

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2013 ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET



Flowers at Bella Park

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
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OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2013 ANNUAL PLAN

Implement Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Projects

- Conduct water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena as prescribed by the monitoring plan. Report data collected to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- Work with Worthington, MPCA and a consultant to collect data and do analysis to improve the TMDL study and plan for Lake Okabena. Contribute money and staff time as needed to implement the project.
- Continue to offer CRP filter strip incentive payments throughout the District.
- Work with Worthington and other agencies to create programs for converting high priority CRP grass filter strip sites into permanent stream bank and lakeshore protection practices.
- 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.
- Assist Worthington with the acquisition of the Abramson property for stormwater storage and treatment, and water quality improvement purposes.

Land Acquisition

- Continue to acquire property, as it becomes available, for wetland restorations, groundwater protection, stormwater storage and water quality improvement projects.

Lake Management Projects

- Evaluate the costs, effectiveness and feasibility of in-lake treatments for reducing the frequency and severity of late season algae blooms in Lake Okabena.
 - Collect data on dissolved oxygen, and lake sediment organic matter and nutrients to determine whether the lake may benefit from an aeration or water circulation system.
 - Do dissolved oxygen and phosphorus monitoring to determine whether the lake may benefit from alum treatment in limited areas.
 - Experiment with Bioverse products in Whiskey Ditch and the Glenwood Heights stormwater pond to determine whether they have potential to reduce algae blooms.
 - View a demonstration of algae skimming equipment to evaluate whether it may be effective for removing algae from the lake.
 - Install floating islands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond to evaluate whether they could be cost-effectively installed in other stormwater ponds or Sunset Bay to reduce nutrient pollution and create wildlife habitat.
 - Evaluate whether it is feasible to install ultrasonic equipment for algae control.
- Continue discussions with landowners and the DNR about future lake level manipulation, water quality projects and rough fish control efforts on Lake Ocheda.
- Evaluate whether a winter fish kill occurred at Lake Ocheda and encourage the DNR to stock gamefish, if needed, to control carp reproduction.
- Encourage and facilitate seining of carp and other rough fish from Lake Ocheda.
- Accept ownership of the Lake Ocheda dam if the DNR offers to transfer it to the district.
- 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.
- Monitor water quality in Lake Ocheda. Compare data to previous years to evaluate the effects of drought in 2012 and early 2013.

Implement Information and Education Programs

- Work with the Worthington High School Agriculture teachers to develop watershed education curriculum materials.
- 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 and plans to supplement the city's water supply.
- Work with the Lake Okabena Improvement Association to do water quality monitoring and non-point source pollution prevention education programs.
- Work with the LOIA and the Heron Lake Watershed District to create and implement an education program to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and Asian carp. Hold an invasive species workshop for the public, interested clubs and other organizations in April.
- 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 High 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

- *Work with R&G construction to manage the St. John property during the construction season and complete final restoration of the property to farmable conditions. Plant a crop on the unused portions of the property to control weeds.*
- Survey the St. John property near Buss Field to determine whether holding more water on the site is feasible.
- 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.
- Mow and burn areas seeded using the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant in 2011, as needed, to aid establishment of the native plants.
- Install willow plantings on the western shore of the lake during early spring.
- Work with the USFWS to manage district property consistently with the adjacent Lake Bella Waterfowl Production Area.
- Maintain and manage the dock at the Lake Bella boat landing.
- Operate the rough fish barrier on the Lake Ocheda dam from April 15th through October in compliance with the conditions of the DNR permit.
- Work with the DNR to manage or modify the Herlein-Boote Wildlife Management Area structures to prevent migration of bighead carp into the district.

Act on Permit Applications and Monitor and Enforce Permit Program Compliance

- Review permit applications and issue permits when projects 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.

**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District
2013 Budget**

REVENUES	2013
Nobles County - District Levy	\$169,500.00
Local Government Aid	\$500.00
Property Rent	\$10,500.00
Investment Interest	\$350.00
Permit Inspection Fees	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,200.00
Worthington Stormwater Program	\$8,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Reimbursements	\$10,700.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$201,050.00
EXPENDITURES	
Legal/ Accounting	\$2,500.00
Board Compensation & Expenses	\$4,500.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$2,850.00
Miscellaneous (trailer purchase in 2012)	\$500.00
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$2,224.88
Phone, Internet	\$900.00
Office Supplies	\$781.89
Photocopies	\$250.00
Postage & Box Rental	\$500.00
Bookkeeping Software	\$450.00
Computer and Printer	\$850.00
Personnel	
Salary	\$50,860.00
PERA	\$3,692.44
Social Security & Medicare	\$3,890.79
Health Insurance	\$4,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,300.00
Property Maintenance	\$3,500.00
MAWD Dues	\$1,000.00
MAWD Meeting & Training Expenses	\$2,500.00
Public Notice Publications	\$1,000.00
SWCD Administrative & Technical Services	\$5,000.00
Public Education	\$2,700.00
Watershed District Cost-Share	\$18,000.00
Filterstrip Incentive Program	\$35,100.00
Water Quality Basin Maintenance	\$1,500.00
Watershed Projects	\$44,000.00
Joint Powers Board Operations	\$2,800.00
Storm Water Education Contract Expenses	\$700.00
Water Sampling - Lake Okabena	\$1,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$201,050.00