bank statements with Marc finding that the expenses were consistent with expectations.

The weed cutting account showed a couple expenses and fundraising deposits. Funds also came from the county.

The general account showed expenses for mailings and no other unexpected expenses.

The Treasurer reports often were derived from the bank reflecting the balances. Occasionally, the Treasurer did not submit a report at the Lake District meeting because he was not attending the meeting or did not think a report was needed due to no activity on the account.

Recommendations:

The annual audit is good method for reviewing procedures with Commissioners. The annual audit would also help with detection of unexpected or inappropriate withdrawals.

The Treasurer should submit a report with each meeting to be consistent with good accounting practices. The Lake District Commissioners would need to decide the best method for delivery of that report.

Treasurer needs to prepare a budget for the annual meeting, which is consistent with good accounting practices.

The bank accounts need to be available to at least two people to review as needed through the year. Good accounting practices include oversight of others.

Separating the weed cutting account from the general account is useful for clarity to Commissioners and members.

Kathryn Lammers RN, PHN, PhD



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COMMISSIONER JOB DESCRIPTION

Five members of the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District seven member Board of Commissioners are elected at the annual meeting by a plurality vote. Two members are appointed. One by the La Crosse County and one by the Town of Onalaska. A full term in office is 3 years; seats come up for election on a staggered basis. The Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District Board of Commissioners is broadly responsible for the governance of the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District. Except for powers reserved to the electors and property owners at the annual meeting, all the powers of the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District are exercised by the board of commissioners.

- Know and effectively articulate the mission, purpose, goals, policies, and programs of the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District.
- Attend annual Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District meeting, monthly/periodic board meetings and committee meetings to which assigned.
- Chair and/or participate in at least one Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District board committee.
- Commit time, thought, and effort to the Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District.
- Participate in establishing and enforcing organizational policies.
- Accept responsibility for the Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District's financial accountability.
- Identify friends and associates who may be prospective Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District or board members.
- Participate in electing Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District officers and their periodic evaluation.
- Support and advise the Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District's chairperson as appropriate.
- Participate actively in assessing the Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District's performance and setting its strategic goals and objectives.
- Represent the Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District to the community.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Attend and complete the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention's Basic Lake Board Member Training at the earliest opportunity.

Minimum Qualifications:

- To qualify for commissioner elections, a person must be either a resident elector or property owner in the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District. The ownership qualification is satisfied if a person is an official representative, officer or employee of any trust, foundation, corporation, association or organization which is an owner of property within the district.
- To be appointed by the town, city, or village a person would be a member of the governing body or a resident of the district who owns property within the district.
- The Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District Board meets immediately after every Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District annual meeting to select three officers (*chair, secretary, treasurer*) from among themselves. Elected and appointed Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District commissioners are eligible for officer positions.
- Become familiar with the role of the three river management agencies: US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Services, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding use, regulation and each agencies rules and public policy.

How to begin:

People seeking to be elected to the Lake Onalaska Protection & Rehabilitation District board of commissioners are encouraged to attend one of the regular meetings of the Lake board to discuss details about declaring candidacy and the Lake District's voting process. People seeking to be appointed to the Lake District board are encouraged to connect with the president/mayor of the applicable town/city/village or the chair of the county's land and water conservation committee.

Signature

Printed Name

Date