

**OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
2019 ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET**



Native flowers at the Worthington Minnesota West campus

**OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
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OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2019 ANNUAL PLAN

Implement Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Projects

- Conduct monthly water quality monitoring of Okabena and Ocheda lakes during June through September.
- 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 Okabena, Ocheda, and Bella lakes. Report data annually to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Do planting and maintenance work needed to establish the native vegetation in the areas disturbed by Prairie View project construction activities.
- Manage the Prairie View pond water level to minimize water flowing over the spillway before vegetation is established in the Flexamat.
- Administer the Prairie View Clean Water Land and Legacy Grant. Submit final report in the BSWR eLINK system when construction is complete.
- Continue discussions with Worthington about ownership and management of the Prairie View property. Accept ownership if needed to protect the site permanently with perennial vegetation.
- Do monthly inspections of the Prairie View ponds project site as required by the operation and maintenance plan. Perform maintenance as needed.
- Cooperate with Worthington, Nobles County and other partners to implement a multi-year Lake Okabena carp population control program. Install radio telemetry trackers, track fish migration and perform fish removals during 2019.

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.
- Monitor vegetation on existing floating island wetlands. Perform maintenance as needed to keep them anchored in place and vegetated.
- Advertise for bids to renovate the Lake Ocheda dam and install a fish barrier. Hire a contractor and complete construction on time for a fall drawdown of the basin.
- Perform a late summer/early fall drawdown of the Lake Ocheda basin.
- 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.

Planning Projects and Rules Update

- Work with Nobles County and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to administer the One Watershed, One Plan grant planning project. Work with the local government units and Houston Engineering to revise the document, complete the state and local approval process and adopt the plan. Work with plan partners to form the organization needed to apply for future grants and implement the plan.

- Review and update district rules.
- Submit petition with the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to change the district boundaries in the Herlein-Boote sub-watershed. Submit new parcels information to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer on time to make changes for the 2020 tax year.

Implement Information and Education Programs

- Develop and implement a social media campaign to educate the public about improving water quality in Lake Okabena and Lake Ocheda.
- Work with Nobles County to provide invasive species prevention programs for the county's 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.
- Organize and lead a tour of the Prairie View pond expansion project after construction is completed.
- 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)

- Work with the advisory committee and other partners to update the district's BMP cost-share and incentive programs.
- 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.
- 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 spraying or mowing as needed to aid native plant establishment on the St. John property buffer strip.
- Monitor the water level on the St. John property to determine whether the ditch plug facilitates storage of additional stormwater and improves wetland vegetation. Perform maintenance or improvements to the structure as needed.
- Identify whether it is 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 Bella Park.

- Trim trees as necessary to maintain woody cover at Bella Park.
- Maintain and manage the dock at the Lake Bella boat landing.
- Mow fire breaks and complete controlled burns as needed at Bella Park to maintain native prairie cover.
- Perform weed control, as needed, on the six acres of native prairie seeded during 2014 along the west side of Ocheyedan River in Bella Park.
- Install willow plantings on the western shore of Lake Bella during early spring if the lake water level permits.
- Work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage district property consistently with the adjacent Lake Bella Waterfowl Production Area.
- Remove beaver dams from the 270th street culverts as needed.
- Operate the rough fish barrier on the Lake Ocheda dam from April 15th through October.

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 of 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

- Update watershed district rules, plans and cost-share programs to be consistent with state buffer strip requirements.
- Appoint two managers to the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Organization board and participate in meetings.
- Appoint a board representative and an alternate for the One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee. Participate in meetings as needed.
- Participate in Worthington wellhead protection taskforce meetings.
- Contract with the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services.

**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District
2019 Budget**

REVENUES	2019
Nobles County - Administrative Levy	\$250,000.00
Nobles County - Insurnace Levy	\$3,000.00
Local Government Aid	\$0.00
Property Income	\$1,400.00
Investment Interest	\$800.00
Permit Inspection Fees	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
Worthington Stormwater Program	\$6,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Reimbursements	\$10,000.00
Withdrawal from Savings	\$248,896.91
Clean Water Legacy Grant and Wgtn Income	\$60,611.50
FEMA Disaster Assistance	\$33,920.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$615,828.41
EXPENDITURES	
Legal/ Accounting	\$3,400.00
Board Compensation & Expenses	\$6,000.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$3,103.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$2,700.00
Phone, Internet	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$1,000.00
Photocopies	\$350.00
Postage & Box Rental	\$600.00
Bookkeeping Software	\$750.00
Computer and Printer	\$1,200.00
Personnel	
Salary	\$58,990.00
PERA	\$4,282.67
Social Security & Medicare	\$4,512.74
Health Insurance	\$11,640.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$4,000.00
Property Maintenance	\$16,000.00
MAWD Dues	\$3,000.00
MAWD Meeting & Training Expenses	\$2,500.00
Public Notice Publications	\$1,000.00
SWCD Administrative & Technical Services	\$5,000.00
Public Education	\$3,800.00
Watershed District Cost-Share	\$15,000.00
Filter Strip Incentive Program	\$40,000.00
Water Quality Basin Maintenance	\$500.00
Data Acquisition (Parks, Vogt Property, Carp)	\$10,000.00
Watershed Projects (Ocheda Dam and Fish Barrier, Misc)	\$344,000.00
Prairie View Project	\$63,000.00
Joint Powers Board Operations	\$4,500.00
Storm Water Education Contract Expenses	\$1,000.00
Water Quality and Flow Monitoring	\$2,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$615,828.41