

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 3, 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, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Jeff Strom and Joe Bischoff, Wenck Associates, Inc; Larry Janssen, Worthington city council; Dwayne Haffield, city engineer; Jim Mc Gowan, advisory committee member; Al Langseth, district resident; Wayne Smith, Nobles County Environmental Services Director; Ed Lenz, Kevin Roth and John Shea, Nobles SWCD employees; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the February regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Mahlberg 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 and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Joe Bischoff gave a presentation on the results of the 2014 Lake Okabena study. He explained the turbid and clear water states of shallow lakes. Best management practices for improving the lake were discussed. He recommended collecting more water level, stream flow and water quality data. The report was submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to establish the Total Maximum Daily Loads for Lake Okabena.

A draft letter to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture about Canada thistle control in wildlife areas and road ditches was discussed. The board decided not to take a position on the Canada thistle's noxious weed status.

Johnson discussed a letter he wrote to the Daily Globe supporting state legislation requiring 50 foot vegetative buffers adjacent to state protected waters. He asked the managers to consider sending a similar letter and lobbying for the legislation. Mahlberg moved to support the Governor's initiative to require buffer strips along DNR protected waters. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Mahlberg moved to appoint Doug Anton, Keith Schroeder, Eric Roos, Galen Gordon, Paul Langseth, Dwayne Haffield, Bob Demuth, Jr., Robert Rohrer, Scott Rall, Ben Krohn, John Ahlers, Rich Fellows and Jim Mc Gowan to the district advisory committee. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The managers discussed projects for the 2015 annual plan including planting cover crops on the St. John property, education for the Lake Ocheda enhancement project, and installing floating islands on Sunset Bay. Mahlberg moved to spend up to \$5000 to buy and build floating islands. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. A draft of the annual plan will be discussed at the April meeting

Milbrandt, Ingenthron and Livdahl are still working on the employee handbook and data practices policies. Drafts will be presented at the April meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

NRCS is holding a soils health workshops on March 12th at Minnesota West and March 13th at Southwest State in Marshall. Ingenthron moved to spend up to \$500 for workshop expenses. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Livdahl will attend the MAWD legislative event in St. Paul on March 12-13.

Bills to repeal the county funding for invasive species prevention practices have been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate. MAWD will lobby against the bills. If passed, local plans for invasive species education may be affected.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2014 annual report was reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the report. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The report will be posted soon on the district website.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned.