

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 1, 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, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt 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 January regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A draft of the 2021 annual report was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the annual report. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2022 annual plan was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the annual plan and budget as presented. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mahlberg, Milbrandt and Livdahl met with John Landgaard to discuss the school board's expectations if a pond is built on their Crailsheim property. The school board wants the pond and project footprint to be between 20 and 30 acres. Chris Otterness was contacted about providing the engineering services needed to determine the cost and pollution removal capacity of a pond that size on the property. Houston Engineering will provide us with a service agreement in two to three weeks. Milbrandt and Mahlberg were appointed to review, and possibly approve the agreement, when it arrives.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The district's auditor suggested closing the Wells Fargo and Bank of the West checking accounts and opening replacement accounts at locally owned banks. This will be considered at a future meeting.

When last contacted, Scott Deslauriers planned to fish Lake Okabena in mid to late March. An updated services agreement was signed with Stantec to count, weigh, measure and scan carp if a large enough number are caught to complete a population estimate.

Lake Ocheda dissolved oxygen concentrations were high enough this winter to support fish. Since a winter fish kill did not occur, the DNR no longer plans to stock perch or northerns in the lake this spring.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations remained above 10 mg/L in Lake Okabena this winter, so the aerator was not turned on. DO levels were also high enough to support the fish stocked in the Prairie View ponds.

NEW BUSINESS

Electing 2022 board officer was discussed. Rogers move to keep the same officers as last year. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2022 officers are:

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

The board will appoint advisory committee members at a future meeting.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

City of Worthington – to implement the project stormwater pollution plan during Oxford Street reconstruction between McMillan Street and Smith Avenue.

City of Worthington – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a parking lot in Sunset Park.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a pedestrian bridge between Olson and Sunset parks.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of the Prairie Elementary and Cecilee Street trails.

City of Worthington – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during reconstruction of the recreational trail in Olson Park.

Independent School District 518 – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of an office addition at 117 Marine Avenue, Worthington.

Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 5, 2022 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.