

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
June 2, 2015

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 and Jay Milbrandt. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Eric Roos, Worthington Public Utilities Water Superintendent; John Shea, SWCD Manager; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the May regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. 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 \$8000 from savings to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeff Rogers missed the board meeting today to plant the buffer strips on the St. John property. He should finish this evening before the forecasted rain tomorrow. Soybeans were planted on the site on May 13th. Cover crops will be planted after harvest. Livdahl will spray volunteer vegetation on the buffer strips as soon as possible.

Milbrandt, Ingenthron, Demuth and Livdahl met with SolarBee representative Mike Christensen last week. Options for installing a SolarBee unit or circulator pump near the Sunset Park boat ramp were discussed. Up to two SolarBee circulator units could be installed on Sunset Bay to reduce blue-green algae growth there. Christensen said he will give us a cost estimate for new and used SolarBee units, and an experimental circulator pump.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ducks Unlimited staff completed the survey work for the Lake Ocheda Enhancement Project two weeks ago.

The filter media ordered on May 1st to build floating islands has not arrived. About 100 plant plugs are being watered in Livdahl's yard until they can be installed on the new islands.

The Heron Lake Watershed District interns helped replant and add ballast to the floating islands on Sunset Bay. New anchors and goose fence were installed on islands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond.

The USFWS finished burning the Lake Bella Waterfowl Production Area on May 31st. They also burned a portion of the district's property between the WPA and Lake Bella.

The MAWD summer tour will be in Duluth on May 24th through the 26th. Ingenthron and Livdahl are registered to attend.

The Okabena Bees 4-H Club is picking up trash weekly at Bella Park this summer. Julie Buntjer organized the volunteers.

Water quality sampling will be done monthly on Lake Okabena and Lake Bella this summer. Sampling and flow monitoring will occur periodically on Whiskey Ditch and the Sunset Bay inlet.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric Roos did a presentation updating the board on the status of Worthington's water supply. A staged watering ban is in effect now due to low static levels at the Bella wellfield.

The 2014 financial audit report was distributed to the managers. It has been posted on the OOWD website.

The next stage of Worthington's flood mitigation plan was discussed by the managers. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety asked for comments on the improvements planned on Ditch 12 between Oxford Street and Interstate 90.

The Advisory Committee will be asked to meet in the afternoon before the August board meeting.

It appears that a surface tile intake was installed without a permit in the SE 1/4, section 17, Worthington Township. Some research needs to be done to determine whether a surface intake existed there before the land was converted from pasture to row crops. Mahlberg moved to issue a notice of violation if needed. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permits:

ISD #518 - to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of an addition to the Worthington High School building and parking lot.

Allen Drost - to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a storage facility on CSAH 35, west of the CSAH 5 intersection in Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 7, 2015 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.