

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**August 6, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the July regular board meeting and special board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes for the two meetings. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mahlberg reported on the meeting yesterday with the DNR wildlife, fisheries and shallow lakes staff to review and approve the Ocheda Dam operation and management plan. According to the plan, two weeks notice needs to be given before beginning the lake level drawdown. A Globe story will be published on August 10<sup>th</sup> stating the drawdown will begin on August 26<sup>th</sup>. A letter will also be mailed this week to the lake's riparian landowners informing them of the drawdown schedule. Paul Langseth and Joe and Rita Vander Kooi will be asked to fill two positions on the lake management plan advisory committee. Land Pride Construction expects to begin work on the dam in late September.

The 2018 financial audit was emailed to managers for review before the meeting. The audit was completed on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to the late date, the document and 2018 financial report were not submitted to the State Auditor's office by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The report was submitted to the state and posted on the district website on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Milbrandt talked to attorney, Jeff Flynn, about whether the Prairie View project engineer can be held liable for the two failures of the spillway. He recommended meeting with Flynn to get a more formal opinion on options for the spillway repair. Milbrandt moved to form a committee to explore legal avenues for the Prairie View project - spending up to \$2500 for the legal advice. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Ingenthron, Milbrandt and Livdahl will serve on the committee. Flynn will also be asked to review the liability release form for the filter bench repair completed in 2018.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The three picnic tables at Bella Park were found on the roof of the northern shelter a few weeks ago. At least one of the tables was damaged during the move. Langseth will use his lift get them down.

Livdahl met with Mike Fogelman yesterday about repairing the riprap around the Lake Bella dam spillway pool. He was asked to provide a time and materials cost estimate.

Land Pride Construction may request a partial payment for materials for the Lake Ocheda dam project. Project engineer, Jim Streifel, stated it is customary to make such payments when requested.

Livdahl will be on vacation next week. He will return to work on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The bid opening for the Prairie View Spillway Repair Project occurred at 2:00 p.m. today. One bid was received. The bid exceeded the engineer's estimate by more than 25%. Rogers moved to reject the bid. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The district needs to certify its 2020 levy before the end of September. A draft of the 2020 budget to be included in the budget hearing public notice was reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the budget for the public notice. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The budget hearing will be held immediately before the September board meeting.

#### **PERMITS**

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications.

**City of Worthington** – to implement the stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of an entertainment center spec building, parking lots and stormwater facilities on Darling Drive in Worthington.

**Todd Schwebach** – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 2490 Darling Drive, Worthington.

**Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation** – to implement the stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a new pipeline into Worthington.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The 2020 budget hearing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 3, 2019 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road. The regular monthly board meeting will immediately follow the hearing. Meeting adjourned.