

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 7, 2009

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Scott Rall, Advisory Committee Recorder; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator; Stephanie McLain, NRCS District Conservationist and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. McGowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$6000 from the money market account into checking. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The Advisory Committee was asked about whether the OOWD should discontinue requiring permits for tile drainage projects. The Committee had mixed opinions. Rall stated that he believes the board should continue to issue permits if it can be a significant source of revenue. If not, it is his opinion that the board should require a project notification forms instead. Mahlberg and Rogers will work with Livdahl to review the rules. Livdahl will present a draft of rules changes regarding tile permits for discussion at the May board meeting.

Compliance with erosion control permit requirements was discussed. Silt fence was repaired at the YMCA construction site.

Bills have been introduced and committee hearings held in both the Minnesota House and Senate allowing the DNR to issue permits for temporary public waters drawdowns with approval of a majority of the riparian landowners.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Worthington began cleaning streets on March 16th. They will continue doing it as the weather allows. So far, the City has not needed to use the swimming pool parking lot for snow storage. A letter will be mailed to Jim Laffrenzen commending the City for street cleaning efforts.

The Worthington Truck Wash spread material from their lagoon on Luinenburg's property in section 31, Elk Township. It appeared that a combination of sawdust and manure was spread in the ditches on both sides of 220th Street in late February or early March. Truck wash staff said the material was spread on the field to the north of the road and later blew into the road ditches. On April 6th, Wayne Smith viewed the site again. At that time, it appeared that a mixture of sawdust and manure had been recently spread on the road itself. Smith contacted the Sheriff's department, DNR and MPCA. There is some question about whether this material should be regulated as manure or industrial waste. A skid loader was on the site earlier today removing the material from the road.

The SWCD engineering staff from Slayton did an on-site evaluation of Doug Buntjer's dairy in March. Since the site was muddy at the time, they will be back later to survey the site and suggest BMP's.

Tom Kresko, DNR Hydrologist, and the SWCD engineers will view the Lake Bella and Langseth shorelines tomorrow to decide which BMP's may be permitted for stabilization of the sites.

NEW BUSINESS

The Advisory Committee met today at 3:00 p.m. Rall stated that a questionnaire should be given to Advisory Board members in the future to get guidance from the group about district management and programs.

Stephanie McLain introduced herself to the Managers. She explained that new federal data privacy rules require OOWD managers and staff to sign an Attachment C - Certification of Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Cooperator form, before data critical for implementing conservation programs can be shared. The managers and staff present signed the forms and returned them to her.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources issued an order prescribing the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District management plan on March 25, 2009. The County and SWCD will adopt the County Comprehensive Water Plan soon.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications:

City of Worthington – to extend the water main along North Crailsheim Road and to extend sanitary sewers and build storm water facilities for the Grand Avenue extension.

Brian Ling – to fix tile “blowouts” in sections 8, 20 and 21 of Bigelow Township.

Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. on May 5, 2009 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.