Trust grant completes funding for Lake Helen

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Friday, 12 April 2013 15:00 -

GUARANTEED FUNDING	
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	\$460,83
Nebraska Environmental Trust Foundation	\$308,30
Central Platte NRD	\$50,000
City of Gothenburg	\$284,76
Total	\$1,520,32

Ridding Lake Helen of an overabundance of geese has been a burr in the city's saddle through the years.

Getting funding to rehabilitate the lake has been much easier.

Last Thursday, city officials were notified that the Nebraska Environmental Trust board will give \$308,301 to the "Lake Helen Water Quality Project."

"It just seems that all of the funding is falling into place," said city administrator Bruce Clymer.

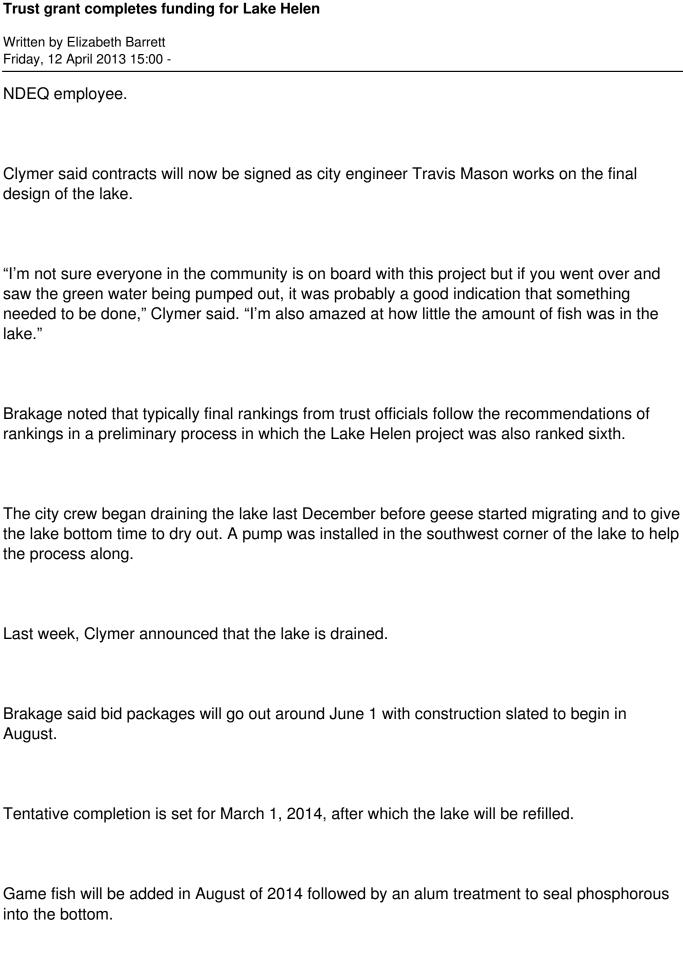
Every grant city officials have applied for to clean up the lake has been awarded to help finance the \$1.5 million project.

What worked in the city's favor for the Trust grant, Clymer thinks, is that the restoration project is something the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality wanted to see completed.

Trust officials ranked the Lake Helen project sixth on a list of 134 proposals throughout the state with only Omaha and The Nature Conservancy proposals ranked above the Gothenburg undertaking.

In addition, the hiring of Lake Tech Inc. Paul Brakage as a project consultant also helped win the grant, Clymer said.

"Paul has been a great resource in leading us through the process," he said about the former



The projects awarded funds this year by the Trust totalled \$24,247,260 from lottery proceeds.

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