

Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting Thursday, January 23, 2025

Attendees:, Rob Cribbie, Richard Hood, Naama Levy-Cooperman, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

Regrets: David Amy, David Deeks, Brad Chittick

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Kerry Mueller started the Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm. Quorum was confirmed. The meeting was recorded with the permission of everyone involved. No pecuniary interests were declared by any board members.

2. Agenda: The proposed agenda was reviewed, and no additions or subtractions were made.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 15th meeting were approved via email and are posted on the website.

4. Treasurer's Report: The 2024 budget and actuals were presented.

- Revenues were budgeted for \$12,932, with actual revenues of \$14,307.
- Expenses were budgeted for \$14,382, with actual expenses of \$13,642.
- The budgeted loss was \$1,450, but the actual net income was \$665.
- Individual expenses and revenues were listed.
- The total environment and reserve fund balance is \$65,454, and the operating fund balance is \$12,013.

Motion: A motion to approve the year-end statements as of December 31, 2024

- Moved by Kerry Mueller
- Seconded by Rob Cribbie, unanimously approved
- **Motion carried**

5. Lake Stewardship Program and Aquatic Report: Notes regarding the Lake Stewardship Program were reviewed. The aquatic report is posted on the website. It is a long, detailed overview of the aquatic environment.

6. Marina Parking Update: David Deeks was to contact Mario Buszynski regarding parking issues at the marina. Awaiting update. The parking lines have been painted, and it is hoped that this will prevent people from parking trailers in the parking spots.

New Business

1. Update on MZO and Hall Construction Developments:

- A letter was written regarding the MZO development but not the Hall Construction Development. Kirby Hall's presentation to council was well-received, with only minor concerns raised by neighbors. The development of 167 housing units is expected to be approved and may start in 2025.

- The board supported a motion from Mario Buzynski to have a public meeting regarding the Seguin MZO. The motion was withdrawn due to the proposed timing at the end of March since it was considered to be too soon by other councillors. Seguin's 2024 \$900,000 expenditure to have a Master Plan created for the MZO development has not yet been completed. However the CEO, Jason Inwood, will bring forward a Master Plan timeline to council at the next meeting in February. The Master Plan reports should be available to the public as well by the summer. A motion to have a Public Meeting may be re-tabled.

2. 2025 OLRA BBQ:

- The barbecue is scheduled for **August 9th from 12 pm to 3 pm** at the Foley fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are booked, but the contract is still pending.
- It was suggested that the same food plan from last year be used, with possible tweaks to quantities. The games and passport/ticket system were popular and should be continued. There were discussions about group activities.
- Signs may be made without dates to save money (as they can be reused from year to year).
- The first barbecue committee meeting is scheduled for February 26th.

3. 2025 Golf Tournament:

- The golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 26th at the Parry Sound golf course. The event is planned for 24-36 golfers. Golfers will pay their own fees, and there will likely be no discount.
- Rick is looking into lunch options.
- The goal is to build community, and there will be prizes (the committee is still working on how to obtain/handle prizes).
- Regarding costs per golfer, the cart would be split two ways, and thus the total cost per person would be approximately \$100 (with tax) for 18 holes with a golf cart. The organizing members will golf first to set up for the event.

4. Other Activities OLRA can promote or organize in 2025:

- A book club was discussed as a potential activity. The book club may start in May or June with one book per month and meet in person.
- The book club may be called the Otter Lake Book Club instead of the OLRA book club.
- The book club may be advertised in the April newsletter. Naama will organize.
- It was suggested that members of the book club could select future books.
- A Bio Blitz as an additional activity will be discussed with the barbecue committee.

5. **Potential New Board Candidates:** The board discussed potential new board members and noted Brenda has good ideas. The nominating committee consists of Kerry, Brad, and Naama. Nicole may be interested in being on the board again if she is not the secretary. The board discussed the importance of a "good news" section of the newsletter to encourage members to get involved with the board.

6. Proposed Lake Steward Initiatives for 2025:

- The lake partner program will be done again this year, and Brian will provide bottles in April. The program costs nothing as it is funded by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- The board will continue with Benthic monitoring with up to the \$2,000 allocated.
- The eDNA sampling program has been running for 3 years and has discovered more fish species than the MNR netting program.
- It was agreed that up to \$2,000 will be spent on lake water testing for bacteria and contaminants, focusing on drinking and raw water samples. The Near North Labs in North Bay charges the following (plus HST) per sample to test for:
 - tannins - \$40
 - dissolved organic carbon - \$30
 - total coliform, E.coli, general bacteria population - \$23.00.
 - The cost of a 50 parameter test is \$385 including shipping.

7. **2025 Budget:** The budget was reviewed with the addition of \$2,000 for lake water testing for bacteria and contaminants, leaving the eDNA sampling at \$0. The projected net income for 2025 is \$4,109.

Motion: A motion to approve the budget with an additional \$2,000 for lake water testing was made and unanimously approved.

- Moved by Kerry Mueller
- Seconded by Naama Cooperman, unanimously approved
- **Motion carried**

9. **Spring Newsletter Planning:** The spring newsletter will include information about the book club and the "good news" section.

10. **Other Business:** There was no other business.

8. **Adjournment:** Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 8:31 pm.

Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- Cl: Chloride (salt)
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition
- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DO: Dissolved Oxygen
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- KPI: Key Performance Indicator
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MMAH: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MZO: Ministerial Zoning Order
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- OLT: Ontario Land Tribunal
- ONCA: Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police
- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PPS: Provincial Policy Statement
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk
- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes
- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STA: Short Term Accommodation
- STR: Short Term Rental
- TC: Transport Canada
- WDALB: Where Does a Lake Begin