

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Nobles County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Two grant money direct deposits into the Bank of the West checking account were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A draft of the 2019 annual report was emailed to the managers for review before the meeting. Bousema moved to approve the report. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2020 annual plan was reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the plan. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A memo from Wenck biologist, Aaron Claus, describing carp management strategies. After staff reviews the memo, a scope of work will be developed for approval by the board. The potential to sein carp this spring as they move into Sunset Bay to spawn was discussed. Milbrandt moved to authorize Wenck to spend up to \$1000 to do research and preparation to sein carp from Lake Okabena this spring if the DNR doesn't object to the activity. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Wellhead Protection Partners Grant was discussed. A check for \$232,500 was approved from the Wellhead Protection Partners Grant funds to Nobles County Pheasants Forever to cover half the Drost property purchase cost. Approximately \$60,000 more is available to cover half of the closing expenses and habitat restoration activities costs during the grant period.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Scheduling an advisory committee meeting was discussed.

A Missouri River Watershed Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting will be held on March 11th in Luverne. An agenda will be mailed to the members soon.

Livdahl will attend the MAWD lobbying event will be on March 18 – 19 in St. Paul. He will also take a construction site stormwater management certification class on March 23 – 24 in Arden Hills.

NEW BUSINESS

Electing board officers were discussed. Rogers moved to keep the same officers positions. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The officer are:

Rolf Mahlberg – President
Casey Ingenthron – Vice President
Jeff Rogers – Secretary
Jay Milbrandt – Treasurer.

The winter drawdown to kill carp in Lake Ocheda probably wasn't successful. The schedule for installing the dam's stoplogs and fish screens this spring was discussed. A Lake Ocheda Management Advisory Team meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to determine the schedule for installing the stoplogs and recommend another drawdown attempt in August.

Livdahl signed a USFWS private lands prescribed burning agreement last week. Adjacent Bella Park prairie will be burned when the USFWS burns the Lake Bella Waterfowl Production Area.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 7, 2020 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Milbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Meeting adjourned.