

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET



OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
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OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL PLAN

Implement Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Projects

- Work with MPCA to create a monitoring program for Lake Okabena that will provide more comprehensive data for the TMDL study.
- Conduct water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena as prescribed by the monitoring plan. Report data collected to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- 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.
- Read staff gauges, at least monthly, during the ice free season on lakes Okabena, Ocheda, and Bella. Report data annually to the Department of Natural Resources.
- Remove accumulated sediment from the forebays of the W-9 structure. Spread sediment on nearby agricultural fields.

Wellhead Protection

- Work with Pheasants Forever and other partners to finalize a land purchase completing a permanent grass buffer along the stream between the Wachter Wildlife Management Area and Lake Bella. Pay the land survey, abstracting and other transaction costs as needed.
- Work with Pheasants Forever and other partners to complete the Seifert land purchase to permanently protect the Ochedan River corridor between Lake Ocheda and the Bella wellfield.
- Continue to acquire property, as it becomes available, for wetland restorations, groundwater protection, storm water storage and water quality improvement projects.

Prepare for Future Projects

- Hold discussions with landowners and the DNR about future lake level manipulation, water quality projects and rough fish control efforts on Lake Ocheda.
- Write a Lake Ocheda management plan that can be supported by a majority of the landowners and approved by the DNR.
- 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.

Implement Monitoring and Information and Education Programs

- Participate in the Sustainable Inquiry Research and Education Network (SIREN) workshop and work with local schools on completing SIREN research projects.
- 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 presentations, as requested, for school classes and community groups.
- Support with staff time the Prairie Ecology Bus Center environmental education programs.

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.
- Conduct needed tillage, herbicide application and burning to prepare approximately 68 acres at Bella Park for a native grass and forb seeding. Complete seeding of native plants in June. Mow seeded area at least once to aid establishment of desirable plants.
- Monitor willow fascines installed in 2010 Lake Bella shoreline to see if erosion is slowed or stopped. If the fascines survive ice action, install more of them on the western shore of the lake during early spring.
- Work with the USFWS to establish a plan to manage district property adjacent to Waterfowl Production Areas.
- Maintain and manage the dock at the Lake Bella boat landing.
- Monitor function of fish barrier prototype at the Ocheda Dam. Modify the structure as necessary. If it appears that the barrier works, apply for a DNR Waters permit to install barriers on the other nine stoplog bays.

Act on Permit Applications and Monitor and Enforce Permit Program Compliance

- Review permit application and issue permits when project are in compliance with district rules and policies.
- Review drainage project notification forms for compliance with district rules.
- Inspect and monitor construction erosion control permit sites. Enforce compliance when necessary to avoid off-site sediment and nutrient pollution.
- Work with Worthington to inspect construction sites one acre or larger for compliance with state NPDES storm water permit requirements and City and District rules for pollution prevention and erosion control.

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.
- The District will contract with the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services.
- One Manager or the Administrator will attend Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council meetings when possible.

**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District
2011 Budget**

REVENUES	2011
Nobles County - District Levy	\$122,000.00
Local Government Aid	\$8,000.00
Property Rent & CRP	\$4,630.00
Investment Interest	\$800.00
Permit Inspection Fees	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$750.00
Worthington Stormwater Program	\$6,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Reimbursements	\$9,500.00
MPCA Water Quality Assessment Grant	\$0.00
CWL Partnership Grant (Bella Park Reseeding)	\$30,900.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$182,880.00
EXPENDITURES	
Legal/ Accounting	\$1,500.00
Board Compensation & Expenses	\$4,000.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$2,948.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$2,075.00
Phone, Internet	\$825.00
Office Supplies	\$928.91
Photocopies	\$250.00
Postage & Box Rental	\$500.00
MAWD Meetings & Training	\$1,200.00
Bookkeeping Software	\$500.00
Computer and Printer	\$500.00
Personnel	
Salary	\$48,410.00
PERA	\$3,509.73
FICA	\$3,703.37
Health Insurance	\$4,830.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,300.00
Property Maintenance	\$4,000.00
CWL Partnership Grant (Bella Park Reseeding)	\$32,400.00
MAWD Dues	\$900.00
Public Notice Publications	\$1,000.00
SWCD Administrative & Technical Services	\$5,000.00
Public Education	\$2,000.00
Watershed District Cost-Share	\$12,300.00
Filterstrip Incentive Program	\$31,000.00
Water Quality Basin Maintenance	\$0.00
Land Purchases	\$10,000.00
Joint Powers Board Operations	\$3,000.00
Storm Water Education Contract Expenses	\$1,000.00
Water Sampling - Lake Okabena	\$800.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$182,880.00