

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 6, 2010

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, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Mark Hiles, BWSR Conservationist; Bob Shore, permit applicant; Al Langseth, County Feedlot Officer; Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager; Stephanie McLain, NRCS District Conservationist and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the March 2, 2010 amended rules hearing and the regular March board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Money needs to be transferred from the money market account for operating expenses and the Wiertsema land purchase. Mc Gowan moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$6000 for operating expenses and \$23,400 for the property purchase into the checking account. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

McLain recommended raising the OOWD's conservation use acres payment from \$60 per acre to \$100 per acre to match payments available to landowners in other parts of the county from the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District or Nobles SWCD. Williamson moved to raise the conservation use acres cost-share payment to \$100 per acre. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Williamson moved to approve a conservation use acres payment of up to \$1000 for the **D & S Hilltop Farms** terrace project. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Rusty Miller's waterway project in section 28, Worthington Township was discussed. The SWCD has encumbered cost-share money to pay for 75% of the project. Miller is unwilling to rebuild the waterway unless he gets more money. The Miller waterway is a high priority project due to erosion occurring on the site, transport of sediment to the downstream stormwater pond and its close proximity to Lake Okabena. Williamson moved to approve a conservation use acres agreement for the project and cost-share for the waterway of 15%, up to a maximum of \$1200. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The comments from BWSR on the amended rules were discussed. The comments will be addressed in more detail at May meeting when the rules committee members are present.

Williamson moved to designate Worthington Federal, Wells Fargo and the Bank of the West as depositories for 2010. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The meeting with DNR Fisheries staff to discuss rough fish control in Lake Ocheda is scheduled for the morning of April 13th. Johnson and Mahlberg will attend.

A notification of permit requirements is normally published in April in *On the Farm*. Due to the likely upcoming rules changes, it will not be printed this month.

Livdahl removed trash from the St. John's property.

The Ocheda Beavers 4-H Club has a grant to build and install wood duck and bluebird house this year. Livdahl will be working with them and Pheasants Forever to get it done. The club will be planting a garden of native plants sometime in May. The seeds will be collected to plant in other grasslands. Livdahl agreed to work with them on this project too.

The dock needs to be installed at Lake Bella. It would be easiest to do it with a tractor and loader.

Livdahl plans to make some willow fascines and install them on the eroding shoreline of Lake Bella and along the banks of dam's outlet channel.

Wenck Associates completed a report to the Lake Okabena Improvement Association. The report recommends that the OOWD takes an active role in completing the TMDL plan for the lake.

NEW BUSINESS

Livdahl monitored water levels in lakes and streams this spring. Lake levels were normal for spring conditions. The Herlein-Boote WMA wetland diversion channel was blocked with ice during the snowmelt runoff period, so water drained through the western water control structure.

PERMITS

Williamson moved to take Randy Robinson's permit application from the table. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Williamson moved to approve the following permit applications:

Randy Robinson – to install tile in the SW ¼, SE ¼, section 18, Indian Lake Township.

Floyd Buntjer – to install 5 and 6 inch diameter tile in the NW ¼, NW ¼, section 13, Bigelow Township, on the condition that the project conforms with setback distances established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to protect the wetland.

Dorward Dykstra – to install approximately 2000 feet of 4 and 6 inch diameter tile in the NE ¼, NE ¼, section 20, Bigelow Township.

Robert Shore – to create a water control structure to prevent ditch bottom erosion in the SE ¼, SW ¼, section 33, Worthington Township.

Bedford Industries – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction at 1659 Rowe Avenue, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on May 4, 2010 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Williamson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.