

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
June 3, 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 Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Don Basche, Joe Vander Kooi, Rita Vander Kooi, Vince Vander Kooi, Deb Vander Kooi, Dave Vander Kooi and Keith Towne, Lake Ocheda landowners; Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$12,000 from savings into checking. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Basche, Lake Ocheda riparian landowner and Advisory Committee chair, presented a list of concerns he felt should be addressed before a plan that includes temporary lake level draw downs is developed to restore the lake. The landowners expressed concerns about how draw downs could affect recreational opportunities and lake aesthetics. Concerns about potential regulation of agricultural activities around the lake were discussed. The landowners asked for more opportunities to give input before a plan is developed. Options for writing the plan locally or asking the DNR to write the plan were discussed. A meeting of Ocheda's landowners will likely occur in July.

Rogers will plant a cover crop mixture at the St. John property soon. A seed mix to build soil quality was ordered.

Prairie burns were completed at Bella Park. Barbed wire between the district property and the Bella Wells property were removed. Approximately six acres of brome grass along the southwest side of the Ochedan River will be sprayed soon with glyphosate. A native mix of grasses and forbs will be dormant seeded on the area this fall.

The state's performance evaluation of the district and the other Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management Plan partners was discussed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A floating island built by Johnson and Livdahl was installed in Bella Park last week. The island cost about \$400 plus manager and staff time. The island will be monitored throughout the year to see how it holds together.

The interns shared with the Heron Lake Watershed District have helped conduct water quality and flow monitoring. They also helped maintain and install floating island wetlands. Stream flow monitoring has been difficult due to low flow.

The Herlein-Boote WMA diversion ditch plug was completed in April. A number of people have asked whether closing the diversion contributed to low water levels in Lake Okabena this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

An emergency repair of the Lake Bella spillway was completed on May 24th. A hole in the concrete spillway was discovered by Worthington Public Utilities staff. Duane Hansel, Bolton and Menk, was contacted to recommend a repair design. DNR and NRCS commented on the design and a state dam safety permit was received. Calvin Berger completed the work. The total cost for the repair, including engineering, will be about \$6000.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permits:

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a water main extension on Okabena Street.

AppBiz Mobile – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new retail store on Ray Drive.

V&O Properties – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a triplex condominium at West Park Acres.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 1, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.