

## NEON Minutes

January 10, 2019, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and Nobles County Administrator, Tom Johnson, presided over the meeting. Introductions were made.

### Carp Control in Lake Okabena:

Dan Livdahl/Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District presented on Common Carp Population Management in Lake Okabena.

- Carp – high population in Lake Okabena which reduces water clarity and prevents aquatic plant growth. The results of two surveys show a carp biomass approximately three times higher than the goal for good water quality.
- Estimated \$52,000 for the first year to “sain” the lake.
- If successful, it will bring back aquatic plant growth, measurably less algae in the lake.
- Will be implementing a project in spring of 2019 where radio tags will be implanted into 15 carp and will be tracked to gather information on the carp in Lake Okabena.

Dan also answered questions on the following:

- Lake Ocheda: Looking at drawing down the lake. The lake is high in oxygen. Drain 2 feet off at the dam. If we have a cold winter, it will freeze the lake to the bottom. Rebuild the dam (\$300,000) and hope for a freeze out. There is a plan in place to do this.
- Buffalo fish is a native fish so it is not an invasive species. These actually eat the algae so they help with the lake.
- Islands: removes .5 lb of phosphorus/year, we need to remove 45 lbs. phosphorus/year. They create some fish and bird habitat.
- Storm Water ponds
- All efforts do a little bit of good but we have 100 years of damage.
- Prairie View Project: sand filter was not clean enough so sand left the pond, the sand filters have been repaired and will be functioning this year. Huge rain storm washed out the rip rap, it has been repaired as well. Hopeful this year it will all work. Water quality has improved as it still washed out a lot of sediments.

### 2019 Meeting Dates:

As there are a number of conflicts for 2019 with the second Thursday of each month, it was decided to move the monthly NEON meetings to the first Thursday of every month.

### Around the Table:

Linden Olson/District 518: Progress has been made slowly on the Gymnastics/ALC Facility. Communications Director will start on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Referendum is on the ballot in February.

Don Linssen/Nobles County: no report.

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Feed mill construction is going good. Fire Department/Rescue Squad is going to tour on Saturday in preparation if there was an

emergency. On Que Barbeque-Jody's Restaurant is going good, serving a lot of lunches and supper a few nights a week. 5-9 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights. Lunch is 11-1, M-F. Located in the old liquor store. Someone did look at the Sunset Grill as possibly reopening it.

Wally Habben/City of Round Lake: No report.

John Landgaard/District 518: Fast Fact Sheet for the Referendum. District Website has all of the information for the referendum. There is a tax calculator to calculate the estimate of your property. \$32,000,000 request to taxpayers. The board has committed to pay anything above that. The current board has committed to keeping the high school a high school. The cost went up \$1.4 million since the last referendum. Square footage: student per square foot statistic, when you compare to schools similar to our district we are low. Trying to help people understand the facts. One site location to vote: Lakeside Church. Absentee voting is open now. Learning Center/Gymnastics Center, progress is slow, hopefully by the end of the month the roof will be put on, goal is June 1 for completion. Property value taxes, Worthington District was third from the bottom for lowest taxes in comparable districts. If anyone has a group of people or an organization, the District is willing to come and talk/present to you.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington: No report.

Rod Sankey/Citizen: Need more homes in the city/county to increase population and keep people working in Worthington.

Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed: Cover crop meeting on January 25, 9:00 a.m., at Heron Lake Community Center. Clean water fund received \$61,500 grant from BOWSER clean water fund.

Robert Demuth Jr/Nobles County: SW Mental Health Center Meeting in Luverne, there has been an increase in Farmer's Stress. Avera has increased their efforts to help deal with Farmer's Stress. Change in medication, counseling available.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless: part of Worthington Chamber Retail Committee, police department came in and presented on the recent break ins, gave a checklist of things to reduce your chances of being robbed, key sheet-officers will check businesses and notify them if a door is unlocked or suspicious activity. Rail to Road project is progressing.

Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township: No report.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County: Mental Health Center Grant Application was submitted, no match is required if we receive the grant. Tax forfeited property sale date is scheduled for February 19. There has been some interest to meet with the Legislature and MPCA regarding losing TruShrimp in Luverne and what can be changed so we can attract businesses. Reading Sewer Project-36 properties that are out of compliance. Permitting process with MPCA takes too long and projects are put on hold or canceled; it is having a major impact.

Next Meeting:

February 7, 2019

5:30 to 7:00 PM

BioTechnology Advancement Center, 1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.