

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**January 3, 2017**

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, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; John Shea, SWCD manager; Scott Rall, advisory board member; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mahlberg and Livdahl met with John Landgaard about maintaining the existing grass buffer strip and planting additional buffer strip acres on the ISD 518 property. The watershed district will not pay for the first 50 feet of buffer for the stream, but an additional 8.3 acres of buffers are desirable on the site. Rogers moved to provide an incentive payment of \$150 per acre annually for the 8.3 acres of buffers strips. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Ingenthron volunteered to serve on the Missouri River Watershed One Watershed/One Plan Policy Committee. Johnson will be the alternate.

Johnson talked to Terry Neugebauer about farming the St. John property in 2017. The district will replant the buffer strip in the spring.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mahlberg removed a beaver dam from the 310th Street culverts in December. The dam was controlling the water level in Lake Ocheda.

The district will need to sign a memorandum of agreement with the counties, SWCDs and watershed districts in the Missouri River Watershed One Watershed/One Plan area. The agreement should be ready for a signature at the February board meeting.

The 2016 financial audit engagement letter from Dennis Rick, Ltd. was discussed. The estimated cost of the audit is \$2900. Johnson signed the engagement letter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2017 board officers were discussed. Mahlberg moved to adopt the same slate of officers for 2017. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2017 officers are:

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

Raising the manager's per diem rate \$50 to \$75 was discussed. Ingenthron moved to set the per diem meeting rate at \$75.00. The motion died for lack of a second.

Signing the Grant agreement and engineering contracts for the Prairie View project was discussed. Grant money cannot be spent until the agreement is signed and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. This will likely happen in March. The engineering needed to advertise for bids should to be completed soon if the project is to be constructed in 2017. The work will probably be done with local money.

Nobles County will hold a hearing on January 24th to consider Jesse Drost's request to drain water from an area benefitted by one public drainage system into another. The drainage change would also move water from the OOWD into the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District. District rules require a permit to drain water into another sub-watershed or into a drainage system where the benefitted acres are not assessed. Johnson and Livdahl will attend the hearing. Rogers moved to change the district rules in the future to prohibit draining water out of, or into, the watershed district. The motion died for lack of a second. Rogers moved to review the watershed district rules and update them as needed. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Ingenthron and Mahlberg will serve on the committee to review the rules before the March board meeting.

The 2017 annual plan should be completed by March. Projects to be included in the plan were discussed. A draft of the plan will be presented to the board at the February meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on February 7, 2017 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.