

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 5, 2016

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, Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Scott Rall, Keith Schroeder, Ben Krohn, and Jim McGowan, advisory committee members; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor, Robin Baumgarn, Daily Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, 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 \$18,000 from savings into checking. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2016 annual plan draft was updated to include developing a social media campaign about Okabena and Ocheda lakes issues. Rogers moved to approve the 2016 Annual Plan. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The plan will be posted on the district website soon.

The advisory committee met at 3:00 today to make recommendations on the future of the district's incentive and cost-share programs. Minutes of the meeting will be emailed to the managers soon.

The Lake Ocheda enhancement plan committee met on March 29th. The plan will call for modifying the existing dam and installing a fish barrier. It will not include installing a pumping system. Estimated costs for the dam and fish barrier are about \$300,000. The committee will meet again in May. It is hoped that the DNR commissioner will approve the plan later this year.

Jay Milbrandt is working on a social media campaign for lake issues. He asked the members of Bob Rohrer's Facebook discussion group whether they would be interested in information on Lake Okabena. Jay said the response was positive.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mahlberg will arrange for grading the roads at Bella Park and will install the boat landing dock before the fishing opener. Fire breaks were mowed last fall to facilitate burning parts of the prairie this spring. Weather permitting, burns will be done in April.

The Olson Trust board will meet on April 12th. They asked for recommendations on how to spend their money in 2016. Livdahl will attend the meeting.

The price of materials for building floating islands increased this year. The district will purchase islands to install in Sunset Bay instead of building them.

Livdahl attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts legislative event last week. He and Jan Voit met with Representative Hamilton and Senator Weber. A number of bills have been introduced to modify last year's buffer legislation.

Steve Robinson asked whether the district would cost-share on repairing the failing culverts under his crossing of the unnamed stream flowing into Sunset Bay. Steve believes his options are to repair the existing culverts or line them. The DNR hydrologist has been asked to determine what can be done with the culverts in the floodway.

NEW BUSINESS

Livdahl will submit a BWSR biennial budget request (BBR) that includes funding for the Prairie View pond and Lake Ocheda enhancement project. Including the projects in a BBR may increase the likelihood of receiving a grants for the projects.

A resolution in support of the One Watershed/One Plan process was discussed. Mahlberg moved to adopt the resolution. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The ISD #518 purchase of land in the Sunset Bay watershed was discussed. The School Board will be contracting with an architect soon to do a conceptual plan of the site. The OOWD will contact them to discuss stormwater management on the site and projects that could be done jointly to exceed state standards for runoff pollution control.

A proposal from Wenck Associates to do a feasibility study for chemical treatment of water flowing into Sunset Bay was received. The study would look at alum treatment, clarifiers and iron enhanced filters. Since clarifiers and iron enhanced filters would likely work best on the property purchased by ISD #518, the proposal will be shelved until discussions can occur with the School District.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2016 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.

RESOLUTION

**Resolution to support a Missouri River Basin Watershed
One Watershed, One Plan project.**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Missouri River Basin Watershed, as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Missouri River Basin for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Missouri River Basin Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

April 5, 2016

Les Johnson, Chair