

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**March 2, 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: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner and Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter.

The minutes of the February regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron 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. The report will be changed to show the automatic withdrawals for the health insurance and health savings account from the correct checking account. Bousema moved to approve the Treasurer's report with corrections and pay the bills. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The district subsidized Scott Deslauriers and his crew to remove carp from Lake Okabena. Fishing occurred on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 600 pounds of carp and 2000 pounds of Buffalo Fish were removed from the lake. The catch was too small to affect the population of carp in the lake. The catch was also too small to estimate the population in the lake using the PIT tagged fish. John Shea helped Nick Omodt measure and weigh the carp before the we hauled away. Deslauriers may try fishing again in the fall using a longer net.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations were low in all three Lake Ocheda basins when snow was covering the ice in February. Oxygen concentration are higher now. It is unknown if the oxygen levels were low long enough to kill a significant number for the lake's roughfish.

The draft of the 2021 Annual Plan was discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the plan. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The draft 2020 Annual Report was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the report. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Milbrandt, Mahlberg and Livdahl met via Zoom with Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering and John Landgaard and Dave Skog from ISD 518 to discuss water quality improvement and flood control alternatives on the Crailsheim property. The list of alternatives was narrowed down and further feasibility study done on those that remain.

Milbrandt, Mahlberg and Livdahl met via Zoom with Jeff Strom from Wenck to discuss alternatives for controlling carp populations in Sunset Bay. The alternatives presentation, created as a result of the meeting, was emailed to the managers. Livdahl will contract the Lake Okabena Improvement Association, Southwest Minnesota Fishing Club and City Council representative to discuss the alternatives.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A fish kill occurred in the Lake Bella dam spillway pool over the winter. The water had the strong hydrogen sulfide odor expected when low oxygen conditions persist long enough under the ice.

The timing for replacing the Lake Ocheda dam stoplogs was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 6, 2021 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Meeting adjourned.