

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
March 7, 2017

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., county commissioner; 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. 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 \$3000 from savings to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A draft of the 2016 Annual Report was given to the Managers. Mahlberg moved to approve the report. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2017 Annual Plan was discussed. Rogers moved to approve the plan. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The 2017 plan calls for reviewing and updating the district's rules and cost-share programs. The board discussed how to address drainage tile surface intakes in township road ditches. Using cost-share to replace surface intakes with rock intakes was discussed. Langseth said he will discuss it at the Nobles County Township Association annual meeting on March 30. Priority areas for intake replacement and possible programs to use will be discussed at the April board meeting.

Comments at the Lake Ocheda Management Plan public information meetings seem to support commencing lake level draw downs in August rather than September. Josh Kavanagh suggested holding another planning committee meeting to discuss whether to make the change to the plan and to schedule the last public information meeting and the DNR Commissioner's hearing. Livdahl will talk to the committee members about scheduling a meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Johnson recommended adding plastic and rock to the St. John property ditch plug in the Highway 60 road ditch to hold more water in the wetland. Rogers moved to authorize Johnson to do the work on the St. John property. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Livdahl talked to Nobles County 4-H Director, Katie Klosterbuer, about a spring project for members. They discussed planting and launching three floating island wetlands in Sunset Bay in May. Mahlberg moved to purchase three floating island wetlands and work with 4-H members to install them. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The first One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee meeting will be sometime in early April. The request for qualifications documents have been emailed to consultants who are interested in writing the plan.

Fifteen people, not including board members and presenters, attended the February 27th Ocheda Management Plan public information meeting. The next public information meeting will occur about one month before the DNR Commissioner's public hearing this fall.

Livdahl will attend the MAWD legislative event on March 29th and 30th.

NEW BUSINESS

Caleb Fellows asked to be appointed to the Advisory Committee in place of his father. Mahlberg talked to Richard Fellows to be sure it was okay with him. Mahlberg moved to appoint Caleb Fellows to the Advisory Committee and to remove Richard Fellows. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The construction phase engineering contract for the Prairie View pond expansion project was not received before today's meeting. The contract will be reviewed and signed at a future board meeting.

Brad Harberts was recently hired to fill the Nobles County ditch inspector position. He will be added to the minutes and agenda mailing list and invited to attend future meetings.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

Todd Kruger - to bore tile under Nobles County Highway 25 and install a surface intake in the S 1/2, SE 1/4, section 25, Summit Lake Township under the following conditions: 1. must receive permission from Nobles County before working in the road right-of-way, and 2. may not install a open tile intake, but may install an alternative rock intake.

City of Worthington - to perform sediment and erosion control during the Diagonal Road resurfacing project.

Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 2017 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Milbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.