



## Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District

# Meeting Minutes *(Draft)*

[www.LakeOnalaska.org](http://www.LakeOnalaska.org)

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
Location: Brice Prairie EMS & Rescue, with Zoom remote option

1. Call to Order by Chair Marc Schultz at 4:31pm.  
Commissioners present: Marc Schultz (remote), Tom Ready, Fritz Funk, Luke Marcou, Rob Gonzales. Dave Balduzzi. Others present included: Brad Dinsmoor (Remote), Robin Schmidt, Amy Noel (Remote), Amy (Remote), Barb Friell, Tim Miller, Jeff Fimreite.
2. Approve Minutes: Motion to approve as amended by Balduzzi/Gonzales, passed unanimously.
3. Approve Treasurer Report: No activity since last meeting. Motion to approve by Marcou/Balduzzi passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: Robin Schmidt recognized the challenges of expanding Lake District boundaries and proposed re-envisioning the mission of the Lake District to manage navigation access, consider administrating the USACE shorelands lease, apply for restoration and access grants, and participate or lead a Lake Onalaska Coordinating Committee of government entities and NGOs. Jeff Fimreite noted that in statute, the expansion process is either by landowner petition or County Board.
5. Discuss appointing a Lake District Commissioner: Dave Balduzzi suggested waiting until after the April election, and requesting that the Town of Campbell appoint or suggest a person. Chair Schultz will draft a letter to the Town of Campbell and send to the Secretary. The vacant position would be up for re-election in the fall of 2027 up for election for a subsequent 3-year term.
6. Discuss and act on Lake District Expansion Strategy: After discussion, a group consisting of Lake District Commissioners and members of the public will look further into expansion strategies, consider statutory constraints, and recommend which process to follow and what areas to expand into. Luke Marcou, Robin Schmidt, Marc Schultz and Jeff Fimreite volunteered for the group, to meet inperson after March 7. Chair Schultz noted the group should include supporting NGOs like LORC and BPCA. The group would have to follow open meetings procedures.
7. Dredge Project Update: Will finish by October, still \$100k short. Will have display at fishing derby.
8. Discuss funding sources: defer to expansion/Lake problem group. Chair Schultz noted that predictable and dependable sources of funding are needed. Chair Schultz will be drafting a letter to units of government who have previously contributed to the weedcutting program to continue their support, timed for late winter or early spring. Dave Balduzzi noted that the County approved \$10k only if the Lake District has a tax district in place, and recommended a 3 year commitment for funding contributions by the Towns of Onalaska and Campbell and La Crosse County. Subsequent meetings will discuss increasing the amounts requested. There was also a discussion of user fees.

9. Plan and act on summer public events: possible events include a pontoon tour, social, tabling at Rockin the Prairie and a dredge project show and tell after mobilization. Also the Deke Slayton Airfest for user engagement, but the next Airfest is not until June 2027.
10. Agency Reports: Tim Miller reported that there is a new Directors order to evaluate National Wildlife Refuges and fish hatcheries. Public distribution is being handled through the Friends groups. Access for hunting and fishing is a director priority as well as working with states, tribal authorities, and groups like the Lake District. Seasonals can now be hired again. To help with funding cuts, USFWS is combining resources among Districts. Tree planting in October did not happen because of the shutdown. Audubon was able to get some of them in the water. They will try again this spring. A new sediment team meeting planned. Tim would like to look at obstacles as agencies work together and how can we best navigate those obstacles.
11. Schedule next meeting: March 18, 430pm. Robin Schmidt noted that any group or committee of this the Lake District must follow open meetings laws.
12. Adjournment: Motion by Gonzales/Ready to adjourn passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Submitted by Fritz Funk, Secretary