

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 6, 2015

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Robin Baumgarn, Daily Globe reporter; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The second half of the 2014 levy was deposited into the checking account at Wells Fargo in December. \$50,000 will be transferred from the account into savings at Worthington Federal. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Board officer positions were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the current slate of officers for 2015. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2015 officers are:

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

Wenck Associates staff will have the Lake Okabena study completed soon. Jeff Strom and Joe Bischoff plan to be at the March 3rd board meeting to explain the project report. Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Members will also be invited to the meeting.

Potential projects for 2015 were discussed including hiring an engineer to assess Sunset Bay, conducting a Lake Ocheda shoreland erosion and buffer survey, monitoring water quality in Lake Ocheda and assessing the Prairie View Golf Course property for flood water storage and water quality improvement potentials under different landuses.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A notice was received from the Department of Commerce stating a state warrant payable to the district for more than \$100 was unclaimed. A claim form and supporting information was submitted in December.

The next meeting to discuss Nobles County's aquatic invasive species control plan will be on January 29th at 9:00 a.m. Mahlberg and Livdahl will attend the meeting.

An audit engagement letter was received from Dennis Rick, LTD. Rogers moved to have Dennis Rick do the 2014 audit. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

An Affordable Care Act exemption for businesses with fewer than two employees allows the district to continue paying the health insurance premium for Livdahl's policy. The benefit is not taxable income. A copy of the IRS guidance document containing the exemption will be filed for future reference.

NEW BUSINESS

Johnson attended the Minnesota Pheasant Summit and talked to state agency officials about the environmental and financial costs of controlling Canada thistles on public land. He asked the board to consider writing a letter to the Department of Agriculture asking them to change the status of the Canada thistle on the state noxious weed list. Johnson

and Livdahl will write draft letter for the board to consider at the February board meeting.

Membership of the district's advisory committee was discussed. New members need to be appointed to replace Don Basche and Dick Duba. Livdahl will contact a list of potential members before the February board meeting to see if they are interested in serving on the advisory committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on February 3, 2015 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.