

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**May 4, 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, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present from offsite locations were: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ingenthron and Livdahl participated in a Worthington City Council work session in April to update them on Lake Okabena carp population control activities and costs. Options for using Sunset Bay to exclude carp from spawning areas or trap them were also discussed. Worthington and the district will hold a public meeting with landowners around the bay and other interested parties. Additional carp control alternatives work by the consultants will be postponed until after the public meeting and a fall seining attempt. A bill for carp control program expenses will be resubmitted to the city for reimbursement.

Livdahl also met with the Olson Trust board about carp control. Arrangements will be made with the city finance staff to transfer the Trust money set aside for carp control to the district.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service completed a controlled burn on district property adjacent to their Bella Waterfowl Production Area last week. Livdahl will cut down the volunteer cottonwood trees that may have survived the fire.

Management of Bella Park was discussed. The DNR Trails and Waterways Division plans to repair the boat ramp this spring. There is evidence that the trails were used for horseback riding. Livdahl told a family of dirt bike riders that using them on the trails and dam is not allowed. The park was also used this spring to dispose of three dead pets. Installing trail cameras in the park was discussed. Livdahl will do some research about cameras and get back to the board.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The levels of Okabena and Ocheda lakes remain below the spillway elevation. Water ran out of the Lake Bella spillway for a few weeks this spring.

Livdahl cleaned trash and algae from the new carp screens installed on the college stormwater pond. The screens are easily plugged and may need to be modified in the future if they cause water to back up in the pond. Livdahl will also work with college staff to maintain the floating islands on pond.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Restarting in-person monthly board meetings was discussed. It was the consensus of the board that Zoom meetings are working pretty well at this time, and as long as the state allows it under the open meeting law, the managers should have the options of attending meetings electronically. The public works meeting room could be used for hybrid online and in-person meetings if social distancing and masks are used. Some audio and video equipment may need to be purchased to make the meeting a better experience for participants.

**PERMITS**

Bousema moved to approve the following permit application.

**City of Worthington** – to perform erosion and sediment control during reconstruction of sidewalks and portions of Clary Street and McMillian Street.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 1, 2021 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Meeting adjourned.

