

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**January 3, 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; Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the December 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. The date of the meeting was incorrect on the mailed copies. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes with the corrected meeting date. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

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

**COST-SHARE**

Cost-share payments for the Busse Farms' terrace and diversion project and Marvin Voss's well sealing project were approved with the Treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

More details about the potential projects discussed at the last board meeting were presented. Converting Conrad Schmidt's CRP contracts for a filter strip and a wetland restoration to perpetual easements was discussed. Johnson will contact Schmidt to see if he is interested. Lenz will provide more information on whether the site is eligible for state or federal easements. Worthington owns the eroding Okabena Creek stream banks north of the Whiskey Ditch. Livdahl suggested sending a letter to the city asking them to address the erosion problem. The Abramson property is in a life estate. The addresses of the owners are unknown at this time.

Livdahl suggested hiring a consultant to determine whether sediment is a significant phosphorus source promoting algae blooms in Lake Okabena. The same consultant could make recommendations about whether an in-lake treatment using alum or some other method would be feasible and effective.

Mahlberg and Rogers completed Livdahl's performance review today. Mahlberg moved to offer him a three percent salary increase and a health insurance reimbursement of up to \$5400 per year. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2012 budget was reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the budget. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A DNR waters permit application was submitted on December 19<sup>th</sup> to install a rough fish barrier at the Lake Ocheda dam.

The Hospice Cottage board has not said whether they will restore the vegetation at their rain gardens or will instead repay the cost-share money received for the project. Livdahl will contact them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lenz said that an EQIP signup ends in January and the district may be asked to consider cost-sharing on projects that are not funded by the federal program.

A handout about programs for Hispanic and women farmers was received from the NRCS.

2012 board officer positions were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the following officers:

President: Les Johnson  
Vice-President: Rolf Mahlberg  
Secretary: Jeff Rogers  
Treasurer: Casey Ingenthron

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

The DNR will likely propose changing management of the Herlein-Boote Wildlife Management Area's dam structures to block passage of bighead carp into the district.

### **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve permits for the following applications:

**Nobles County Public Works Department** – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a bicycle trail along CSAH 35 between Diagonal Road and Crailsheim Road in Worthington.

**Nobles County Public Works Department** – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during reconstruction of CSAH 10 and construction of a bicycle trail between CSAH 35 and Olson Park in Worthington.

**City of Worthington** – to implement a sediment and erosion control plan during demolition of an existing structure at 211 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.