

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**March 4, 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 Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Scott Rall, Nobles County Pheasants Forever President; Scott Hain, Worthington Public Utilities General Manager; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the February regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, 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 \$7500 from savings into checking. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The draft of the 2014 annual plan was discussed. Developing a Lake Okabena restoration plan will be added to it. Mahlberg moved to approve the 2014 annual plan. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Ryan Doorenbus and Bill Schuna met to discuss lake management options with the Lake Ocheda landowners committee on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Johnson signed the joint powers agreement with the DNR for management of the Herlein-Boote diversion channel. Construction will begin on the permanent ditch plug sometime in the next month.

Bioverse will provide products for treating the Glenwood Heights stormwater pond and Whiskey Ditch at a discount in 2014. It will cost about \$833 to treat the pond and \$2121.00 to treat the ditch. Mahlberg moved to spend money treat the ditch and pond this year, but not to pay for treatments for the Glenwood Heights pond after 2014. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Abstained: Rogers. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The Bigelow Fire Department will burn an elevator in April as a part of a multi-department exercise. Livdahl gave them permission to enter Bella Park property with their pumper trucks to get water from the lake. They will likely enter the property at the same location used during past exercises.

Johnson and Mahlberg shopped for an ATV today.

The cost of the recently purchased stream flow and lake level monitoring equipment totals \$7,951.92. The district will likely be reimbursed about \$5000 for the equipment from Worthington's clean water partnership account before the end of the year.

The Worthington Public Works department will install the floating boom in Whiskey Ditch nearer the lake this spring.

Livdahl is registered to attend an invasive species workshop and the MAWD day at the capitol event on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Bauman, LeSueur River Seeding, quoted \$225 per acre for the same grass and forb seed mix used at Bella Park in 2011. Approximately 6 acres need to be seeded along the south and west sides of the Ocheyan River. The seed cost will be about \$1400.00. It will be ordered soon.

A cover crop workshop will occur on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:30 on the Minnesota West campus. Mahlberg worked with NRCS staff to help arrange the workshop. The district will spend \$500 for the workshop expenses.

Livdahl recommended buying two more fifty square foot floating island wetlands for the Olson Regional Stormwater pond. The cost is about \$2600. Plants for the islands will cost about \$200 more. Rogers moved to buy the islands. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Scott Hain and Scott Rall were present to discuss entering a partnership with Worthington Public Utilities and Pheasants Forever to bid on 147.3 acres of highly vulnerable land in the Bella Wellhead Protection Area. The auction will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Mahlberg moved to spend \$60,000 to purchase the property. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Staff from Rock, Pipestone, Jackson and Nobles counties will meet soon to discuss applying to participate in the Board of Soil Resources' One Watershed – One Plan Pilot Initiative. The process would create one plan for water resources management in the Missouri River basin.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned.