

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
February 5, 2008

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:01 p.m. Present were Managers Les Johnson, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Manager, Galen Gordon, arrived at 4:05 p.m. Also present were Doug Westerman, Red Rock Rural Water; Steve Woltjer, NRCS District Conservationist and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A well sealing cost-share payment for Scot Spittle was included in the bills payable. Williamson moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A well sealing cost-share payment for Scot Spittle was approved with the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve Woltjer told the board about plans for rain gardens at Minnesota West, Prairie Elementary, Worthington Middle School, Nobles County Public Works and Vogt Park sites. Projects will be partially funded by the SWCD, RC&D and USFWS. Woltjer said that no financial commitment is needed now, but encouraged the OOWD to provide cost-share for the projects. Cost-share for the Middle School project was approved at the January meeting. Cost-share forms will be sent to the project sponsors so they can make requests for funding.

Questions about whether the renters of the St. John property were given fair notice of the OOWD's intent to advertise for bids in 2008 have arisen since the last meeting. Gordon moved to rescind the motion made at the January meeting to advertise for bids for 2008. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Gordon moved to rent the land to the Doedens for a reasonable rate for 2008 and advertise for bids for the 2009 crop year in August. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Mahlberg will contact Larry and Roger Doeden to agree on a fair 2008 rental rate.

A copy of the 2007 Annual Report was reviewed. Williamson moved to approve the report. Gordon seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2008 annual plan was discussed. Potential projects to be considered include a lakeshore stabilization project at Bella Park. More discussion on the plan will occur at the March board

meeting.

Revenues and expenses for the water quality assessment grant were added to the draft 2008 budget. The excess revenues will be set aside for future land purchases. Gordon moved to approve the 2008 budget with the changes. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Gordon and Williamson reviewed the proposed changes to the OOWD Employee Handbook and Administrative Policies documents. Gordon moved to approve the Employee Handbook and Administrative Policies. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Gordon stated that some of the policies were unnecessarily elaborate, especially the leave section. Williamson and Livdahl will review the severance pay policy and make a recommendation at a future meeting.

Williamson got checking account information from Wells Fargo and downloaded information from other local banks.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The project NEMO workshop will be on February 26th. Managers were encouraged to attend.

The MAWD Day at the Capitol is on March 13th. The Association of District Administrators meets on March 12th. Livdahl plans to register and attend both.

The 2007 financial records were delivered in January to Dennis Rick, Ltd for an audit.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug Westerman explained the Red Rock Rural Water System proposed expansion into Bigelow, Indian Lake, Lorain and Worthington townships and areas of Jackson County. The system needs to sell about 500 memberships before the project proceeds. A map of likely pipeline locations was reviewed by the board. No environmental problems are foreseen.

The MPCA water quality assessment grant final application was discussed. Gordon moved to approve the grant application and sign the authorization resolution. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be on March 4, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.