Otter Lake Water Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

Chairman Jake Rettberg with all Commissioners present except Mike McCarthy and John Ulery convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm with John Gudgel arriving at 5:04 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, and Laura Sommerfeld

MINUTES:
David Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 14, 2026. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:
Ginger Barnes asked to be put on the Agenda to discuss lake usage. Darrell Moore, Karen Moore, Patrick McKarnen, and Amy McKarnen were also present. Ginger and the rest of the visitors were there to seek reinstatement of boat dock privileges at the McKarnen property. The property had been granted a boat dock under Robert & Virginia McKarnen as original landowners. As of 2017 the Board had decided to withdraw the option to allow the dock to stay on Otter Lake having concerns about pollution due to a recurring issue of a partially sunken boat. Ginger stated the property at that time was to a family member that is no longer allowed on the property and thinks that 9 years is enough time for them to be penalized. She also shared some concerns and pictures of other properties and docks and felt the McKarnen property was being discriminated against. After some discussion the Board decided to table the request until next meeting so they can be better prepared now that they know what the discussion is about.

Angela Verticchio and Emily Passalacqua our CPA's with Carlinville CPA Group, presented the Board the 2025 Audit. She mentioned that the Commission is in a really strong position financially and after some discussion, David Skinner approved the 2025 Audit as presented. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

BILL LIST:
Dave Skinner made a motion to approve the bills totaling $343,816.22 for payment. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:
Park Financial Report:
Total income for July was $30,804.68 with a year to date of $336,626.48.
Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for July is $47,328.66. With a total owed to date of $0.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:
Shannon Collins reported:
Fourth of July Festivities - This year's fireworks show was a good one, I had a lot of complements. We had Heaters Chicken Truck here from 12-9. It was very popular. We didn't have the cardboard boat race this year, and honestly no one seemed to really mind. The firework show was from what I heard was one of the best its ever been.

Summer Help- Has continued to do an excellent job both in the bait shop and outside. The outside crew re-roofed and stained the bathroom at the boat ramp.

Waiting List- we currently have 3 open spots and 153 people on the waiting list.

Camper Appreciation Party- The annual party is scheduled for August 22nd. Otter Lake will provide fried chicken and the DJ.

OLD BUSINESS:
None to report

NEW BUSINESS:
Joe Hogan presented Ordinance 2026-01: An Ordinance Establishing User Fees For The Otter Lake Area, Macoupin County, Illinois which has been prepared with the new fees as discussed during the July 14th meeting. These fees will be for the 2027 Season. Jake Rettberg made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:
Joe Hogan reported:

- Bathymetric Study- Our watershed consultants, Spheros Environmental, were out in the late spring of this year to determine how much sediment we were able to remove our first year of dredging the sediment trap basin on the north side of the lake. The results are very clear that we are getting substantial removal in the areas we have dredged. As shown in the slides, we have gotten between +1-2' of depth change in those areas, which equates to a total of 81,534 cubic ft or 1.9 acre-ft of added storage. That is a total increase of 6.9% capacity.

- 319 Grant- We have submitted our first quarterly reports to the IEPA. The goals for the rest of this year will be getting materials ordered, a sign made for the project, and to start a mobilization plan for next spring.

- Operator Training- On July 23rd, Central Illinois Water Plant Operators Association (CIWPOA) held a 4-hour training session at our maintenance building's meeting room. We had over 20 operators attend. The topics included valve maintenance and repair, fundamentals of online water quality monitoring, and disinfection/turbidity monitoring.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:
Denzel Jines reported:

- Water Quality- July 2026 saw an average lake temp of 79 degrees and an average pH of 8.1. The lake level was recorded at 620'. Full pool. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are currently operating the UV system DIS mode only. We did adjust our carbon feed rate to obtain additional removal of taste and odor causing compounds.

  MIB and Geosmin Sample Results
  - July 13, 2026, Raw Geosmin 6.1 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2 ng/L
  - July 13, 2026, Raw MIB 14 ng/L and finished MIB 9.2 ng/L

- Treatment Plant- Stan and I completed the annual RPZ testing at the plant. We have four backflow prevention devices. All passed inspection and were found to be in good working order.

- Distribution System- The crew has continued swapping out customer meters. We are approaching 50% completion. The crew did encounter a few meters that required replacement of the setters. The crew exposed the corp stop at the main to shut the service line down to get them swapped out.

OTHER BUSINESS:
None to report

At 6:28 pm, Jake Rettberg made a motion to adjourn. Larry Mouser seconded the motion. With no further business to discuss the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The next Commission Meeting will be at the Commission Office - 6475 W Montgomery Road in Virden on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

Laura Sommerfeld

Approved by Board 09/08/2026