

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Galen Gordon, Les Johnson, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were Norm Gallagher, Nobles County Commissioner; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Well sealing cost-share payments for Mary Tripp, Mark Their and M & S Properties are included in the bills payable. Gordon moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Gordon moved to approve the following cost-share contract:

Worthington Middle School – Rain Garden – 75 percent up to \$300.00.

Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Lenz presented the SWCD contract for technical services proposal. Williamson moved to approve the \$3000 contract with payments made in July and December. Gordon seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2008 budget was reviewed. Changes will be made to the accounting, board compensation, insurance and SWCD technical services line items. Setting up a fund for the water quality basin maintenance was discussed. Livdahl will make the changes and present them at the February meeting.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Comprehensive Water Plan Priority Concerns Scoping document. A Water Planning Task Force meeting is scheduled for the last week of January.

Maps of the land that will likely to be traded between Pheasants Forever and Dean Christopherson were reviewed. A target date of January 17th is set for closing the deal.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The County will repaint the Public Works Facility sign this year. Steve Schneider said the OOWD could be added to the sign at that time.

Worthington's new storm water website can be viewed at www.ci.worthington.mn.us/stormwater. Worthington has about \$10,000 budgeted for storm water education in 2008. Livdahl will talk to Dwayne Haffield about the details.

A project NEMO workshop for the Worthington area is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on February 26th in the Farmers Room. Managers were encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Mc Gowan moved to keep the same OOWD board officers in 2008. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2008 officers are:

President: Les Johnson
Vice President: Rolf Mahlberg
Secretary: Galen Gordon
Treasurer: Jeff Williamson

Mc Gowan will continue to represent the OOWD on the Water Planning Taskforce and oversee payroll activities.

The 2008 annual plan was discussed. Livdahl will bring a draft of the plan to the February meeting.

The USDA is likely to announce an open signup CRP habitat practice. Managers discussed possible uses of the new program for addressing water quality issues in the OOWD.

A letter explaining the new BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program was discussed.

Livdahl made some proposed changes to the OOWD's Employee Handbook and Administrative Policies documents. Gordon and Williamson will review them and make a recommendation to the board.

The OOWD will continue to use Bank of the West, Worthington Federal Bank and Wells Fargo bank during 2008. Wells Fargo provided a proposal for the OOWD business checking account. Williamson and Livdahl will contact other banks about business checking account options.

Future management of the St. John property was discussed. Gordon moved to offer the land for bids in 2008. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Livdahl will contact the 2007 renters, Roger and Larry Doeden, about the change.

PERMITS

Mc Gowan moved to approve the following permit applications:

Jackie Sonstegard – to install approximately 35,000 feet of new tile and repair approximately 2000 feet of existing tile in the NE ¼, section 34, Worthington Township.

Jackie Sonstegard – to install approximately 52,000 feet of tile in the NW ¼, section 35, Worthington Township.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion control while creating a green space on Union Pacific Railroad property.

Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson.
Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be on February 5, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.