

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
December 6, 2011

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, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present was Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the November 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The second half of the 2011 levy was deposited in the checking account. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$35,000 from the checking account to the money market account at Worthington Federal. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Earthwork for the Busse Farms' terrace and diversion project is complete. Copies for the project bills have not been received yet. Rogers moved to pay the cost-share when the bills arrive. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Future projects including restoring wetlands, placing permanent easements on CRP filter strip sites, acquiring the Abramson property for stormwater storage and treatment, and stabilizing the banks of Okabena Creek were discussed. The managers will decide which projects to pursue in 2012 at the next board meeting.

A draft of the 2012 budget was reviewed. The budget will be approved at the January meeting after more discussion about projects and staff salary and benefits.

Approximately 170,000 pounds of buffalo fish were seined from Lake Bella during October and November. Good fishing at Lake Bella, low lake levels and windy weather kept Scott Des Lauriers and his crew from fishing at Lake Ocheda. A letter will be sent to the Lake Ocheda landowners group members explaining why fishing didn't occur there this year.

Mahlberg received the staff performance review forms completed by the other managers. He and Rogers will meet with Livdahl to finish the performance evaluation.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The tiling project on the Vander Kooi property in section 30, Lorain Township is exempt from regulation under the state Wetland Conservation Act because a crop was planted on the land during six of the ten years prior to 1991. Federal Swampbuster rules don't apply to the site.

The Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting was held on November 14th. The Worthington City Council will discuss the board's request to create a water resources fund from the hospital sale proceeds sometime before the middle of January.

Worthington will begin implementing floodwater mitigation projects on County Ditch 12 sometime soon. The first phase of the project will create floodwater storage areas north of Interstate 90. Later phases will include increasing culvert sizes in CD 12 and creating a floodwater storage pond in the OOWD.

NEW BUSINESS

Graphs comparing the static level Worthington Public Utilities' well 26 to lake levels and annual precipitation were viewed. It appears that the static well levels in the Lake Bella aquifer are most stable when annual precipitation is 28 inches or greater.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

Avera McKennan Hospital – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a clinic facility at 1216 Ryan's Road, Worthington.

Worthington Power and Equipment – to rebuild an old grassed waterway draining stormwater from the gravel lot, and to build a new grassed waterway draining stormwater and agricultural land at 118 Highway 59 and 60 south, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on January 3, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.