

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
July 6, 2010

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, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Gene Foth, County Commissioner; Bob Rohrer, Advisory Board member; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe Reporter; and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Williamson moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The budget report for the first half of 2010 will be mailed to the Managers.

OLD BUSINESS

Erosion control permit compliance was discussed.

The area to be reseeded at Bella Park was aerial sprayed with Round-up sometime during the past week. John Ahlers will spray some smaller areas in the park soon.

The Lake Ocheda Landowners will be invited to a picnic at Mahlberg's place on July 29th.

Diverting water from Sunset Bay toward Lake Ocheda was discussed. Elevations information provided by the City Engineer shows Tripp Slough is approximately five feet higher than Lake Okabena. Rohrer questioned whether the elevation data was accurate. An email from Area Hydrologist, Tom Kresko, stated that any wetlands impacted by a diversion would have to be replaced at a 2:1 ratio or greater. Considerable research, analysis and public involvement would need to occur before the DNR would issue a permit for a diversion.

A letter was received from Craig Clarke regarding the OOWD's recommendation that a permanent fund be created for surface water and groundwater protection using hospital sale money. Johnson and Livdahl will draft a response to Clarke's letter to be reviewed at the August meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl attended the MAWD Summer Tour of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District on June 24-26.

The Ocheda Beavers will build wood duck and bluebird houses on July 17th. Many of the houses will be installed in the Bella Park and Ocheda Dam areas.

Livdahl talked to an official in Mitchell, South Dakota about the SolarBee circulator installed in Lake Mitchell this year. It is hoped that the SolarBee unit will reduce blue-green algae in Lake Mitchell in the future. SolarBee circulators mix water in about a 35 acre area. They cost approximately \$45,000 each. It would take about 17 units to treat Lake Okabena.

The SWCD donated approximately 50 blue arctic willows to the district. They will be planted on the west shore of Lake Bella soon.

Both litter and vandalism seem to be reduced in Bella Park this year. Livdahl will repair a picnic table bench that was broken sometime during the past two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2009 financial audit report was distributed to the managers. It will be reviewed and approved at the August board meeting.

An offer was received from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to purchase approximately 15.42 acres of the St. John property for \$64,100 for highway right-of-way. The offer will be reviewed at the August board meeting.

The public hearing for the 2011 budget will likely be on September 7th. Livdahl will create a draft budget for review at the August Board meeting.

PERMITS

Williamson moved to approve the following permit applications:

Worthington Country Club – to install approximately 1800 feet of 4 inch diameter tile and 220 feet of 6 inch diameter tile.

Doug Franzen – to install approximately 1000 feet of 4 inch diameter tile and a rock intake in the E ½, SW ¼, section 34, Worthington Township.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2010 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Williamson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.