

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
July 9, 2013

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 Jay Milbrandt. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Ed Lenz, SWCD manager and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The first half of the 2013 levy was deposited into the Wells Fargo checking account. About \$60,000 will be transferred to the money market account at Worthington Federal. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and approve payment of the bills listed in the report. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A letter was received from Ken Meyerdirk's attorney regarding the notice of violation. Mahlberg moved to pursue a compromise to the notice of violation's requirement to restore the culvert at its original elevation. The compromise will propose installing a structure on the east side of the culvert to raise the inflow to an elevation agreed upon by the Township Board Chairman and Watershed District President. If a compromise agreement cannot be reached in two weeks, legal counsel will be hired to advise the district on how to proceed. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The managers discussed whether it is feasible or wise to create a walking and biking trail in Bella Park. A map of a potential trail location was viewed. Scott Bruse and John Ahlers were contacted for their comments on building a trail near their properties. Livdahl will contact the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust to determine the cost of liability insurance for a trail. Milbrandt and Livdahl will walk the area sometime in the future.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl began collecting dissolved oxygen data in three locations in Lake Okabena in early June. D.O. data will be collected weekly through September.

SWCD engineer, Mike Skoglund, visited the St. John property. He suggested plugging the ditch to hold more water on the site. Any engineered structure would need to accommodate a pool bounce of a foot or more. This would be hard to do without affecting the Highway 60 right-of-way and soccer fields. Johnson will look for some rock to make a ditch plug.

Johnson mowed a portion of the St. John property along Nobles Street on June 28th. Livdahl will keep it mowed throughout the season. Worthington will trim or remove damaged trees in the road right-of-way sometime in the future.

The DNR is willing to stock fish in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond when they stock the rearing ponds in Centennial Park. The managers discussed getting word out to discourage residents from releasing fish into the pond to prevent the spread of undesirable or invasive species. A carp was observed jumping in the pond earlier today.

Shirley Dykstra asked if they may hay the reed canarygrass south of the Lake Ocheda dam. Mahlberg moved to allow Dykstras to mow the area after July 20th. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A list of tasks and costs from Wenck Engineering’s proposal for Lake Okabena was discussed. It is hoped that MPCA will pay about half the cost of the data collection and analysis and the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership board will pay the other half. The district would donate staff time to the project.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit application:

Mike Kuhle – to install riprap on his Lake Okabena shoreline across the street from 414 Sundown Drive in Worthington.

Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 6, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.

