

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**February 5, 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 Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Manager, Jay Milbrandt, attended the meeting electronically using FaceTime. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The January board meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The minutes of the December 2012 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

#### **COST-SHARE**

A cost-share request from Dan Krueger to remove sediment from a pond and stabilize its banks was reviewed. The pond removes sediment from a stream that flows into Lake Okabena's Sunset Bay. Mahlberg moved to cost-share 50% of the cleanout costs, not to exceed \$2000, and contingent on passing inspection by staff. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Abstained: Ingenthron. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Potential Projects for 2013 were discussed. Mahlberg moved to buy two - fifty square foot - floating islands and the plants to be installed at the Olson regional stormwater pond on the Minnesota West campus. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Livdahl and Johnson met with staff from Bioverse in mid-January. A proposal from Bioverse to use AquaSpheres to treat water in Whiskey Ditch and the Glenwood Heights stormwater pond was discussed. It was decided to send a letter to the Olson Trust board asking them if they would be willing to help pay for the use of the AquaSpheres and the floating islands. The Bioverse proposal will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Milbrandt led discussion about the potential for using aeration to reduce algae blooms on Lake Okabena. A brochure from Lake Savers describing their system of aeration, bio-augmentation and in-lake filtration was reviewed. It was decided to get more information from the Lake Savers about how their approach may be used to benefit the lake.

Zebra Mussels are present in the Iowa Great Lake system. Livdahl recommended that the district work with the Heron Lake Watershed District and the Lake Okabena Improvement Association (LOIA) to create and implement a local program to educate the public about zebra mussels. He suggested spending up to \$1500 to help the LOIA create and distribute educational materials. The money would likely be matched by a grant from the Nobles County water plan fund. Mahlberg move to contribute up to \$1500 to help the LOIA jump start a zebra mussel education program. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mahlberg reported that he and Rogers conducted the personnel evaluation with Livdahl. Mahlberg moved to adopt a 2% pay increase. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers.

Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2013 budget was reviewed. Ingenthon moved to adopt the budget. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Livdahl talked to Julie Blackburn last week. She is willing to meet with the board sometime in the future about developing rules.

Larye Mick should soon complete a cost estimate for resurveying the bottom of Lake Okabena.

City staff have completed a preliminary cost estimate for installing riprap on Okabena Creek's banks between Industrial Lane and the north end of Whiskey Ditch. The cost for the entire stretch is somewhere between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Due to the high cost, the banks will probably be fixed in stages.

Dwayne Haffield has been corresponding with MPCA staff about the model that will be used to allocate the total maximum daily pollution loads for Lake Okabena. It appears that the lake model being developed for the Missouri River basin TMDL will be really general. This would give estimates of the pollution loading and needed reductions from agricultural land and urban land based on the characteristics of similar watersheds rather than actual watershed conditions. Dwayne has again offered local money for additional work to make the study better.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mahlberg moved to adopt the following slate of officers for 2013:

President – Les Johnson  
Vice President – Rolf Mahlberg  
Treasurer – Casey Ingenthon  
Secretary – Jeff Rogers

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

The managers received a draft of the 2012 annual report. It will be discussed at the March meeting.

The Nobles County Comprehensive Water Plan is up for its five year review. The county plan serves as the SWCD's comprehensive plan and as the overall plans for the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District and the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District. If other organizations want to make significant changes to the plan, the OOWD may need to go through the watershed district management plan revision process spelled out in state statute.

## **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications.

**Dan Krueger** – to perform erosion control during the cleanout of a pond at 2625 Fox Farm Road, Worthington.

**Steve Johnson** – to install additional riprap on his shoreline at 813 West Shore Drive, Worthington.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on March 5, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.