

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted from the Nobles County Public Works facility meeting room using Zoom video meeting software. Present on-site was Dan Livdahl, administrator. Attending remotely were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present from offsite locations were: Al Langseth, Lake Ocheda riparian landowner; Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed. Milbrandt moved to approve the minutes. Rogers 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 Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The results of the Lake Ocheda drawdown were discussed. A fish kill occurred in each of the basins but it is unknown if enough carp were killed to improve water quality and promote aquatic vegetation. District managers and staff observed a large number of dead fish washed ashore on the north east side of the Lake Ocheda east basin. Al Langseth requested financial assistance to hire a tracked skid loader to remove the fish from the shoreline and pile them above the ordinary high water line. Rogers moved to cost-share at a rate of 75% of the actual cost, not to exceed \$500. The cost-share would be available for just this year and the landowner will need to show a paid bill before reimbursement. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The DNR stocked pre-spawn perch today in each of the Lake Ocheda basins. They plan to stock northern pike fry or fingerlings in the future.

Maggie Gross wrote in a email that the DNR will do a comprehensive survey of Lake Ocheda in August. District staff will do some monitoring and surveying twice per month beginning in May or June.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl will meet with the Worthington City Council at a work session on April 21st to discuss the Lake Okabena carp control efforts. Managers were invited to participate in the session.

The district purchased a bundled version of Quickbooks Pro 2021 and a one year payroll subscription. The bundle was cheaper than buying the software separately. Past updates have caused time consuming setup and compatibility issues.

A beaver dam at the northern end of the district's Lake Bella property is causing water to backup onto the Worthington Wells WMA property and into the County Highway 4 culverts. The DNR Area Wildlife Manager is not worried about flooding, but the area will be monitored for signs of flooding at the culvert and on surrounding agricultural land.

Pheasants Forever will hold a wildlife tour this summer. They will be stopping in Bella Park and using the restrooms. Options for repairing the restrooms and renting portable toilets was discussed.

Livdahl will begin locating radio tagged carp in Lake Okabena this week.

The manhole cover and low flow tile will remain open in the Prairie View pond until vegetation is better established on the banks. Sediment deposited on the filters since they were cleaned last year will be removed as time permits.

NEW BUSINESS

Alec Lackmann, University of Minnesota, Duluth, submitted a \$500,000 LCCMR grant application to study using bowfishing to remove common carp from lakes while preserving native bigmouth buffalo fish. The district is listed as a collaborator on the grant application.

The May agenda will include a discussion about whether to begin holding in-person board meetings, continue with Zoom meetings or use a combination of both.

PERMITS

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permit applications.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new playground area and restrooms in Chautauqua Park.

Johnson Builders and Realty – to implement the stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a condominium duplex in the Cherrywood Addition, Worthington.

Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 4, 2021 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Meeting adjourned.