

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 5, 2022

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Kari Lucin, Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

After consulting with Mahlberg and Milbrandt, Livdahl signed a \$4000 Houston Engineering scope of services modification to do an updated survey of the ISD 518 Crailsheim site and modify the water quality project feasibility study to include a smaller pond and flooding footprint. The survey is tentatively scheduled for next week and other analysis should be completed soon thereafter.

Scott Deslauriers said in February that he hoped to remove carp from Lake Okabena before ice out at the end of March. This did not happen.

District Advisory Committee membership was discussed. Steve Bousema moved to appoint Hyunmyeong Goo, Worthington Assistant Engineer. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The office desktop computer was replaced last month for about \$1000. In addition, a one-year subscription to QuickBooks Pro software and the payroll service was purchased.

Water is about six inches deep on the Prairie View pond filter benches today. The sand filters seem to be working. Most of the water leaving the pond is still flowing out through the open manhole.

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan advisory committee met on March 23rd to discuss the results of the winter 2021-2022 lake level drawdown. No lake-wide fish kill occurred. Another drawdown will not be attempted for three to five years. Sampling will be done monthly this year from May through September to see if the drawdowns improved water quality. If submerged vegetation is observed in the lake, a species and abundance survey will be conducted in August. Perch will be stocked in the lake this spring. Northern pike may also be stocked if the DNR has a source of fish.

Mahlberg, Ingenthron and Livdahl installed the Ocheda dam stoplogs and lowered the fish screens on March 24th. The water level was about 0.5 feet below the overflow elevation at the time and has risen about 0.3' since then.

Beavers have been building dams in the 310th Street culverts since closing the Ocheda dam cut off flow to the stream. They will likely continue building until water begins flowing over the lake dam and the Ocheda River flow resumes.

NEW BUSINESS

Langseth described an event for Upward Bound students on April 23rd. The Prairie Ecology Bus will transport students to the event and provide environmental programs. Rogers moved to approve \$700 for the Upward Bound ecology bus

programs. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none.

Motion carried.

Moving the District's checking accounts from Wells Fargo and Bank of the West to locally owned banks was discussed. Livdahl and Ingenthron will research local alternatives and suggest options to the board at a future meeting.

Joe Vander Kooi applied to Nobles County for conditional permit to expand some existing Ocheda Dairy buildings in the County Highway 57 setback area. The public hearing will occur in April. The OOWD will require an erosion control permit application before construction occurs.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2022 in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.