

Otter Lake Water Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025

Chairman Jake Rettberg with all Commissioners present except David Skinner and John Ulery convened the regular meeting of the Otter Lake Water Commission at 5:00 pm. Others present included Joe Hogan, Denzel Jines, Shannon Collins, Scott Hunt, Engineer, and Laura Sommerfeld.

MINUTES:

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 08, 2025. Larry Mouser seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote, with John Gudgel voting present.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:

Scott Hunt the Commissions Engineer with Whks & Co was present to give the Board an update and answer any questions regarding the Route 104 Water Main Project. The Project is expected to be completed by the end of October. Scott also presented to the Board an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement for additional construction observation for the project. As discussed with the General Manager the engineering company would provide an additional 338 hrs of construction observation with an increase of \$44,000 for these services. Terry Davis made a motion to accept Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Whks. John Gudgel seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

BILL LIST:

Mike McCarthy made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$272,416.99 for payment. Jake Rettberg seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

RECREATION:

Park Financial Report:

Total income for July was \$26,560.31 with a year to date of \$349,139.44.

Total expense Otter Lake Park owes the Water Commission for July is \$26,810.46. With a total owed to date of \$26,810.46.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:

Shannon Collins reported:

- Camper Benefit- A handful of campers came together to put a benefit together for a long-time camper on the west side who suffered a stroke. Breakfast was provided by the campers. In addition, there was a raffle and a silent auction. It was a great turn out and so nice to see everyone come together. The benefit raised over \$12,000.00
- Fourth of July Festivities- This year's fireworks show was a good one, I had a lot of compliments. We had Heaters Chicken Truck here from 12-9. It was very popular. When it came to the cardboard boat race, sadly there were only three boats in total, and 6 in the kayak race. It's possible those numbers were down as they were done on a Sunday.
- Summer Help- The crew has done a great job this summer. I have placed a soft ad for help in the bait shop as all the kids are returning to school and sports and my one primary bait shop employee will reach her 1000 hours soon.
- Maintenance- We are now down one of the trucks, it was on its last leg and we ran it until we couldn't anymore. We did get three new weed eaters, the ones we had were starting to cost more to fix than they were worth.

- Waiting List- We currently have one open spot and 168 people on the waiting list.
- Camper Appreciation Party- The annual party is scheduled for August 16th.

The Board was all mailed a packet that a camper at lot 38as – Lora Lee Mueller dropped off at the Commission office. Ms. Mueller has a complaint regarding a dock that was leased to lot 38s instead of her. She feels she is the rightful owner of the dock as she had purchased it. Ms. Mueller does show documentation of her private purchase of the dock. The seller mentioned that the dock had to be removed by Nov 1st. Per park rules any camper not wanting to renew their lease must remove all structures, if any structures remain it becomes the property of the Commission. Since the dock was not removed and it was in good condition, the Commission gave the new tenant at 38s the option to have the dock when they signed their lease agreement, which they desired, it was then added to their lease and paid for.

Ms. Mueller claims she had spoken with Shannon several times since her private purchase of the dock. Unfortunately, Shannon does not recall any conversation with Ms. Mueller regarding the dock. The park also does not have any documentation or payment from Ms. Mueller for the lease of this dock. After some conversation the Board feels that Ms. Mueller did not follow the rules in place and therefore has no ownership right to the dock. Jake Rettberg made a motion to deny Ms. Mueller's request for dock 38s. Terry Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed increases to some of the campground user fees at the meeting last month. An Ordinance was then created with the changes as discussed and is being presented to the Board for approval. Larry Mouser made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02: An Ordinance Establishing User Fees For The Otter Lake Area, Macoupin County, Illinois. Mike McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Joe Hogan reported:

- Operator Class- Our small operator group hosted an educational meeting in Jacksonville, IL. The meeting had over 20 water operators from across Central Illinois in attendance. The event gave the operators 4 hours of continuing education units. The topics included water tower maintenance, boil order requirements, and updates to drinking water rules and regulations.
- Landowner Dock- We have noticed that a landowner next to the lake has put an unapproved dock on the lake. We have had a history with this property owner in the past.
- Thayer Tank Warranty- Denzel and I met with Dixon Engineering to review their warranty inspection. There were some coating failures that will need addressed by the contractor. We are in the process of scheduling them to come back for the repairs. The cathodic protection equipment was also tested. All of that equipment is working properly.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Denzel Jines reported:

- Water Quality- July 2025 saw an average lake temp of 79 degrees and an average pH of 8.0. The lake level was recorded at 620'. MIB and Geosmin sample results are listed below. We are currently operating the UV system DIS mode only.

MIB and Geosmin Sample Results

- June 30, 2025, Raw Geosmin 6.8 ng/L and finished Geosmin <2.0 ng/L
 - June 30, 2025, Raw MIB 14 ng/L and finished MIB 12 ng/L
- Dredging- The crew dredged several days in early July. The last two weeks of July we postponed dredging operations due to rain. We did not want to stir up the sediment then have it wash into the lake with the amount of water spilling over the in-lake dam. The crew will resume dredging in August.
- Turbidimeter- We are currently utilizing the Hach 1720E low range turbidimeters to monitor turbidity in the raw water, turbidity coming off the cones, turbidity coming off the filters, and the turbidity entering the clear well. Our units were phased out 8 years ago and were no longer supported by Hach as of 3 years ago. We have been able to keep our units running but getting parts to keep them running is getting more difficult. We are doing a trial run with a new turbidimeter. The new turbidimeter is compatible with our scada system. We will be looking into upgrading these in the future. We will budget for them and do this as a special project.
- Vac Trailer- We've gotten our vac trailer back from Vermeer Midwest. They installed a new motor on the unit under warranty. We tested the unit out after receiving it and it is operating normally.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jake Rettberg was wanting to discuss the possibility of continuing to build another new shower house when the campground was closed after this season even though it was not a budgeted item. He felt that it could be done with the increases to the user fees and/or maybe even have the Park get a loan. As Joe Hogan discussed when he presented the Budget for approval to the Board last December, he wanted to take a year off from the shower houses. Unfortunately, the slight increase in the user fees does not pay for the huge costs incurred for the construction of the shower houses. Also, with the current major water main project on Route 104, there would not be sufficient time available to devote to a shower house project. The plan is to have the construction of a shower house to be in the Budget for 2026 with a completion of the shower house in 2027 before the water is turned on for the season at the campground.

At 6:26 pm Mike McCarthy made a motion to adjourn. John Gudgel 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 9, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

Laura Sommerfeld
MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD 10/14/2025