

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 3, 2011

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 Roger and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Scott Hain and Eric Roos, Worthington Public Utilities; Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Mel Janssen, Frosty Riders Snowmobile Club; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the April 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, 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 savings account into checking. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Paul and Nancy Ager requested cost-share for repair of their shoreline on Lake Okabena. The project was completed last winter at a cost of \$39,589. The district does not have a cost-share program for the stabilization of shoreline, but recently pledged a match of \$5000 toward a grant to repair lakeshore on Lake Ocheda. The managers discussed developing a policy for supporting lakeshore repair and stabilization projects. Williamson moved to table the Ager cost-share application until a policy is developed. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Hain and Roos gave a presentation on the history Worthington's residential, commercial and industrial water use. For unknown reasons, the water levels in Lake Bella wells were more stable during the last few years than in the previous years. Reduced federal funding for the Lewis and Clark project will delay construction of the water system.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Worthington High School will be competing in the regional Envirothon contest on May 5th at Camden Park. Livdahl will drive one of the vans to the contest.

The Lake Okabena Improvement Association's lake cleanup event will be on May 7th from 10:00 to noon.

The Worthington Public Utilities Power and Light Commission will tour the Lake Bella wellhead protection area tomorrow beginning at 10:30 a.m. Johnson, Livdahl and Rall will accompany them to explain recent land acquisition projects protecting groundwater.

Willow fascines installed on the western shoreline of Lake Bella during spring 2010 survived the winter and appear to be stabilizing the shoreline. Livdahl intends to install more fascines soon if the lake level recedes enough to do it.

Rob Baden from Duck Unlimited surveyed the dam on the Worthington Duck Club property to see if a drawdown is possible. The water level in the slough is controlled by Lake Ocheda's level.

Storm water education fliers will be mailed with the Worthington Public Utilities' bills this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Mel Janssen explained that the Frosty Riders Snowmobile Club needs to connect the Bigelow and Round Lake trails or abandon them. Janssen asked if the connecting trail could use the Lake Bella dam to cross the Ocheyedun River. The managers told him that time is needed to do research about whether using the dam for a snowmobile trail is acceptable. Livdahl stated that he cannot find the operation and maintenance plan for the structure in the OOWD files and he has asked the NRCS to search for a copy in their files. If no plan exists, one should be written.

Lake Ocheda will be monitored once per month during June, July, August and September with the help of the Ocheda Beavers 4-H Club.

Livdahl is doing inspections for construction sites with stormwater pollution prevention plans in Worthington.

Opening a business checking account at Wells Fargo was discussed. The board decided to send a letter to local financial institutions about providing checking and savings accounts for the district.

PERMITS

A permit application from **ISD 518** to perform erosion control during construction of tennis courts, and to build storm water facilities was discussed. The City Engineer is still reviewing the pond design and stormwater pollution prevention plan. Staff recommended tabling the permit application until the next meeting to allow the City to comment on the application. Mahlberg moved to table the ISD 518 application and approve the following permit applications:

Graham Tire – to perform erosion control during the construction of a building addition at 1099 Oxford Street.

Bob McCuen – to perform erosion control during construction of townhouses in the Woodland Ridge Addition.

Joe Vander Kooi – to perform erosion control during the demolition of a farmstead in the SE ¼, section 10, Bigelow Township.

Northern Natural Gas Company – to perform erosion control during the relocation of a gas pipeline in sections 25 and 26, Worthington Township.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on June 7, 2011 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.