

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 9, 2018

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; Keith Schroeder, advisory committee member; John Shea, SWCD manager; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the December 2017 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. 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, including the second payment request from Duininck, Inc. and a bill from Wenck Associates for the Prairie View project. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A well sealing cost-share payment to David Vander Koi was approved with the bills payable.

OLD BUSINESS

A draft of the 2018 budget was discussed. It shows the district will likely need to borrow money to complete engineering and construction for the Lake Ocheda dam and fish barrier. Rogers moved to approve the 2018 budget. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Discussions about the future ownership of Worthington's Prairie View property will likely occur later this year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan was approved by the DNR but needs the Commissioner's designation signature before it is official. Engineers will be on-site tomorrow to assess the dam and do some surveying.

The University of Minnesota is looking for some sites to install pollinator research plots. Information on the St. John property and Prairie View sites was submitted to them for consideration.

The Prairie View project annual report must be submitted to BWSR by February 1st. A description of the project and report will be uploaded to the district's website.

The pace of One Watershed, One Plan committee meetings has increased this winter. Ingenthron is doing a good job representing the district on the Policy Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Osceloa County is replacing the road bridge crossing the Ochedan River at Bella Park with box culverts. A permanent easement increasing the size of the road right-of-way and a temporary easement for construction will need to be granted by the district. Since Bella Park is recreational property, the Iowa funding source requires a public meeting be held before the easements are signed. Mahlberg moved to hold a public meeting for the bridge easements at 4:00 p.m. on February 6, 2018 at the Nobles County Public Works Department building. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. A public notice will be published in the Globe.

2018 board officers were discussed. Mahlberg moved to cast a unanimous ballot to keep the same officers as last year. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The 2018 officers are:

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

The 2017 annual report and 2018 annual plan will be discussed at the February board meeting.

The Walk-In-Access program at Bella Park was discussed. One person received a citation for hunting there this year without paying the \$3.00 program validation fee. Notifying the public about the fee requirement before hunting at the park was discussed.

Johnson signed the letter to engage Dennis Rick, Ltd. to do the 2017 financial audit.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on February 6, 2018 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.