

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Present were Managers Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers. Also present were Jan Voit, HLWD Administrator; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A preliminary 2008 year-end financial report was discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Jan Voit explained the Heron Lake Watershed District's permit and notification process. The HLWD does not require permits for tile drainage or stream and ditch channelization. Instead, project notification forms are filed with the HLWD. Notification forms are reviewed by the SWCD/NRCS office staff for compliance with the Wetland Conservation Act and Farm Program wetland regulations. Jan said that notice forms are submitted for most projects in Nobles County, but compliance is not as good in other counties in the HLWD.

Notices of watershed district permit violation were mailed to Brian Dorcey and Justin Larson for failure to install erosion control practices. Larson installed bales for erosion control soon after receiving the notification. Dorcey has bales installed now, but needs to install pipes to divert downspout water.

Pheasants Forever signed purchase agreements with John Donkersloot to buy 17.9 acres and Gary Drost to buy 23.3 acres. Both properties are in the Lake Bella wellhead protection area and are high priority areas in the City's wellhead protection plan. Worthington Public Utilities will pay \$15,738 to help purchase the properties. A letter from Pheasants Forever asking the OOWD to help pay for the land was discussed. Mahlberg moved to spend \$8,000 to purchase the property. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. When the property transactions are complete, the land title will be transferred to the DNR to be planted to native vegetation and managed as wildlife habitat.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Comments on the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Plan/ Watershed District Management Plan were received from the MPCA, DNR and Department of Health.

Roger and Larry Doeden reviewed the draft lease agreement for the St. John property. The

Doedens would like to continue haying the grassed portion of the property bounded by Highway 60 and Nobles Street.

A message was received from Julie Buntjer saying the Ocheda Beavers may be interested in building a dock for the Lake Bella landing as a community service project. Les Johnson said the DNR agreed to provide a dock for the boat landing in the future.

The Worthington storm water pollution prevention plan education program budgets \$1500 for students to produce pollution prevention videos. The Trojan News class teacher recommended two students who she felt would do a good job. Livdahl talked to the students in December and will call them again soon about making the videos.

NEW BUSINESS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following board officers for 2009.

Les Johnson – President
Rolf Mahlberg – Vice President
Jeff Rogers – Secretary
Jeff Williamson – Treasurer

Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers.
Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mahlberg talked about a free self service oil and anti-freeze drop off site in Pequot Lakes. The Schaap Recycling Center and Nobles County Household Hazardous Waste facility accept oil and filters for county residents. It was agreed that the County's program for accepting oil and filters at no cost should be better publicized.

Mahlberg moved to designate the Bank of the West, Wells Fargo and Worthington Federal as depositories and to authorize board members, Jeff Williamson and Jeff Rogers, as signatories for the money market account at Worthington Federal. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2009 budget was reviewed.

The 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Annual Plan will be discussed at the February board meeting.

Mahlberg moved to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mc Gowan talked about creating financial incentives for landowners to comply with OOWD permitting rules.

PERMITS

Maps were received from Charlie Loosbrock for tile installed in 2008 at the Bousema Farms

sites in sections 1 and 12 of Dewald Township.

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

Doug Anton – to fix a tile “blowout” in the NE ¼, SW ¼, section 2, Bigelow Township.

Worthington Area YMCA – to perform erosion control during construction of a recreational facility on the Minnesota West Community and Technical College campus.

Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers.

Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. on February 3, 2009 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.