

MINUTES
2020 Budget Hearing
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 3, 2019

The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2020 budget hearing was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The 2020 proposed budget published in the Globe was briefly discussed. No written comments were received. The floor was opened up for comments. None were made.

Rogers moved to approve the budget and set the 2020 levy at \$253,000. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Ingenthron moved to close the budget hearing. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 3, 2019

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; John Shea, SWCD manager; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the August regular board were reviewed. Bousema moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Ocheda dam stoplogs were removed to begin the water level draw down on August 26th. According to the staff gauge on the dam, the level is down about 0.5 feet since then. Maggie Gross will show Livdahl how to download data from the DNR's HOBOLAKE lake level logger tomorrow. No flooding has been observed downstream since the drawdown began. More stoplogs will be removed as they are exposed.

Milbrandt, Ingenthron and Livdahl met with attorney, Jeff Flynn, on August 29th to discuss legal issues around liability for the failure of the Prairie View project spillway. An engineer would need to be hired to do an analysis of the adequacy of the Flexamat to protect the spillway. The cost of engaging an engineer was discussed. Milbrandt stated he believes the district has the duty to fix the spillway now, but damages need to be documented. Livdahl will contact Henning Construction to see if they can install riprap anytime in the foreseeable future for \$160,000 to \$170,000. If needed, Mahlberg, Ingenthron and Livdahl were authorized to negotiate an agreement for construction of the repair.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The district received a \$55,295.77 disaster assistance payment from the state in July. Only \$21,920 was needed for the repair of the Prairie View spillway in 2018. Livdahl will discuss the overpayment with the state emergency management staff during an upcoming phone call about the March 2019 disaster.

Langseth used a lift to move one of the Bella Park picnic tables from the shelter roof to the ground. All three tables were repaired and will be painted before winter.

Mike Fogelman was asked to quote a price for installing riprap around the Lake Bella dam spillway pool. No quote was received. Since Fogelman is the only local contractor willing to do the work this fall, Livdahl and Ingenthron will work with him to get a quote and begin repairs. Approximately \$12,000 of 2018 FEMA disaster assistance is available for the project if it is completed soon.

Worthington fifth grade students will attend the annual Prairie Wetland Learning Area event on September 16th - 18th. The district will pay for the Ecology Bus programs and restroom rental.

Livdahl will attempt to install about 200 storm sewer catch basin markers in Worthington before winter.

NEW BUSINESS

A BWSR wellhead protection grant application was submitted by the district in late August. The grant application was written by Pheasants Forever to purchase approximately 56 acres from Jesse Drost in the Lake Bella wellhead protection area. If the grant is received, Pheasants Forever will provide the \$100,000 local match. Ingenthron moved to support the project and submit the wellhead protection grant application. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema,

Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Livdahl recently met with Jeff Strom and Aaron Claus to discuss next steps for the 2019 Lake Okabena carp population control project. A proposal to use the remaining 2019 budget money to implant RFID tags in approximately 200 carp was discussed. The revised scope of work will be received from Wenck soon. Ingenthron and Livdahl will review the document and authorize the work if it is acceptable.

Raising the managers' per diem rate was discussed. Other watershed districts' rates and policies will be discussed at the October board meeting.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit application.

Mike and Joan Phillips – to perform erosion and sediment control during the repair of a shoreline retaining wall at 1024 West Lake Avenue, Worthington.

Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 1, 2019 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Meeting adjourned.