

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
July 5, 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: Tom Ahlberg, Advisory Committee member and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

Rogers moved to approve the June 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. The first half of the 2023 levy was deposited in the checking account at the First State Bank SW. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The legal descriptions for the Crailsheim pond project temporary and permanent easements were delivered to Todd Ahlquist in the middle of June. The ISD 518 Operations Committee is scheduled to review a draft of the easement at their meeting on July 11th. The OOWD will review the draft when it arrives and review it officially at the August board meeting.

Prairie View pond filter bench maintenance was discussed. Trees growing around the filters and on the dam need to be removed. The remaining sand in the filter benches also needs to be removed and replaced with clean material. Bousema moved to hire Henning Construction to remove the trees. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Ingenthron moved to get bids to remove and replace the sand in the filter benches. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Jake Smith, Nobles County Parks Superintendent, was called to see if the dock can be lengthened and the boat landing improved at Pickerel Park. Jake said he will look into it.

Les Johnson is spraying cottonwood, mulberry and willow trees on the district's St. John property and the restored prairie acres at Bella Park. He will be reimbursed for the cost of the herbicide and reasonable expenses for the work.

Canada thistles and wild parsnips are abundant around the Prairie View pond and in Bella Park. Livdahl will spray thistles at the park and Bousema and Rogers will spray them at Prairie View.

Lake Okabena algae blooms will be tested for Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin toxins. Remarkably, there have been no algae blooms yet this year.

A doodle poll will be emailed soon to the advisory committee members to set a date for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposal from BiocharUs was not received before the meeting. It will be forwarded to the managers when it arrives.

A proposed 2024 budget must be published and a public hearing held before the middle of September. A draft budget will be reviewed at the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 1, 2023, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.