

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg. Jay Milbrandt attended the meeting by telephone. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Scott Rall, advisory committee member; Al Langseth, district resident; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The February board meeting was cancelled due to a blizzard. The minutes of the January regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$8500 from savings into checking. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Well sealing cost-share payments for Melba Langseth and Paul Langseth were approved with the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

A map of the district's lakes, streams and ditches where buffer strips will be required was reviewed. Sites where landowners receive district filter strip incentive payments were overlaid onto the map. The advisory committee will be asked to give advice on the filter strip incentives program policies and other district cost-share programs.

Johnson talked to Roger and Larry Doeden about renting the St. John property in 2016. Mahlberg stated that soil structure is very poor on the site and tillage would put its recovery at risk. Enhancing habitat on the site for pollinators was discussed.

The Lake Ocheda enhancement plan group met on February 19th to review the engineering report and work on the management plan. The group will meet monthly until the plan is complete. A Lake Ocheda riparian landowners meeting will be arranged to keep them informed on the plan's progress and give them a chance for input. The advisory committee will also be asked to comment on the draft plan.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Worthington city council approved funding for the engineering needed to apply for a state legacy grant for the combined pond and iron enhanced filter benches at the Prairie View property. Les Johnson signed the contract between the CWP Joint Powers Board and Wenck Associates last week.

Floating island wetlands and materials to make islands should be ordered soon if they will be installed this spring. Mahlberg moved to purchase two floating islands and purchase materials. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Heron Lake Watershed District asked if the OOWD wants to share some of their intern's time this summer. Ingenthron moved to share the cost of the interns up to \$2000. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

BWSR would like to provide training for the Heron Lake, Kanaranzi-Little Rock and Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District board members this summer.

Johnson met with Mary Von Holtum about enrolling her property in the CRP program. The CRP Back Forty Program was closed before she had an opportunity to enroll.

Livdahl completed the construction installers stormwater certification class last week.

NEW BUSINESS

Pheasants Forever and the Board of Soil and Water Resources are organizing a group to promote a new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Minnesota. Joe Dugan is writing support letter to federal senators and representatives. Mahlberg moved to sign the CREP support letter. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2015 annual report was discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the report. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Milbrandt led a discussion on creating a social media campaign to fill the void of information on Lake Okabena and other water related issues. He stated that the large following for Bob Rohrer's Lake Okabena dredging Facebook discussion group illustrates the public's interest in lake related issues. Milbrandt and Livdahl will explore in more detail what topics may be of interest and how to get people involved.

The SWCD intends to purchase a fifteen foot wide Truax no-till drill to plant the many new buffers required by state law. The cost will be between \$32,000 and \$37,000. A letter was received asking the OOWD to help pay for the equipment. Mahlberg moved to spend \$5000 for the drill. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 5, 2016 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.