

# OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2009 ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET



OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT  
960 Diagonal Road, P.O. Box 114  
Worthington, MN 56187  
(507) 372-8228  
<http://www.okabenauchedawd.org>

## **OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2009 ANNUAL PLAN**

### **Implement Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Projects**

- Continue to conduct water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena. Report data collected into the STORET program.
- Continue to offer CRP filter strip incentive payments throughout the District.
- Continue to provide administrative and technical services, and financial support, for Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board.
- Continue to acquire property, as it becomes available, for wetland restorations, groundwater protection, storm water storage and water quality improvement projects.
- Read staff gauges, at least monthly, during the ice free season on Okabena, Ocheda, and Bella. Report data annually to the DNR.
- Hold discussions with landowners and the DNR about future lake level manipulation, water quality projects and rough fish control efforts on Lake Ocheda.

### **Prepare for Future Projects**

- Support the temporary public waters drawdown bill during the 2009 legislative session.
- Begin development of a Lake Ocheda management plan that can be supported by a majority of the landowners.
- Gather project information for the future restoration of the East Okabena lakebed. Search for sources of money, including the Clean Water Legacy Amendment fund, to purchase the needed property and build structures.
- Explore purchasing a corridor along the stream between the Wachter Wildlife Management Area and Lake Bella.
- Investigate using Best Management Practices including conservation easements, CRP programs, and local and state partnerships for land purchases to address surface water, groundwater and flooding problems throughout the District.
- Work with the SWCD and the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Board engineers to identify the solutions to erosion problems on Lake Bella and the Langseth shoreline of Lake Ocheda. Estimate project costs and look into sources for funding the project, including the district levy.

### **Implement Monitoring and Information and Education Programs**

- Work with Worthington to implement the public education components of the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Work with Worthington Public Utilities to implement the best management practices and educational components of the wellhead protection plan.
- Work with the Lake Okabena Improvement Association to do water quality monitoring and non-point source pollution prevention education programs.
- Produce brochures, press releases or newspaper advertisements or website factsheets on non-point source pollution prevention.
- Financially support and provide staff for educational programs at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Area.
- Lead watershed district tours for Worthington School classes, Minnesota West Classes and interested community groups.
- Provide staff to coach the Worthington High School Envirothon teams.
- Work with the Environmental Services Department to print advertisements regarding motor oil recycling.

- Provide presentations, as requested, for school classes and community groups.
- Support with staff time the Prairie Ecology Bus Center educational programs and bus replacement capitol campaign.
- In partnership with the Heron Lake Watershed District and the City of Worthington, co-sponsor and organize one or more Project NEMO Workshops.
- Continue TMDL assessment monitoring of water quality in Lake Bella.

### **Implement Best Management Practices**

- Identify landowners interested in conservation programs benefitting water quality, reducing flooding, preventing pollution or improving wildlife habitat. Refer landowners to agencies with appropriate BMP programs for technical or financial assistance.
- Offer CRP filter strip incentives throughout the District.
- Offer cost-share on terraces, waterways, well sealing, septic system replacement, rain gardens and conservation use acres programs.
- Create and implement innovative programs, using District levy funding if necessary, to address water quality and flood prevention problems.

### **Maintain and Improve District Property**

- Perform weed control, litter cleanup, picnic area maintenance and beaver, muskrat and gopher control on district property.
- Maintain roads and structures at Lake Bella Park.
- Trim trees as necessary to maintain woody cover at Bella Park.
- Remove obstructions from the Lake Ocheda Dam as necessary.
- Investigate potential grant sources for improving grass cover at Bella Park and fixing shoreline erosion problems.
- Implement a pilot project on the Lake Bella shoreline to see if erosion can be slowed or stopped by planting willows and installing willow fascines.
- Solicit advice from the USFWS on establishing fire breaks in Bella Park.
- Arrange for a dock to be installed at the Lake Bella boat landing.

### **Update the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management Plan**

- Following the procedure prescribed by Minnesota Statute 103D.405, adopt the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management as the District's Watershed Management Plan.

### **Act on Permit Applications and Monitor and Enforce Permit Program Compliance**

#### **Coordinate District Activities with other Local, State and Federal Agencies**

- Two Managers will be appointed to the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Organization board and participate in meetings.
- The Administrator will represent District at Worthington wellhead protection taskforce meetings.
- One Manager and the Administrator will represent the District at Nobles County Water Plan Taskforce Meetings.
- The District will contract with the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services.
- One Manager or the Administrator will attend Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council meetings when possible.

**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District  
2009 Budget**

**REVENUES**

Nobles County - District Levy	\$121,500.00
Local Government Aid	\$8,500.00
Property Rent & CRP	\$6,600.00
Investment Interest	\$400.00
Permit Inspection Fees	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Worthington Stormwater Program	\$6,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Reimbursements	\$9,500.00
MPCA Water Quality Assessment Grant	\$2,560.00

**TOTAL REVENUES** **\$155,860.00**

**EXPENDITURES**

Legal/ Accounting	\$2,000.00
Board Compensation & Expenses	\$5,000.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$2,509.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$1,980.00
Phone, Internet	\$800.00
Office Supplies	\$1,293.22
Photocopies	\$300.00
Postage & Box Rental	\$650.00
MAWD Meetings & Training	\$1,200.00
Bookkeeping Software	\$450.00
Computer and Printer	\$500.00
Personnel	
Salary	\$46,896.00
PERA	\$3,048.24
FICA	\$3,587.54
Health Insurance	\$3,200.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,300.00
Property Maintenance	\$4,000.00
MAWD Dues	\$2,000.00
Public Notice Publications	\$1,000.00
SWCD Administrative & Technical Services	\$3,000.00
Public Education	\$3,000.00
Watershed District Cost-Share	\$12,000.00
Filterstrip Incentive Program	\$31,000.00
Water Quality Basin Maintenance	\$2,000.00
Land Purchases	\$14,741.00
Joint Powers Board Operations	\$3,000.00
Storm Water Education Contract Expenses	\$800.00
Water Sampling - Lake Okabena	\$750.00
Water Sampling - Lakes Ocheda and Bella	\$855.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$155,860.00**

