

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
December 5, 2017

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: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Keith Schroeder, Doug Anton and Scott Rall, advisory committee members; Kassy Hendricks, Ducks Unlimited biologist; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the November regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. 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 and pay the bills, including the first payment request from Duininck, Inc for the Prairie View project. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A septic system replacement cost-share payment for Bernell Hillsheim was approved with the bills payable.

OLD BUSINESS

Mahlberg and Rogers completed the annual performance evaluation for the administrator earlier today. Mahlberg moved to set Livdahl's 2018 salary at \$57,270 and spend up to \$10,750 on his group health insurance premiums and health savings account contributions. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Duininck completed seeding and other punch card items at the Prairie View site last week. The pond filter manholes will remain open until the sand layer is replaced in 2018. Wenck Associates will bring in a contractor to replace the sand layer and pay the associated costs in 2018.

The managers reviewed a spread sheet of all the Prairie View financial transactions to date. BWSR staff completed a reconciliation of the grant expenses last week and will authorize the payment of 40 percent of the grant total to the district soon.

The board reviewed the second payment request from Duininck, Inc. Since the request was received by email during the board meeting, Johnson, Ingenthron and Livdahl will review request details after the meeting. Mahlberg moved to approve the payment request, after review, and retain five percent until the site is stabilized. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2018 budget was discussed. It is expected that expenditures will exceed revenues next year to pay for engineering and construction costs on the Lake Ocheda dam. It is expected that construction costs will use most of the district's cash reserves and require the district to borrow money for the project. The budget will be discussed further at the January meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting needs to occur before the end of the month. Livdahl will try to schedule the meeting on December 14th at City Hall.

Livdahl attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual meeting last week.

Mahlberg received a cost estimate of \$60,000 to install a bioreactor to treat tile water entering his retention pond near Lake Ocheda. Estimated construction and maintenance costs were much higher than expected.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott Rall explained a discussion he held with Jon Schneider about Ducks Unlimited providing engineering services for modifying the Lake Ocheda dam. Having Ducks Unlimited do the engineering will save money, since they will be able to use the hydrologic information collected during the feasibility study for the lake management plan. Kassy Hendricks presented a draft professional services agreement to the board. Ingenthron moved to enter an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to provide engineering services, not to exceed a cost of \$80,000, and to authorize the board president or administrator to sign the agreement. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Johnson talked to Terry Neugebauer about farming the St. John property cropland next year for \$150 per acre. Johnson signed the 2018 rental agreement. Mahlberg will deliver it to Neugebauer for his signature. Neugebauer tilled the site after harvest and picked up rocks. Johnson moved the rocks across the highway to the St. John property ditch plug. Scott Rall was hired to seed the site's buffer strips last week.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on January 9, 2018 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.