

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 7, 2013

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, 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 April regular board meeting were reviewed. They will be corrected to show that Bob Rohrer attended the meeting. Rogers moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay for the audit, approve payment of the cost-share and bills listed in the report, and transfer \$6000 from the money market account to checking. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A well sealing cost-share payment for Terry Riemersma was approved with the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

Dwayne Haffield and Livdahl met by phone with Wenck Consulting staff on April 22 to discuss their proposal to do additional monitoring and analysis to improve the TMDL study and plan for Lake Okabena. Wenck will submit a modified proposal that will be presented to the Clean Water Partnership Board.

Rogers planted wheat on the St. John property. A silt fence was installed recently to prevent movement of soil into the Highway 60 road ditch. Discussion will be held at future board meetings about holding more water on the St. John property near Buss Field.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Forty-one people attended the invasive species meeting on April 23rd. Julie Buntjer was complimented on the coverage given to the issue by the Daily Globe.

Rogers' class planted the floating islands today. The islands will remain anchored near the shoreline until it is known whether the plants are getting adequate water to grow on their own.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2012 audit report was given to the board. The auditor recommended greater segregation duties to improve internal controls over financial transactions and reporting.

Worthington residents have been contacting Worthington Public Utilities and the district about whether they can use water from Lake Okabena and Whiskey Ditch to irrigate yards and gardens during the non-essential water use ban. Livdahl is telling them that surface water use is regulated by the state. Under state regulations, riparian landowners may use a maximum of 10,000 gallons per day, up to 1 million gallons per year, without a state water appropriation permit. Neighborhood systems using more than those amounts are regulated by the conditions of their state permits.

A meeting was held today at the Worthington Public Utilities office to discuss plans for managing Worthington's water supply. Mayor Oberloh and staff from the DNR, Worthington Public Utilities and district attended the meeting. DNR staff stated that the city may be able to regulate surface water use if it passes an ordinance. More information on a potential ordinance will be forwarded to the City Council.

The district mailed a letter to Ken Meyerdirk on August 8, 2013 telling him that his permit application to lower a culvert under Sundberg Avenue was not approved because district rules prohibit it. Upon inspection it was discovered that the culvert was recently replaced. It is unknown whether the culvert is a different size or was installed at a lower elevation. Langseth stated that Meyerdirk met with the Indian Lake Township Board last summer asking for permission to replace the culvert at a lower elevation. The township board did not know a permit was needed from the district to replace the culvert. Livdahl will do more research and suggest a strategy for addressing the issue at the June meeting.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

Shawn Elsing – to remove concrete and replace it with field stone riprap on the shoreline at 1134 West Lake Avenue, Worthington.

Ocheda Dairy – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of an underground manure pipeline in sections 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Bigelow Township.

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during renovation of the Nobles Square Apartments in Worthington.

City of Worthington – to hand place field stone riprap on the shoreline at Vogt Park.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during sewer and water reconstruction projects during 2013.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 4, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.