

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 5, 2010

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were Norm Gallagher, Nobles County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Al Langseth, Feedlot Officer; Scott Rall, Advisory Committee Member and Nobles County Pheasants Forever President, and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

COST-SHARE

A \$275 well sealing cost-share payment for **Mike Schultz** was approved as a part of the Treasurers Report.

OLD BUSINESS

The proposed changes for the OOWD rules were discussed in detail. Livdahl will revise the rules draft before the next board meeting.

Paul Langseth reported that a Lake Ocheda riparian landowners meeting will occur on February 18th in the Farmers Room beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The Conservation Partners Legacy Fund grant for establishing native grasses in Bella Park was funded. A grant agreement will be brought to the board for approval sometime soon.

A letter will be mailed to the Worthington City Council requesting that they create a permanent trust-like fund for water resources using the city hospital sale money. The Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board plans to meet with the city council about establishing a water protection fund.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Farm Services Agency will be holding a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on January 20th to set priorities for the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program. This is the primary program for providing cost-share for agricultural practices ranging from feedlots to terraces and waterways.

The DNR and Nobles County are sponsoring a meeting on surface water quality management on January 25th at 1:00 p.m. Managers are invited to attend.

Livdahl will be attending a training session to get certified for construction site erosion control inspection on January 27th in Arden Hills.

Cost-sharing on rain barrels for watershed district residents was discussed. The Lake Okabena Improvement Association would help promote the program.

NEW BUSINESS

Pheasants Forever recently purchased approximately 80 acres from Alan Adams located adjacent to Lake Bella. Rall explained that Pheasants Forever would be willing to trade about 13 acres of the Adams property for land belonging to Gordon and Virgil Wiertsema on the stream between the Wachter WMA and Lake Bella, if the OOWD pays the land transaction costs. The Wiertsema property is in the high priority wellhead protection area for the Lake Bella wellfield. Rall estimated the cost of appraisals, surveys, abstracts and attorney fees would be less than \$15,000. Rogers moved to participate in the land swap spending a maximum of \$15,000. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2010 budget was discussed. Mahlberg moved to move \$10,000 from reserves into the land acquisition line of the budget. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Mahlberg moved to adopt the 2010 budget. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mahlberg moved to continue with the current slate of officers for 2010. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2010 officers will be:

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

Williamson will do some research on banking options before designating the 2010 depositories in February.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on February 2, 2010 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.