

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 5, 2009

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, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Norm Gallagher, County Commissioner; Ed Lenz, SWCD Technical Coordinator and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the April regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. McGowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. 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 \$5000 from the money market account into checking. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Mahlberg moved to approve the following cost-share agreement:

Mitch Hogan – Rain Garden, 75% up to a \$300 maximum.

Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried. NRCS staff will work with the landowner and landscaping contractor to build a working rain garden.

OLD BUSINESS

A draft notification form for agricultural drainage projects was reviewed by the Managers.

Construction site erosion control was discussed. Some tracking was observed from the Fareway site onto Ryans Road. Dan Wagner needs to install curbside erosion control at his project site.

Bills were passed in the Minnesota House and Senate that would allow the DNR to issue permits for the temporary drawdown of public waters with the consent of a majority of the landowners. The bill is expected to be signed by the Governor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A dock was installed last week at the Bella boat landing. The landing's concrete slats were pushed up by ice this year. Scott Rall said he will call Mike Salmon at the DNR to see when it will be fixed.

Two screen doors were ordered for the restrooms in Bella Park. They will be covered with hardware cloth to make them less vulnerable to vandalism.

Aaron Schultz called in early April to ask if he could bale grass at Bella Park. The area is hayed by the Dykstra Family now. Livdahl will call Schultz to tell him the Dykstras will continue to do it this year.

About two dumpster loads of litter was removed from the St. John property. Johnson thinks the mower donated to Pheasants Forever earlier this year could be used to cut some of the site's cottonwood trees. Livdahl will experiment with herbicide to kill the unwanted trees.

Livdahl attended the Ocheda Beavers 4-H club meeting last evening to talk to them about water sampling and building bluebird houses for the Hallstrom property. Club volunteers will help do sampling on Lake Bella beginning in June and ending in September.

Livdahl participated in the LOIA trash pickup on Saturday.

Worthington High School will have two teams of students competing in the area Envirothon tomorrow at Camden Park. Jeff Rogers is the coach. Livdahl helped the teams prepare for the oral presentation portion of the contest. He will be driving a van load of students to the competition tomorrow.

The LOIA annual meeting will occur at 7:00 p.m. on May 12th at the American Legion. Members are encouraged to come early and eat a burger.

There is a substantial amount of money available for permanent wetland restoration easements. Payment rates are pretty good. The NRCS/SWCD office is looking for interested landowners.

Paper copies of the Nobles County Local Water Management Plan are available now. The plan will be posted on District website soon. A notice will be sent to the Advisory Committee members informing them that the plan is available online.

NEW BUSINESS

The board discussed changing the OOWD rules to require a vegetative buffer for streams and ditches. The Nobles County ordinance requires a 16.5 foot buffer in agricultural areas. Johnson and Livdahl will contact Virgil Wiertzema about programs for creating a grassed filterstrip on his land near Lake Bella.

PERMITS

A permit application was received from David Vander Kooi to install tile draining toward Worthington's wells in the Malcolm wellfield. Vander Kooi stated that he has problems with salts in the soil due to the over application of hog manure in the past. Mahlberg moved to table the Vander Kooi permit until more research is done regarding manure and salts leaching into drainage tile, and to approve the following permit applications:

Margaret Shipley – to renew a permit issued on April 5, 2007 to install tile in the SE ¼, NW ¼, section 18, Worthington Township.

Nathan Mahlberg – to perform erosion control during construction of a new home in the NW ¼, NW ¼, section 11, Bigelow Township.

Floyd Buntjer – to install approximately 2200 feet of 5 inch diameter tile in the NW ¼, section 13, Bigelow Township.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. on June 2, 2009 at the Nobles County Public Works Facility, 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.