

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
December 4, 2012

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Jim Mc Gowan, retired manager; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$40,000 from the Wells Fargo checking account to the Worthington Federal money market account. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The managers presented a plaque to Jim Mc Gowan honoring him for eight years of service on the board. Mc Gowan expressed his thanks and offered advice on the future of the district's management and programs.

The managers discussed possible future projects. The survey is complete for the area needing stabilization on Okabena Creek. The City intends to complete a plan and cost-estimate for the project this winter. The district will likely be asked to contribute to the cost of the project.

Johnson attended an auction for the Goebel property in the Sunset Bay sub-watershed. One of the parcels contains a 15 acre pasture with wetlands. This area will likely be tilled and converted to cropland. The new owner stated that he may be willing to sell the pasture for \$10,000 per acre. The clean water partnership board stated that they did not believe this was an appropriate use of city funds.

The swale on the east side of the St. John property is complete. A rock outlet leading to the ditch will be installed soon. The managers discussed options for selling the land, or trading it for other land where a future project may occur. The district will consider options for holding more water on the St. John property near Buss Field next year.

Livdahl got a few comments from Worthington residents in opposition to removing the spruce trees on the east side of Whiskey Ditch. Since the trees were planted by the city and are growing in Centennial Park, the managers decided the city should take the lead on the issue.

Ingenthron, Johnson and Livdahl met with an engineer at the Lake Ocheda dam to discuss options for diverting water around the structure if needed to recharge the Bella aquifer. Worthington Public Utilities staff will contact the Minnesota Department of Health to see what hydrological data is available for the area between Lake Ocheda and Lake Bella.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board met on November 27th to pay bills and talk about projects in 2013.

Ingenthron and Livdahl attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts meeting. They talked to a vendor about floating island wetlands at the trade show. Livdahl will get information on the cost of a 100 square

foot island and vegetation. He will also talk to Minnesota West maintenance staff about whether they are willing to host an island in the new regional stormwater pond.

An Environmental Congress Citizen Forum will be held on December 10th at the Worthington High School cafeteria. The managers were encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2013 budget will be reviewed and approved at the January board meeting.

Mahlberg will conduct the annual performance evaluation for the Administrator before the January board meeting. An evaluation form will be mailed to the other managers to get their input.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications.

Minnesota West – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a field house on the Worthington campus.

Dan Wagner - to perform erosion control during construction of a new home on lot 1, block 2, of the Glenwood Heights sub-division, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 8, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.