

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 3, 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, Casey Ingenthron, 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 April regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The updated Crailsheim property water quality improvement project feasibility report will be completed before the end of May. It will be sent to the managers when it is received.

Options for opening a checking account at a locally owned bank were discussed. Ingenthron moved to open a business checking account at First State Bank Southwest and designate Dan Livdahl and all of the board of managers members as signatories. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Bella Park management was discussed. Mahlberg installed the dock at the boat landing in early April and will begin mowing the trail as needed in May. Mahlberg reported he arranged for Jay Jeppesen to replace the failed culvert and grade and add gravel to the park roads as needed.

It is unknown if Randy Erwin was successful at trapping beaver near the Ocheda dam or in the Ocheyedan river between County Highway 4 and Lake Bella. Beaver quit building dams at these locations, but that may be due to the increased river flow.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposal from Carp Solutions, Inc to determine the size of Okabena's carp population by installing PIT tags and catching fish in box nets was discussed. Utilizing box nets would demonstrate the feasibility of future carp removals using bated box nets. The district would need to recruit and organize volunteers, provide corn and bait traps, and dispose of the fish captured. Ingenthron moved to enter a contract with Carp Solutions to complete the tasks in the proposal at a cost not to exceed \$31,162. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mike Woll asked if a bike trail may be established on the St. John property next to Buss Field. The managers are open to the idea since a trail is consistent with the water quality and flood control purposes of the property and the area is already being used informally by the neighborhood kids. Milbrandt and Livdahl will work with Woll and the Kiwanis.

The 2021 financial audit report was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the report as presented. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications.

Ocheda Dairy, Inc. – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of building additions, new barns and stormwater control structures during the next five years.

Gary Linder – to repair ice heave damage to the Lake Okabena shoreline at 246 Lake Avenue, Worthington.

City of Worthington – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of Eighth Avenue street and utility improvements.

DK Buildings, LLC – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of new homes on East Avenue near the intersection of County Highway 5, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 7, 2022 in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.