

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, JANUARY 31, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey, Ron Wood, Scott Nelson.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Tom Kresko, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Hydrologist; Nate Hodgins, Windom Area Assistant Fisheries Manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe; Justine Wettschreck, KWOA.

DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Kresko, MnDNR Area Hydrologist, presented historical information regarding precipitation and lake levels for Lake Okabena and the Worthington area, noting the lake level has dropped approximately 3.5 feet since 2010. Mr. Kresko also noted the DNR's concern of invasive species moving between watersheds. Discussion included the possibility of raising the level of Lake Okabena by adding another level to the dam, but Mr. Kresko warned that doing so would increase the flood plain footprint - he sees more negative effects of raising the lake level than positive as managed now. Council inquired about control of drawing water from the lake - Mr. Kresko responded that the DNR controls anything over 10,000 gallons a day, and reported the Worthington Country Club, who draws water from Lake Okabena to water their course, has an annual limit of 34 million gallons. The City could pass an ordinance to control irrigation from the lake on draws up to 10,000 gallons. As far as dredging, excavating clay might help, but not sand and gravel as in Lake Okabena. Discussion was held on the shallow well fields that supply Worthington's water and a potential ordinance to control water usage that could coincide with the utility department's watering ban.

Mr. Kresko provided information on the Herlein/Boote Slough, and noted that invasive species have already been found in the slough and the ditch up to the dam. Nate Hodgins, Assistant Fish Supervisor for the DNR - Windom Area, noted they had found a river species of moon-eye just below the south dam. Asian Carp are also on the move, and can move through field tile. Mr. Hodgins said they are not aware of any existing or upcoming tile work that would allow an invasive species into Lake Okabena. Mr. Kresko added that the capacity of the south Herlein/Boote ditch system was built to handle the total overflow that could occur if the other gates were shut off, without impact to land owners. Mr. Hodgins briefly covered a fishery survey completed on Lake Okabena.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Wood, seconded by Council Member Kuhle and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

Janice Oberloh, MCMC
City Clerk