

**MINUTES**  
**Amended Rules Public Hearing**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**March 2, 2010**

The public hearing for the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District amended rules was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were Managers Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Mark Hiles, BWSR Conservationist; Scott Rall and Herman Hinders, Advisory Board members; Norm Gallager, County Commissioner; Al Langseth, County Feedlot Officer; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

A notice for the hearing was published in the Daily Globe on February 16, 2010. The amended rules were emailed to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on February 5, 2010. Mark Hiles provided some preliminary comments after his review of the rules and stated that BWSR will provide an official response by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Notice of a proposed rules amendment was mailed to transportation authorities on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Advisory Board members were invited to the hearing and asked to comment on the proposal to require vegetated buffer strips along lakeshores, streams and ditches.

Scott Rall suggested that a 100 foot setback be used adjacent to lakes and impoundments and a 50 foot setback along water courses and streams. He also stated that the rules should not be enacted unless they will be strenuously enforced. Herman Hinders stated that a 50 to 100 foot setback should be required along lakeshores.

The rules committee will meet to consider comments and bring recommendations to the board at the April 6, 2010 meeting.

Hearing closed at 4:17 p.m.

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**March 2, 2010**

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Mark Hiles, BWSR Conservationist; Scott Rall and Herman Hinders, Advisory Board members; Norm Gallagher, County Commissioner; Al Langseth, County Feedlot Officer; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD Manager and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rall explained the results of land trade and land purchase negotiations between Gordon and Virgil Wiertsema and Pheasants Forever. Gordon Wiertsema agreed to trade 8.39 acres of his property for 10.79 acres of Pheasants Forever's Adams acquisition. Virgil agreed to sell 8.6 acres of his property to Pheasants forever for \$23,400. Combined these properties will create a riparian buffer between the Wachter WMA and Watershed District property at Bella Park. Protection of this area is identified as high priority in the Worthington's wellhead protection plan and creating a permanent grass buffer has been a long term goal of the District. The district passed a motion in February to spend up to \$15,000 for land transaction costs to make a land trade possible. Rall asked the District to contribute \$23,400 to Pheasants Forever to purchase the property for Virgil Wiertsema. Mahlberg moved to purchase the 8.6 acres for \$23,400. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Paul Langseth reported that about 30 people attended the Lake Ocheda landowners meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Livdahl gave a presentation explaining water quality issues, the TMDL process, watershed based BMP's and in-lake alternatives for improving water quality. Mahlberg said there was a positive feeling amongst participants. The group will meet again this summer. The District will begin discussions with DNR Fisheries staff about carp control options.

Depositories will be designated at the April board meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The Our Waters, Our Choices meeting has been rescheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Livdahl will be attending the MAWD legislative breakfast event on March 11<sup>th</sup>. He and Jan Voit will meet Jim Vickerman, Rod Hamilton and Doug Magnus over supper on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Livdahl and Johnson met with Kirk Corson and two appraisers working for MNDOT about the final

Highway 60 alignment. They discussed maintaining access for the St. John property on the south side of the new highway.

Livdahl passed the Erosion Control Designer/Inspector Course certification test.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Higher than normal rainfall last fall and heavy snow during the winter make flooding a possibility this spring. The managers reviewed a document describing water control structures in the district, management options for the structures and staff recommendations for monitoring flows during snow melt.

The authorization to access the safe deposit box at Bank of the West needs to be updated. Johnson moved to authorize Jim Mc Gowan and Les Johnson to access the box. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Promoting Nobles County's motor oil and filter recycling program was discussed. Mahlberg will do some research about whether an education program is needed.

The Conservation Legacy Grant agreement with the DNR was discussed. Mahlberg moved to sign the agreement. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on April 6, 2010 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.