

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
December 3, 2013

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present was Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approve payment of the bills and transfer \$60,000 from checking into the money market account at Worthington Federal. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The proposal from Wenck consulting for monitoring Lake Okabena and its sub-watershed did not include the costs of equipment to measure the lake's water level or stream flow. Equipment will cost approximately \$8000. Mahlberg moved to authorize the purchase of the monitoring equipment not to exceed \$8000. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Potential projects to be included in the 2014 plan and budget were discussed. It was decided to budget \$3000 to seed native grasses and forbs on the property on the west side of the Ochedan River, and \$500 to do prescribed burns on the Bella Park property.

Reconvening the committee to write a management plan for Lake Ocheda was discussed. Mahlberg predicted a fish kill would occur this winter due to the low water levels, early ice and snow cover.

Hiring a consultant to update the district's rules was discussed. The managers talked about using incentive programs to achieve water quality goals as preferable to landuse regulations.

A draft of the 2013 budget was reviewed by the managers. No rent is expected from the St. John property this year. The land will be farmed by the district and used to demonstrate cover crops. The budget will show approximately \$200 per acre in expenses for planting crops and the cover crop. Approximately \$200 will be budgeted for income from crop sales. The budget discussion will continue at the January meeting.

Mahlberg and Rogers completed Livdahl's annual performance evaluation. Mahlberg moved to grant a two percent salary increase for him beginning in the first full payroll period in January. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Black soil was placed on about one acre of the St. John property. Winter wheat was dormant seeded on the disturbed area.

Lake Ocheda froze over before rough fish seining could occur this fall.

A meeting will occur before the end of the year to recap the experiment with Bioverse products in Whiskey Ditch and the Glenwood Heights stormwater pond. Approximately \$4000 was budgeted for this experiment.

NEW BUSINESS

The DNR plans to permanently close the Herlein-Boote diversion ditch this winter. A project map showing the location of the ditch plug on OOWD property was viewed. Livdahl suggested transferring the property to the state since it is already posted and managed as part of the wildlife management area. The area will likely become part of the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District in the future. Rogers stated that more information is needed on possible future uses for the property and the location of potential watershed district boundaries before making a decision on transferring the property to the state. An agreement between the DNR and the district will need to be signed before construction begins.

Livdahl spoke to the Heron Lake Watershed District and Nobles SWCD about sharing an intern position to help do water quality and flow monitoring in 2014. More discussion will be held with the HLWD and SWCD in January.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 7, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.