

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 5, 2013

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: Dick Duba, Advisory Board member; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter 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, Milbrandt, Rogers. 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 the money market account to checking. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A well sealing cost-share payment of \$300 was approved for Doug and Andrea Mahlberg with the bills payable.

OLD BUSINESS

Potential projects for 2013 were discussed. A letter was mailed to the Olson Trust board asking them to consider paying for two additional floating islands for the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond. They were also asked to pay half the cost of using bioerse products in Whiskey Ditch and the Glenwood Heights stormwater pond in 2013. The trust board discuss the request at their meeting in April.

A proposal from Lake Savers for reducing algae blooms in Lake Okabena was discussed. The proposal includes installation of an aeration system and bio-augmentation. It was decided to contact Lake Savers and ask to view a lake where their system has been installed.

The managers briefly reviewed a proposal from SonicSolutions to control algae growth in Lake Okabena near Sunset Park. The proposal recommended installation of two solar-powered ultrasound transducers.

A public meeting about zebra mussels and other invasive species is scheduled for April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Farmers Room. Ryan Doorebus will do presentations about preventing the spread of zebra mussels and Asian carp. Gary Nordseth will talk about enforcement of invasive species laws. Jan Voit will invite people and groups from the Heron Lake Watershed District. Livdahl will send invitations to the Lake Okabena Improvement Association, Round Lake Sportsmans Club and Southwest Minnesota Fishing Club.

Mahlberg moved to approve the 2012 Annual Report. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The report will be posted soon on the district website.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl will be updating the district's website during the next month. Managers were asked to view the site and make recommendations about content.

Livdahl will work with Cody Dvorak's high school natural resources class for about a week in March. Lake Okabena and its watershed will be used as a case study to illustrate natural resources management concepts.

NEW BUSINESS

It was hoped that low water levels in Lake Ocheda at the onset of winter would create conditions for a fish kill eliminating carp from the basin. Approximately 15 inches of water still exists under the ice in most of the eastern basin and portions of the western basin. Oxygen levels seemed to be good in the remaining water about two weeks ago. District and DNR staff will monitor the lake this spring. The DNR plans to restock the lake with perch and northern pike if a significant kill occurs.

Dick Duba recommended seining carp from Lake Okabena so they would not repopulate Lake Ocheda after a fish kill. Discussion followed about the effectiveness of seining for carp control. Scott DesLauriers holds the commercial fishing license for counties in southwest Minnesota. Any seining would need to occur under his license.

Mahberg moved to approve the 2013 Annual Plan. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The plan will be posted soon on the district's website.

The MPCA will be creating a TMDL plan for the Missouri River watershed of southwest Minnesota during the next few years. Dwayne Haffield and Livdahl have been talking to MPCA project leaders about collecting additional data to improve the pollution load allocations and the TMDL implementation plan for Lake Okabena. Barr Engineering, Wenck Engineering and Houston Engineering were asked to submit proposals for the work needed. The district, city and MPCA will need to agree on who pays for the work.

PERMITS

Doug Franzen submitted a permit application for reconstructing a waterway. No permit is needed for this project because the waterway will be rebuilt to meet the standards and specifications of an NRCS design.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 2, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.