

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 6, 2008

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 Williamson. Also present was Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A three month and a four month CD was purchased at Bank of the West. A CREP incentive payment of \$10,896.82 was made to Marcella Sykora. Williamson moved to approve the treasurer's report, pay the bills. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A copy of the Advisory Committee minutes were received by the Managers. Livdahl will check with the Advisory Committee chair about whether they still want to hold a meeting in June.

Erosion control permit compliance was discussed. Lynn Brunk and McDonalds will be contacted about planting grasses now. A brick retaining wall was removed in the Glenwood Heights addition. Temporary or permanent erosion control practices may be needed in its place.

Approximately 1500 willow, dogwood and cottonwood cuttings were planted along the west shore of Lake Bella during April. Many were washed away by waves soon after they were planted. The planting sites will be monitored to see whether the trees survive long enough to stabilize the shoreline.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Rain garden construction has started at the Middle School and Prairie Elementary. The rain gardens at the Nobles County Public Works Building have been staked.

Steve Woltjer and Livdahl attended a meeting between the Worthington Country Club and the District 518 Board to discuss holding some of the runoff from the Middle School on the west side of Crailsheim Drive. The County Club proposed building a water retention structure in the road right-of-way that would temporarily hold storm water on school property. The School Board agreed to try something as long as it doesn't cost them any money. Rock logs were given to Craig Neinker to be installed in the west side of the culvert between the school and the golf course. Some water was held in the road ditches during two rain events.

Livdahl helped Jeff Rogers coach the Worthington High School Envirothon teams and drove a van to the area contest on April 30th. The teams won first and third place. Both teams will be competing in the State Envirothon contest on May 14th in Fergus Falls. Livdahl will drive one of the two teams to the contest.

Jan Voit, Melanie Luinenburg and Livdahl spoke to four of Pat Doyscher's geography classes about watersheds and landuse on April 21st. A tour was held for Deb Martin's agriculture class the following day.

The low flow valve on the W9 dam needs to be opened at least twice per year to be sure it continues to function. It was done on April 22nd. It would be good to measure sediment present in the ponds sometime later this year.

Livdahl met with Dwayne Haffield and Tom Kresko, DNR Area Hydrologist, on April 24th to discuss modifying the riprap installed on Sailboard Beach. Some larger rocks will be removed and smaller rocks replaced to improve access to the water.

The LOIA held its annual meeting on April 28th. It was well attended. The LOIA cosponsored a trash clean up with two churches on May 4th. Livdahl helped remove trash from Whiskey Ditch.

Livdahl spent about 10 hours removing trash from the St. John Property in April. There is still a lot of garbage in the trees bordering Buss Field.

NEW BUSINESS

A load of gravel will be hauled into Bella Park to repair a washout in the road near the DNR dam. Livdahl will repair the roof of the restroom structure and have the holding tank pumped.

According to the DNR Area Hydrologist, Tom Kresko, the Lake Ocheda dam is owned by the state. Kresko said the District would need to get permission to replace the stoplogs in the dam. The state is responsible for maintaining the dam.

Snow from City streets was placed too close to the Lake Okabena outlet ditch last winter. Jim Laffrenzen said he will mark the area this fall to leave a buffer. Laffrenzen will be contacted to see if snow piled in the swimming pool parking lot can be moved to another location.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications.

James Gruye – to install approximately 2000 feet of tile parallel to the new road in the E ½, SE ¼, section 19, Bigelow Township – on the condition that NRCS recommendations are followed to avoid draining a wetland.

Blue Earth Environmental Co. – to perform erosion control during demolition of the Central Elementary School building.

Randy Robinson – to install approximately 250 feet of 4 inch diameter tile in the SE ¼, section 6, Indian Lake Township – on the condition that NRCS recommendations are followed to avoid draining wetlands with the project.

Worthington Country Club – to install approximately 1800 feet of 4 inch diameter tile and to replace approximately 220 feet of 6 inch diameter tile with 12 inch diameter tile.

Mitch Hogan – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home at 1107 Lexington Avenue, Worthington.

Nobles County Fair Association – to perform erosion control during construction to relocate the access road from Stower Drive to the racetrack.

Jackie Sonstegard – to install approximately 45,000 feet of tile in the SW ¼, section 25, Worthington Township

Shirley J. Gruis Trust – to install approximately 900 feet of 5 or 6 inch diameter tile and repair a tile “blowout” in the SW ¼, NW ¼, section 30, Lorain Township.

LDS Church – to perform erosion control during construction of a new church facility at 1600 Knollwood Drive, Worthington.

Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson.
Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be on June 3, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Nobles County Public Works Building, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.