

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**May 6, 2014**

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., Nobles County commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Bill Schuna, DNR area wildlife manager; Brian Nyborg, DNR area hydrologist; Nicole Kovar, DNR wildlife lakes specialist; Todd Kolander, DNR Ecological Services; Josh Kavanagh, Duck Unlimited engineer; Scott Hain, Worthington Public Utilities general manager; Eric Roos, Worthington Public Utilities water superintendent; Scott Rall, Advisory Committee member; Wayne Smith, Nobles County Environmental Services director; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the April 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 \$9000 from savings into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

A \$2000 cost-share payment to Dan Krueger for a pond cleanout was approved with the Treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Creating a management plan for Lake Ocheda was discussed. Either the DNR or district may take the lead in this effort. Temporary lake level drawdowns would be the main tool to control rough fish, manage lake vegetation and improve water quality. Kavanagh stated that Ducks Unlimited did a quick survey and determined that the lake could be drawn down without installing pumps. The outlet dam would need to be modified. Some hydrological information needs to be collected and analyzed to determine the effect of lake draw downs on the Bella aquifer recharge.

Nicole Kovar said a model lake plan could be created for Ocheda in a few weeks to facilitate local discussion. The district hold local meetings to discuss management plan options with local landowners after getting the model plan. Kavanagh will see if Lake Ocheda can be placed on the engineering calendar in 2015. He will also look into state funding for the project.

Options for no-till planting soybeans on the St. John property were discussed. Rogers will apply herbicide to kill the cover crop.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Four floating island wetlands were installed in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond. Rogers' class helped assemble, plant and launch the islands. The Lake Okabena Improvement Association provided \$3000 to pay for two of the islands.

Stream flow and water quality monitoring began on Lake Okabena's inlets in April. Lake level monitoring equipment has been installed at Sailboard Beach. Monitoring will occur through September.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Johnson is directing prairie burns at Bella Park to promote native vegetation growth. Burns began yesterday and will continue as weather permits until the work is completed.

BWSR will conduct a performance evaluation of the partner organizations in the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Plan. It is unknown how much time this will take.

## **PERMITS**

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permit:

**City of Worthington** – to perform erosion and sediment control during water main reconstruction, sanitary sewer reconstruction and sanitary sewer spot repairs.

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 June 3, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.