

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**April 5, 2011**

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: Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Gordy Heitkamp, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Steve Scheidt, cost-share contract applicant, Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the March 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mc Gowan 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 and pay the bills. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Mahlberg moved to transfer \$6000 from the money market account into checking. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

**Steve Scheidt** asked for cost-share to install a tile in the channel of the water and sediment control basin west of his home on Dugdale Trust property. The OOWD cost-shared to build the basin several years ago. Scheidt believes that a sand vein runs under the basin toward his home foundation causing the sump pump to run excessively when water is present in the basin. Mahlberg moved to approve cost-share of 75% for the tile installation, up to a maximum of \$320. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Minnesota West Community and Technical College is considering construction of a storm water basin on its Worthington campus. Gordy Heitkamp explained that the storm water pond project could be expanded to store and treat runoff that runs into the campus from about 70 acres of urban and agricultural land. Heitkamp explained that the preliminary engineering and a cost estimate have been completed. Heitkamp made a presentation to the Olson Trust Board requesting funding for a portion of the project. Mahlberg moved to cost-share up to \$10,000 using money from the 2011 and 2012 cost-share budgets. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan. Abstained: Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Lenz presented the 2011 SWCD Technical Services Agreement. Johnson signed the agreement.

The document for vacating part of the Ditch 12/Whiskey Ditch Floodway easement is not complete.

Johnson updated the board on the effort to get the Worthington City Council to create a clean water fund using hospital sale money.

Ground preparation for seeding at Bella Park will begin again soon. Needed tillage, burning and herbicide application were discussed.

Mahlberg reported that a committee of Lake Ocheda landowners met about creating a plan for carp control. An Iowa DNR article about carp control was discussed by the Managers.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The grass buffer on the east side of Smith Lake is only 6 feet wide in some areas. Mahlberg will contact the Vander Kooi family about installing a vegetated buffer at least 50 feet wide along the shoreline.

Livdahl attended the MAWD legislative event on March 23 -24.

Mahlberg and Livdahl led SIREN programs for two classes at Worthington High School and one class at the high school in Okabena. SIREN is a pilot program for combining sustainable agriculture and science education in the classroom.

The Advisory Committee meeting did not occur in March. It will be scheduled for sometime in late June or July.

Scott Hain and Eric Roos will be at the May board meeting to discuss the future of the Lewis and Clark project and Worthington water supply issues.

The Langseth family needs to provide permanent protection for a 120 foot wide buffer on approximately 1500 feet of Lake Ocheda's shoreline to be eligible for their shore land restoration grant from BWSR. The District is willing to be a grantee for an easement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Raising the district's annual payment for CRP filter strips to compensate for increasing land rent and crop prices was discussed. Williamson moved to increase the incentive payment to \$150 per year for new filter strip contracts and renewing filter strip contracts. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2011 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.