



**Regular Board Meeting
June 4, 2024
4:00 p.m.
Agenda**

Call to Order

Approve Minutes of the May Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Cost-Share

Old Business

1. Crailsheim Project Update
2. Carp Dumpster Experiment Update
3. Bella Park Trail, Cameras, Signs and Picnic Tables

Administrator's Report

New Business

1. 2023 Audit Schedule

Permits

1. Dan Wagner – new home construction

Set Date of Next Regular Meeting

Adjourn

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 7, 2024

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The April minutes were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the report and pay the bills. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mahlberg and Livdahl met with Houston Engineering staff to discuss progress on the Crailsheim Pond project. The pond needs to be redesigned to meet both federal and state dam safety standards. The top of the redesigned dam will be one foot lower and the pool level will be 2.5 feet lower. The pond will remove about 257 pounds of phosphorus per year – 21% lower than the original design. The project must receive a section 401 water quality certification from MPCA that may include conditions imposed on the project. This will take 120 days. Permits are also needed from Worthington and the DNR. It is possible that the permit conditions could be known, the designs completed, and the project advertised for bids in August.

A dumpster was placed in Centennial Park on April 15th with decals stating “No Dumping – For Carp Disposal Only” in English and Spanish. To date, no carp, but a few bigmouth buffalo, bullheads and catfish have been thrown in the dumpster. Carp or buffalo seem to be spawning now in Whisky Ditch and around the lake.

Two trail cameras and camera warning signs were purchased for Bella Park. The signs and cameras will be installed soon. The sheriff's office will be consulted about security for the park and camera placement.

The picnic table stolen from Bella Park was returned this week. Two picnic table kits and lumber were purchased at Menards. The new tables will be assembled, painted and delivered to the park before Memorial Day.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Windy and wet weather has prevented Les Johnson and his crew from doing the planned prairie vegetation burns at Bella Park and the St. John property. Les hopes to do them when the weather permits.

The Prairie View water quality pond is a few inches above the riprap spillway elevation today. The 15” low flow tube valve was opened yesterday.

Matt Tripp's class was given a guided tour last week of Whiskey Ditch and the Prairie View pond areas. Discussion included sediment and nutrient pollution entering Lake Okabena from urban and agricultural land.

NEW BUSINESS

The District will work with the DNR to hold a meeting with the Lake Ocheda riparian landowners during the third week of August to discuss changing the lake's plan to allow for a full season water level drawdown.

An audit engagement letter from Katie M. Jacobson, CPA was discussed. Bousema moved to sign the engagement letter with an estimated cost \$3000 to \$4000 to do the audit. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on June 4, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Milbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.