

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 1, 2014

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, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Stephanie McLain, NRCS District Conservationist, Katherine Tieken, district resident; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. 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 \$10,500 from savings into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Stephanie McLain led a discussion on using the St. John property to demonstrate cover crops. It was decided to no-till plant soybeans in rows on the site this spring. Soil profiles and soil tests will be completed by NRCS staff so changes can be tracked over time. The district will pay the soil testing costs.

The Ducks Unlimited engineer was unable to attend the meeting today, so discussion about restoration options for Lake Ocheda will occur at the May 6th board meeting.

Construction of the Herlein-Boote wetland western outlet structure is underway. The diversion ditch plug construction will occur soon. The managers discussed donating the land along the diversion ditch to the DNR sometime in the future.

Pheasants Forever purchased the approximately 147.3 acres in the Worthington wellhead protection area at the auction on March 17th. A \$60,000 check will be written to Pheasants Forever when the property closing occurs later this month.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A Kubota RTV500 is ready to be picked up today at Jaycox Implement. The unit includes a roof, windshield, speedometer and review mirror. The total cost will be \$10,071.78. The RTV will be licensed and a sprayer tank purchased for herbicide application and fire suppression.

Controlled burns are planned for Lake Bella Park this spring. Two fire swatters were purchased for the burns.

Logan Ahlers was hired as one of the interns by the Heron Lake Watershed District. The interns will be available to work in the OOWD for up to five hours per week.

The Affordable Care Act makes the health insurance reimbursement provided for staff taxable income. Arrangements will be made to pay the policy premium directly to Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The Olson Trust Board will meet on April 15th. Livdahl will be writing a letter to them this week explaining how the money given to the district last year was used and suggesting ways to spend money this year.

Livdahl will pick up the floating islands while in the Twin Cities for Easter. Plants for the islands will be ordered soon.

A grasses and forbs seed mix was ordered from LeSueur River Seeding and Conservation to plant six acres at Bella Park this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Duba asked to resign from the district's citizen advisory board. Richard Fellows and Katherine Ticken volunteered to be appointed to the board. Mahlberg moved to appoint Fellows and Ticken. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 6, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.