

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**April 4, 2017**

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: Doug Goodrich, BWSR Conservationist; John Weitgenant, district resident; Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Jim Mc Gowan and Scott Rall, advisory committee members; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, 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, 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 \$6000 from savings to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on April 5th to discuss changing the plan to allow lake level draw downs to begin in August. The committee will also set a date for the final public information meeting and the DNR commissioner's hearing. A letter was sent to advisory committee members inviting them to participate in the meeting.

A map of open tile intakes located in road rights-of-way in Lake Okabena's Sunset Bay watershed was viewed by the managers. Nobles County will cap two intakes in the CSAH 35 right-of-way. The benefits and costs of replacing the open intakes with rock intakes were discussed. Langseth reported that he brought the subject up at the Nobles County Township Association meeting in March. Replacing open intakes in road rights-of-way may fit into the state township association's water quality initiative.

The construction phase engineering contract for the Prairie View project was not received before the meeting, but a proposal showing services to be provided and costs was reviewed. The contract will be reviewed and signed at the next meeting.

The Prairie View project requires a Nobles County conditional use permit. The conditional use hearing will be on April 26th. Livdahl and Haffield will attend the meeting to explain the project. The fee for the DNR permit was paid today.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

District staff will begin inspecting large construction sites for Worthington in April.

Johnson discussed installing plastic and construction fabric on the rock ditch plug on the St. John property to make it more impermeable. Johnson has the fabric. Vehicle access to the site is limited, but a few loads of rock may be hauled in to cover the materials.

Three floating island wetlands were ordered to install in Sunset Bay in May. Katie Klosterbur, Nobles County 4-H Director, sent out a registration for 4-H members to help install the islands on May 20th. A minimum of 20 members must register.

The One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee met for the first time yesterday. Casey represented the district.

The Olson Trust Advisory Committee will meet on April 19th at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall. Livdahl will attend and ask them to consider contributing to the construction costs of the Prairie View project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

John Weitgenant discussed installing a dam across a gully located on his land in the NW 1/4, section 20, Worthington Township. He stated that he hopes to store more water and create better wildlife habitat at the site. John asked about what regulations may apply to the project. Johnson and Livdahl will view the site and get back to him.

The engineering documents should be completed next week so the Prairie View ponds expansion project can be advertised. Mahlberg moved to approve the project and authorize advertising for bids. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Mahlberg moved that two board members and Livdahl serve on a committee to open the bids with the City Engineer. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. A special meeting may be needed to award the bids.

Nobles County will enforce the Minnesota buffer law compliance throughout the county. Harberts explained his role in the enforcement process.

Milbrandt explained the Worthington Regional Economic Development Commission is looking for developable land in Worthington. Selling the cropland portion of the St. John property for development was discussed. The board is open to selling the land for an appropriate use and is open to hearing offers.

Upgrading the grass waterway in Olson Park to better treat stormwater was discussed. When the engineers look at the school district property they, will also be asked to recommend options for installing a bio-swale or filter in the park.

## **PERMITS**

The permit application from Worthington for the Prairie View Ponds project needs a signature. The permit application will be considered at the May board meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 2, 2017 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Mahlberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.