

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
August 15, 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: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Keith Schroeder, Doug Anton and Scott Rall, advisory committee members; John Shea, SWCD manager; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the June regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable for July and August were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$7,000 from savings to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Dewatering began recently at the Prairie View site. Topsoil was stripped from the two fill disposal sites yesterday. Excavation to expand the pond began today.

A phone cable easement exists crossing the project site. The local phone companies have been notified by the engineer but none claim to have a line there. Worthington staff informed us of an irrigation well in the project area. The pump was removed last week and Worthington will disconnect the power and water meter. Spartz Well Drilling agreed to seal the well this week when weather permits.

Livdahl sent an email to Nobles County in June notifying them that the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District waives the right to enforce the state buffer strip requirements. This will allow Nobles County to do the enforcement and use the state funding for it.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl met with the Worthington Township board in June. The township intends to work with Bigelow Township to raise the roads intersecting at Smith Lake. They asked about cleaning the stream channel between the intersection and Lake Ocheda. Worthington Township will allow the district to replace surface intakes with rock intakes in township road ditches as long as the district pays for construction.

The last public information meeting for the Lake Ocheda Management plan is scheduled for September 11, 2017. The public hearing for the plan is scheduled on October 10, 2017. The district advisory committee will meet sometime between information meeting and public hearing dates.

Brian Christianson, Acting District Conservationist, inspected the Bella Dam on July 13th.

Shirley Dykstra was given permission to remove hay from a portion of the Ocheda Dam property in July.

Mike Woll asked for permission to remove stumps and overhanging branches along the path mowed on the west side of Lake Bella to improve it for recreational use. Livdahl gave him permission. A 'no unauthorized vehicles allowed' sign was installed on the north end of the path.

Livdahl recommended getting a proposal from Wenck Associates to do a feasibility study for pollution removal practices on the District 518/Vogt property and parks in Worthington. Rogers moved to get an estimate for a feasibility study. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion

carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2016 financial audit report was discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the audit report. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The managers reviewed a draft 2018 budget. The budget hearing will be held on September 5, 2017. Mahlberg moved to publish the 2018 budget before the hearing. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Board terms for Jeff Rogers and Casey Ingenthron end in October. Both have applied to Nobles County for reappointment. Mahlberg moved to recommend reappointment of Ingenthron and Rogers. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Milbrandt and Livdahl met with City Administrator, Steve Robinson, about trading the St. John property for a portion of the Prairie View golf course. The importance of maintaining grass on the site for water quality downstream was discussed. The city would like a proposal from the district. Mahlberg moved to participate in discussions with Worthington on the properties. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Livdahl will create a proposal for discussion at the September meeting.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications:

Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company – to perform erosion and sediment control during installation of buried cable, pedestals, hand holes and buildings in the district.

Nobles County Fair Board – to perform erosion and sediment control during the installation of fill to create a gravel parking lot between the hockey building and Stower Drive at the Nobles County Fairgrounds.

Ercell Dkystra – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction in the shoreland area at 1002 South Shore Drive, Worthington.

Nobles County – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction to waterproof the foundation of the Nobles County Government Center at 315 Tenth Street, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The 2018 Budget Public Hearing will occur at 4:00 p.m. on September 5, 2017 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road. The regular September board meeting will immediately follow the hearing.

Meeting adjourned.