

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**February 7, 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, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Al Langseth, district resident and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

**COST-SHARE**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

A draft of the 2011 annual report was reviewed. One of the wellhead protection project descriptions will be rewritten to better explain the partnership between the district, Worthington Public Utilities, DNR and Pheasants Forever for land acquisition. The plan will be approved at the March meeting.

A draft of the 2012 annual plan was reviewed. The board discussed grant opportunities to fund converting CRP filter strip contract sites to permanent conservation easements. The managers will approve the plan after more discussion at the March board meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The Lake Ocheda fish barrier permit will likely be issued sometime in the next month. The barrier will need to remain open from late fall through April 15<sup>th</sup> to allow for game fish migration. Marv Rall said he is willing to build the barrier if the district pays for the materials. Mahlberg moved to set up an account at Shine Brothers to charge up to \$5000 for materials to construct the fish barrier. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

DNR and district staff will meet at the Herlein-Boote Wildlife Management Area tomorrow to discuss ways to prevent big head carp migration through the wetland.

A letter was received from the Worthington Montessori School asking the district to pay for a Prairie Ecology Bus program for students and parents this spring. Livdahl told Leann Enninga that the district will pay for the program.

Roger and Larry Doeden asked about renting the St. John property in 2012. Due to ongoing construction on the site, it is unknown how much land will be farmable this year. Mahlberg will contact the Doedens to discuss a rental agreement for the farmable acres.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The state wants to transfer ownership of the Lake Ocheda dam to the district. Mahlberg moved to accept ownership of the dam and the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the structure. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Bank of the West, Wells Fargo and Worthington Federal Saving Bank will be the district's depositories in 2012. Livdahl recommended opening a checking account at Wells Fargo. Rogers moved to open a business checking account at Wells Fargo with Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Dan Livdahl authorized to sign checks. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Paul Langseth explained that a contractor has been hired for the family's shoreland stabilization project. It is hoped that riprap can be trucked to the site before the road weight restrictions are in place this spring.

The district's efforts to improve and protect water quality in Lake Okabena have concentrated on conservation practices reducing non-point source pollution loading from the lake's watershed. While water clarity seems to have improved during the last twenty years, algae blooms, especially during late summer, are a continuing problem. Livdahl gave a presentation on the characteristics of cyanobacteria blooms and evidence for in-lake phosphorus loading. The managers will consider the feasibility of implementing in-lake practices for reducing algae blooms at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on March 6, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.