

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**August 5, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Galen Gordon, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were Norm Gallagher, County Commissioner; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator; Mark Hiles, BWSR Conservationist and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the July regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A CD of \$30,000 will mature on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer the CD money into checking. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

Cost-share requests for rain gardens at the **Dingman Funeral Home** and **Ag. Service Center** were discussed. Approving cost-share for the two projects at \$300 each would exceed the money set aside for rain gardens. Mahlberg moved to approve cost-share for the projects. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A check for \$2500 was issued to the SWCD to pay cost-share for the Minnesota West, county, Vogt Park and school district rain gardens.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A few complaints were received by Nobles County and watershed district about weeds at the Vogt Park rain garden.

Erosion control permit compliance at the Bousema, Larson and LDS Church sites was discussed. Permit holders will be contacted in August about planting grasses for erosion control.

The St. John's property will be advertised for bids in August. The lease will be for two years. Sealed bids will be due on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and opened at the next board meeting. Gordon will work with Livdahl to create the advertisement and rental specifications.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The owners of the Long Branch Saloon proposed having a foam party in the alley right-of-way. The Worthington City Council expressed concern that the foam solution may pollute Lake Okabena or other surface waters. Draining the solution into the storm sewers would be an illicit discharge prohibited by City ordinance.

The owners of the Meadows are planning to expand their facility with another building and more parking lot. The expansion will be less than one acre, so no storm water pond is required under state, City or watershed district rules at this time.

Wayne Smith has been providing a boat, motor, trailer, fuel and life jackets for sampling on Lake Ocheda and Lake Bella. Mahlberg moved to pay \$200 to Wayne for use of his boat in 2008. Gordon seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Gordon's and Williamson's board appointments expire on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A public notice will be published asking people who want to be appointed to the positions to write a letter of interest to the County Board by August 26<sup>th</sup>. Gordon stated that he may decide not to request reappointment.

About 100 storm sewer markers were installed in Worthington in July. To fulfill the contract with the City, another 100 markers need to be installed before the end of the year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board will meet sometime in August or September.

The Minnesota Waters grant program was discussed. Proposals must show tangible results, be completed within 12 months and be for less than \$5000. Proposals are due on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

A draft of the 2009 budget was reviewed by the Managers. Adjustments to the filter strip incentives and office rent line items were made. Mahlberg moved to adopt the budget with the corrections. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2009 budget hearing will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately before the next board meeting. Mahlberg moved to publish the budget as a part of the hearing notice. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The process for evaluating the Administrator's position was discussed. Gallagher will get copies of the County's performance evaluation sheets and write a letter of explanation to the managers. The evaluation sheets will be returned to Williamson. The Administrator's performance evaluation will occur at the next board meeting. Williamson and Mahlberg will meet with Livdahl before then.

The Managers discussed whether the OOWD should regulate the application of copper sulfate and other aquatic herbicides. Since the DNR requires permits for aquatic plant control, the Managers decided not to regulate it.

## **PERMITS**

Gordon moved to approve the following permit applications:

**Accessible Space, Inc.** – to implement the storm water pollution prevention plan during construction of the Worthington Elder Housing Project on Nobles Street.

**Aaron Nystrom** – to remove accumulated silt to the elevation of the original ditch bottom in the W ½, NW ¼, SW ½, section 13, Bigelow Township on the condition that the project complies with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act to avoid wetland drainage.

**Charles Middagh** – to install approximately 400 feet of 5 inch diameter tile in the NW ¼, NE ¼, section 32, Worthington Township on the condition that the project avoids wetland drainage as defined by the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

**Rolf Mahlberg** – to install approximately 7000 feet of 4 inch diameter tile in the SW ¼, section 11, Bigelow Township.

Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson.  
Abstained: Mahlberg. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The 2009 Budget Hearing will occur at 4:00 p.m. on September 2, 2008 at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road. The next regular board meeting will follow it at about 4:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.