

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**December 2, 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 Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were Orville Hokeness and Wilbur Prins, landowners; Norm Gallagher, County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Al Langseth, Nobles County Public Works employee and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The second half of the 2008 levy was received. Livdahl will get information about short term CD interest rates at Worthington Federal and the Bank of the West. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A cost-share payment for Paul Standafer's septic system replacement was approved with the Treasurer's report.

Notices of watershed district permit violation will be mailed to Brian Dorcey and Justin Larson for failure to install erosion control practices. The notices will give them 14 days to install silt barriers.

The Nobles County Water Plan/Watershed District management plan has been submitted to the DNR Waters Division Commissioner for the 60 day comment period.

Pheasants Forever has signed a purchase agreement with John Donkersloot to purchase approximately 17 acres in the Lake Bella wellhead protection area. The PF President, Scott Rall, will be talking to Gary approaching Worthington Public Utilities and the OOWD to ask them to contribute to the purchases.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Livdahl rented a mower to cut cottonwood trees on the St. John property. The trees were too big and too numerous for the mower, so much of the patch near Nobles Street was cut by hand. A larger patch of cottonwoods still exists near Buss field.

Mahlberg and Livdahl removed the dead tree from the Ocheda Dam.

A sign directing the public to the OOWD office will be painted in the Public Works Facility entryway.

Five factsheets were created this year for Worthington's storm water website. Livdahl needs to finish one more before the end of December to fulfill the contract with the City.

Two engineers called during the past month about inconsistencies in the watershed district rules regarding

storm water storage requirements. The rules committee will meet and consider making minor changes to the rules this winter.

A letter was received from MN DOT regarding the proposed realignment of Highway 60 and providing access to the St. John property. Livdahl responded to the letter stating that the OOWD will need access to the property on the south side of the highway. Johnson and Livdahl plan to attend the Highway 60 open house in the Farmers Room immediately following this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Orville Hokeness read a statement regarding tile installed above his property in section 1, Dewald Township. Wilbur Prins explained a map showing the tile drainage in place upstream of the Hokeness property. Hokeness stated that tile on his property are already overloaded and the Bousemas should be required to install an additional tile to convey the new water to the Herlein-Boote WMA wetland.

The OOWD issued a permit to Bousema Farms to install 10,000 feet of tile in the N ½, NW ¼, section 1, Dewald Township. Many more feet were installed than authorized by the permit. Past precedents require Bousema Farms to update the permit with a map of the tile actually installed on the site. Steve Bousema will be contacted and told he needs to provide the information.

Restoring the portion of the East Okabena basin, east of County Highway 5, was discussed. Clean Water Legacy amendment money may be a source of funding for projects like this in the future. The Managers do not want to spend money on developing a proposal for restoring the basin until more information is available about the type of projects eligible for the new funding.

### **PERMITS**

An application for a permit for the YMCA project is not complete. It will be reviewed when the stormwater pollution prevention plan is submitted.

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit application:

**Tim Blume** – to install approximately 1700 feet of 5 inch diameter tile in the W ½, NW ¼, section 29, Worthington Township.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. on January 6, 2009 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.