

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2015 ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET



Restored Prairie at Bella Park

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
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OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2015 ANNUAL PLAN

Implement Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Projects

- Conduct water quality, stream flow and lake level monitoring of Lake Okabena as prescribed by the monitoring plan. Report data collected to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).
- Work with consulting engineer to complete assessment of runoff storage and treatment options on the Prairie View Golf Course property.
- Work with consulting engineer to complete assessment of Sunset Bay's pollution removal capacity.
- Conduct monthly water quality monitoring of Lake Ocheda during June through September.
- Work with Worthington to begin stabilization of Okabena Creek banks between Industrial Lane and the Whiskey Ditch flood control channel.
- Continue to offer Conservation Reserve Program (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 (DNR).

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.
 - Continue experiment with Bioverse products in Whiskey Ditch to determine whether they have potential to reduce odors from algae blooms.
 - Monitor vegetation on existing floating island wetlands and install additional floating islands in Sunset Bay and the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond. Evaluate whether islands can be cost-effectively used to reduce nutrient pollution and create wildlife habitat.
- Assist the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations for Lake Okabena.
- Work with Ducks Unlimited engineers to do the survey and design work needed to create a Lake Ocheda enhancement plan. Contribute \$10,000 to Ducks Unlimited to pay part of the engineering and design costs.
- Complete a lakeshore erosion survey of Lake Ocheda and identify where vegetated riparian buffers are needed.
- Write a Lake Ocheda management plan in partnership with the DNR that can be supported by a majority of the riparian landowners.
- Encourage and facilitate seining of carp and other rough fish from Lake Ocheda.
- Accept ownership of the Lake Ocheda dam when the DNR offers it to the district.
- 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.
- Install and monitor one or more woodchip bioreactors to determine whether additional bioreactors should be installed to remove nutrients from tile lines entering lakes and streams.

Implement Information and Education Programs

- Work with Nobles County and Minnesota West to provide invasive species prevention programs for Nobles County lakes.
- 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 (LOIA) 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 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 (BMPs)

- 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 and woodchip bioreactor 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

- Continue work with Natural Resources Conservation Service and other partners to demonstrate cover crops on the St. John property.
- Monitor the water level on the St. John property to determine whether the newly installed ditch plug facilitates storage of additional stormwater and improves wetland vegetation.
- Monitor the new ditch plug and construction site in the Herlein-Boote WMA diversion property to ensure it is functioning and the site is permanently stabilized. Enter a joint powers agreement with the DNR for management of the property.
- Identify whether it is more advantageous to donate the Herlein-Boote diversion ditch property to the DNR or keep it for future watershed district management purposes.
- 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.
- Perform weed control, as needed, on the six acres of native prairie seeded during 2014 along the west side of Ochedan River in Bella Park.
- Install willow plantings on the western shore of Lake Bella during early spring.
- Work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service 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.

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
2015 Budget**

REVENUES	2015
Nobles County - District Levy	\$185,000.00
Local Government Aid	\$0.00
Property Income	\$350.00
Investment Interest	\$400.00
Permit Inspection Fees	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
Worthington Stormwater Program	\$6,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Reimbursements	\$10,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$203,050.00
EXPENDITURES	
Legal/ Accounting	\$2,300.00
Board Compensation & Expenses	\$4,500.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$3,091.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$2,303.40
Phone, Internet	\$1,200.00
Office Supplies	\$900.74
Photocopies	\$250.00
Postage & Box Rental	\$500.00
Bookkeeping Software	\$800.00
Computer and Printer	\$1,400.00
Personnel	
Salary	\$52,915.20
PERA	\$3,841.64
Social Security & Medicare	\$4,048.01
Health Insurance	\$6,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,300.00
Property Maintenance	\$4,000.00
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
Cover Crop Demonstation Expenses	\$4,000.00
Watershed District Cost-Share	\$15,000.00
Filterstrip Incentive Program	\$38,000.00
Water Quality Basin Maintenance	\$0.00
Watershed Projects	\$35,500.00
Joint Powers Board Operations	\$4,500.00
Storm Water Education Contract Expenses	\$1,000.00
Water Quality and Flow Monitoring - Lake Okabena	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$203,050.00