

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
July 1, 2014

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 Keith Schroeder and Dick Duba, advisory committee members and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The first half of the 2014 levy was received in June. \$70,000 will be transferred from checking into the money market account. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Milbrandt conducted an online survey of Lake Ocheda landowners to quantify landowner and community thoughts about the future of Lake Ocheda. Approximately 30 responses have been received so far. About half are from shoreline owners. Milbrandt presented an executive summary of the survey responses. The summary concluded that landowners would likely agree to a winter drawdown managed by the OOWD if emergent vegetation is controlled to maintain views of open water. It also concluded that the OOWD should improve education about the connection between improved water clarity and abundant aquatic vegetation. Survey participants' email addresses will be saved to facilitate future communication.

A lengthy discussion was held about whether the district should write the Lake Ocheda restoration plan and manage the restoration, or ask the DNR to do it. The DNR has greater financial and technical resources to get the job done. Some of lake's riparian landowners have expressed concern with losing local control of the resource if the DNR writes the plan and conducts the restoration. Mahlberg moved to ask the DNR to write the management plan and manage Lake Ocheda for water quality. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg. Opposed: Milbrandt. Abstained: Rogers. Motion carried.

A Lake Ocheda riparian landowner picnic will be scheduled sometime in late July to discuss the proposed basin restoration.

Rogers planted most of the cover crop on the St. John property in June. About four more acres will be planted when the weather cooperates.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

District structures survived the heavy rain event in mid-June without damage. Graphs showing Okabena, Ocheda and Bella lakes levels for the last four years were viewed by the managers.

NEW BUSINESS

Duane Gruis built an earthen berm on his land south of East Avenue in May to keep water flowing under the street from draining across his field. The structure partially blocked drainage, backing up water on Juan and Angie Palma's and Terry DeBoom's property in June. The Palmas and DeBoom asked the district to require Gruis to remove or modify the structure. District rules do not address problems like this. Worthington will review the site to see whether the berm effects the planned drainage for the neighborhood.

The Nobles County Fair Board asked the Heron Lake Watershed District and the OOWD to share the \$650 cost of having the Prairie Ecology Bus at the fair. Rogers moved to split the cost with the HLWD. Ingenthorn seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Copies of the 2013 audit report were distributed to the managers. Rogers moved to accept the audit. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permits:

Aaron Nystrom – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 30679 Quine Avenue.

Jay Milbrant – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 27497 Read Avenue.

Shawn Elsing – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a dock approach at 1134 West Lake Avenue.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during concrete pavement, driveway and sidewalk restoration on Second Avenue, Ninth Street, Eleventh Street and Dover Street.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during water main reconstruction on Oxford Street.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 5, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.