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News

Sleepy Eye Lake dredging project scheduled to start next week

By Randy Sobrack, Editor/Publisher

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The dredging project on Sleepy Eye Lake is scheduled to start next week.

"Technically we're in a position where we can dredge now," said Sleepy Eye City Manager Mark Kober.

According to Kober, the Corps of Engineers is concerned about a former wetlands area in a field that has been farmed where the dredge spoils will be placed.

The Corps of Engineers wants to make sure the dredge material doesn't go into a county ditch.

"We can dike around that," said Kober, while final approval moves forward. Kober estimated final approval from the Corps of Engineers will come by July 30.

"We're hoping to start dredging next week," said Mathiowetz Construction Company president Brian Mathiowetz. "We're out building the spoils area right now."

Mathiowetz said "heat stress" on Monday involving dredge operator Tim Doe of Hanska caused the dredge to lose control and submerge a portion of the dredge in the lake.

"It all happened in 20 seconds," said Mathiowetz.

Doe was taken to the Sleepy Eye Medical Center where he was discharged on Tuesday.

According to Mathiowetz the filtration system that will return the water to the lake has been installed and is ready for operation.

Mathiowetz said it was their intent to work two, eight-hour shifts, five days a week to complete the dredging project. Mathiowetz said a series of Saturdays will be utilized in order to keep on their targeted schedule.

"We're still on a good schedule," said Mathiowetz.

Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of dredge material will be removed from the lake. The project must be completed by the end of the year since the

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permits are only good for 2004.

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