

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**April 3, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Scott Hain, Worthington Public Utilities General Manager and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The March board meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The minutes of the February regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

A well sealing cost-share payment for Joe Vander Kooi was approved with the Treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A draft of the 2011 annual report was reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the annual report. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2012 annual plan was reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the plan. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Marv Rall has completed construction of the fish barrier for the Lake Ocheda dam. Bills for materials and construction expenses were discussed. The barrier parts have been delivered to the dam site and will be assembled after the DNR permit is issued. The board decided to purchase a \$100 gift card to Stan Houston Equipment to show appreciation to Marv for the many hours spent designing and building the structure and coordinating other volunteers.

Scott Des Lauriers seined approximately 7000 pounds of fish from Lake Bella during his first pull this spring. Mahlberg will call him to encourage carp removal from Lake Ocheda this year.

The history of the Herlein-Boote diversion was discussed. The gate on the diversion structure has been closed as a temporary measure to prevent big head carp from migrating into the OOWD and the Heron Lake Watershed District. The DNR will coordinate a meeting sometime soon with local partners to develop a permanent plan for excluding invasive species. Hain stated that that the Worthington Power and Light Commission has discussed the proposed permanent closure of the diversion, but has not taken a position on it.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Livdahl participated in the MAWD Legislative Reception on March 7<sup>th</sup> and attended the Bio Science Conference on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

A business checking account was opened at Wells Fargo. A \$2000 minimum balance is necessary to avoid service charges.

Livdahl will help coach the Worthington High School Envirothon team this year.

The Okabena Bees have volunteered to help with water sampling at Lake Bella this year. Scott Rall's boat will be used at Bella. Livdahl plans to sample Lake Okabena using his boat.

Forbs and cool season grasses seem to be growing well in the areas reseeded at Bella Park last year. Mowing and weed spraying will need to be done in May to help establish the plants. Lucas Haack's mother volunteered him to trap the gophers that are rebuilding mounds in the park.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Krohn and John Luinenburg asked the board to consider providing incentive payments for wetland sites that are not eligible for reenrollment in the CRP continuous signup program. Both sites are eligible for the general CRP signup. Mahlberg moved to offer Krohn and Luinenburg the following incentives if they submit applications for the general CRP signup:

- 1) If the application is approved for a CRP contract, the OOWD will pay \$150 per acre per year for ten years for the enrolled upland around the wetlands.
- 2) If the CRP application is not accepted, the OOWD will develop a ten year agreement with the landowners and pay \$160 per acre per year for the area covered by the agreement.

Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: Ingenthron, Mc Gowan. Motion carried.

Purchasing the Abramson site for stormwater storage and treatment was discussed. Mc Gowan moved to pursue the purchase of the land. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

### **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit application:

**Joel Lorenz and Bill Gordon** – to install approximately 200 feet of tile and an intake in the NW ¼, NW ¼, section 15, Worthington Township subject to the following conditions:

- 1) A traditional tile intake may not be installed. A rock intake may be used.
- 2) All tile installed on the east side of County Road 25 must be non-perforated, and
- 3) Permission must be received from the owners of the property before any tile is installed.

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

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

**Ann and Dave Mills** – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home at 31133 297<sup>th</sup> Street, Worthington.

**Kim Milbrandt** – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home in the shoreland area at 767 West Shore Drive, Worthington.

**Jason Schutz** – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home on Buchanan Drive, Worthington.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.