

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**June 7, 2011**

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, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager, and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the May 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$6000 from the cash management account into the checking account. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Seeding began today for the Lake Bella Park Grassland Enhancement Project. John Ahlers is completing the tillage this afternoon. Tom Bauman from LeSueur Seeding and Conservation will arrive with the grass drill tomorrow. A land roller and tractor will be rented to prepare the seedbed in the areas that will be drilled. Rogers will do the rolling in the morning. Mahlberg has done much of the tillage and herbicide application to get the site ready for the seeding.

The closing for the purchase of the Siefert Property occurred recently. Pheasants Forever will be reimbursed for the District's share of the land purchase after the money is received from MnDOT for the St. John Property right-of-way.

The managers discussed cost-sharing on lakeshore stabilization in the future. Information will be gathered on other watershed district's lakeshore stabilization programs.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A meeting was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> to allow county, city, school district, country club, Minnesota West and district staff to discuss drainage changes proposed for the construction of a bike path on the east side of Crailsheim Road.

Erosion is occurring along approximately 1100 feet of Okabena Creek immediately north of Whiskey Ditch. The meandering portion of the creek erodes most during high flow events. SWCD Technical Service Area staff have viewed the area and will make recommendations for stabilizing the stream banks.

Johnson and Mahlberg signed the document vacating a portion of the Okabena Creek flood control project easement to allow the Bedford Industries' cold storage facility to be built.

Livdahl painted over graffiti on the Bella Dam spillway. One of the park's picnic tables was disassembled and partially stolen.

A certified letter was received from MnDOT accepting the district's offer to sell them the right-of-way for the Highway 60 project. It is unknown when the payment will arrive.

Don Basche will be contacted about scheduling the annual Advisory Committee meeting before the end of summer.

Worthington received a grant from the RC&D for runoff control at the Ehlers Park parking lot. When the design is complete, the city will likely ask the district to provide cost-share too.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Grass is not being mowed on part of the Minnesota West campus to improve water quality and improve habitat. Williamson talked to the Worthington Chief of Police about whether the city nuisance ordinance should apply to grass mowing on the campus.

Melvin Janssen called last week to see if a decision was made about whether the Frosty Riders snow mobile trail may use the Lake Bella dam to cross the Ocheyedan River. No operation and maintenance plan for the structure was found in the district or NRCS files. Operation and maintenance plans for other similar structures ban vehicle traffic on dam crests and in emergency spillways unless they are specifically designed to accommodate it. Due to the importance of the dam for Worthington's water supply, the flood control benefits of the structure and the potential costs of repairs to the structure, Williamson moved to deny the snowmobile club's request to use the dam. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

An agreement from R&G Construction to use the St. John property to dispose of fill from the Highway 60 project was reviewed. The agreement proposes to pay the district \$1000 per acre for up to two cropping seasons. The land would be restored to cropland by the end of the agreement period. Mahlberg moved to accept the agreement if the amount is raised to \$1500 per acre. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Roger and Larry Doeden are the 2011 renters of the property and would receive \$1000 per acre for crop damages.

Johnson asked to other managers to look at the trees growing on the St. John property and to make recommendations on whether, and how, they should be managed.

## **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications:

**Rich Pederson** – to perform erosion control during the construction of a warehouse facility and office on Stower Drive.

**City of Worthington** – to perform erosion control during the removal of a parking lot and construction of volleyball and basketball courts in Centennial Park.

**Ben Petersen** – to perform erosion and sediment control during the demolition of an existing home and construction of a new home at 1533 Park Avenue.

**Doug Nau** – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a home at 1929 Woodland Court.

**Worthington Ag. Parts** – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during building removal, grading and resurfacing of the existing salvage yard.

**Bedford Industries** – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a cold storage building at 1659 Rowe Avenue.

**ISD 518** – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of tennis facilities at the Worthington Middle School.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on July 12, 2011 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.