

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 4, 2023

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: Kari Lucin, Globe reporter; Al Langseth, district resident; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

Rogers moved to approve the March 7, 2023 board meeting minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Bousema 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 Crailsheim water quality pond site will be surveyed when the snow has melted and it is not too muddy for work.

Advisory committee membership was discussed. Doug Anton asked last year to be replaced and John Shea is no longer the SWCD manager. Tom Ahlberg and Scott Runck agreed to serve on the committee. Ingenthron moved to replace Anton and Shea with Ahlberg and Runck. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Advisory committee membership will be discussed further at the May meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Significant winter fish kills occurred in Bella and Ocheda lakes. It is unknown if the change in population densities will significantly improve water quality this year.

The Olson Trust meeting is scheduled for April 11th at City Hall. Livdahl will attend and present the 2022 Carp Solutions project report for Lake Okabena that they paid for last year.

The beaver dam on district property downstream of the Worthington Wells WMA was discussed. The dam is backing up water to the County Highway 4 culverts and may be contributing to nearby cropland flooding.

The cost of the annual Quickbooks software and payroll subscription has doubled since last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Okabena and Ocheda lakes water quality sampling will be done monthly June through September this year. Purchasing sampling kits for harmful algae bloom toxin monitoring was discussed.

Management of Bella Park was discussed. Mahlberg will mow the trails again as needed.

Carp solutions will be contacted for advice on next steps for keeping the Lake Okabena carp density below the water quality degradation tipping point.

The 2022 Financial Audit report was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the audit. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit.

City of Worthington - to perform sediment and erosion control during replacement of the parking lot at the municipal liquor store.

Ingenthron 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 2, 2023, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.