

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**July 1, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Galen Gordon, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were Norm Gallagher, County Commissioner; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A three month CD of \$10,000 will mature on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The money will be placed into checking or the money market account. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Erosion control permit compliance was discussed. The Campbells Soup demolition site should be seeded soon. Mike Bousmea said he will seed grasses in the area between his house and Highway 266 soon.

Livdahl will contact Leonard Ruesch about options for fixing the gully on his property in Section 16 of Worthington Township.

Bella Park issues were discussed. Screen was installed on the restroom. Doors need to be installed to keep animals out. A DNR permit was received for installing riprap between the dam and emergency spillway. Paul Kepka said he would view the site and do a cost estimate. John Ahlers installed some fieldstone riprap on the Lake Bella shoreline near his farmstead.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The OOWD is cosponsoring a tour of storm water sites with the Heron Lake Watershed District on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The target audience is county and city planning and zoning officials, the Worthington City Council and watershed district managers. The Prairie Ecology Bus will be used to visit the BioScience Park, the Bedford Tech and Campbells Soup sites. Also on the agenda are some of the residential neighborhoods with water from agricultural land flowing through them.

The IRS raised the reimbursable mileage rate to 58.5 cents per mile beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the maximum amount that can be reimbursed by the district.

In partnership with Nobles County, the OOWD did a pickup of household hazardous waste on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Waste was picked up from four households.

Steve Schnieder asked a sign designer to come up with alternatives for the Public Works Building

sign. The OOWD will share part of the sign cost.

The 2009 levy must be certified by the middle of September. The budget hearing usually occurs at the September meeting. The legislature placed a levy limit on local governments this year. According to Ray Bohn, the limit does not apply to special taxing districts like watershed districts.

The Administrator's performance evaluation should be done at the August board meeting.

Dick Duba asked the Worthington Planning Commission for a variance to install more than 35 percent impervious surfaces on his lot. Livdahl attended the meeting and testified against issuing the variance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lenz gave the managers details of the 2008 RIM/WRP program. The signup period ends on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The board decided not to offer an incentive payment to landowners entering the program.

Johnson reported that he read a news story about an agreement to not build new feedlots or expand existing feedlots within four miles of the Iowa Great Lakes.

Johnson and Livdahl met with John Ahlers about CRP incentives. John said he may need to convert some filter strips areas to crop production if the OOWD incentive is not increased. The managers decided that it will continue to offer \$100 per acre per year for the first 66 feet of a filter strip.

Mc Gowan discussed the concept of charging the applicant a fee for permits and later returning the money when a project is satisfactorily completed.

### **PERMITS**

Gordon moved to approve the following permit applications.

**Clay Weg** – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home at 1460 Collegeway.

**Tom Middagh** – to install tile in the NE ¼, SW ¼, section 32, Worthington Township.

Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting will be on August 5, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.