

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 4, 2008

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, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Williamson. Manager, Galen Gordon, arrived at 4:05 p.m. Also present were Norm Gallagher, Nobles County Commissioner; Rick Nelson, SWCD Supervisor and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Malberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

The amount of money needed to cost-share on rain gardens will likely exceed the \$1000 limit set for the projects in 2008. Mahlberg moved to set aside an additional \$2000 from the cost-share budget for rain gardens. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Williamson moved to approve the following cost-share requests:

Minnesota West – Rain Garden – 75% up to \$300.00

Nobles County Public Works - Two Rain Gardens – 75% up to \$600.00

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mahlberg reported that Roger and Larry Doeden will rent the St. John property in 2008 for \$150 per acre. Livdahl will research whether there is anything recorded that would allow the Doedens to cross the St. John property to get to farmland south of the parcel.

The Managers discussed a draft of the 2008 annual plan. Williamson moved to approve the plan. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mc Gowan reported on the issues discussed at the January 29th and February 28th water planning taskforce meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for the last week of March.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The project NEMO workshop was on February 26th. Twenty-two people attended.

The MAWD Day at the Capitol is on March 13th. The Association of District Administrators meets on March 12th. Livdahl will attend both. A bill will be authored this year making the temporary drawdown of lakes easier.

Livdahl is working on factsheets for Worthington's storm water website.

The Lake Okabena Improvement Association printed 10,000 placemats with a water quality message to be used at restaurants and fundraiser meals. The County Comprehensive Water Plan will pay for the printing.

Livdahl will order replacement trees for the Ocheda Dam property.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter will be written to Mel Ruppert requesting the first half of the OOWD 2008 levy.

Gerry Schmick, USFWS, applied for a grant to pay 50 % of the cost of replanting native grasses on District property on the north side of Lake Bella. Money was also requested for a lakeshore restoration on Bella.

The managers reviewed the Advisory Committee requirements in Minnesota Statute 103D.331. A list of committee members was review. The Advisory Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. on April 1st.

The Shallow Lake Forum will be in Fergus Falls on March 27-28. Mahlberg moved to authorize Mc Gowan and Gordon to attend the forum. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

A permit was received from **Joe Vander Kooi** to install approximately 10,000 feet of tile in the S ½, NE ¼, section 31, Lorain Township. According to a letter from Ed Lenz, Nobles County Wetland Conservation Act Administrator, a wetland exists on the project site, but is exempt from the WCA because it had a cropping history. The site is covered with snow now and difficult to inspect. Gordon moved to table the permit application until the site can be inspected. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Gordon, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be on April 1, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.