

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 1, 2018

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: Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; John Shea, SWCD manager; Doug Anton, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the April 2018 regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes. Mahlberg 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 \$10,000 from the savings account into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The Olson Trust agreed to pay the \$6250.00 cost of the Lake Okabena carp population assessment. The scope of work document was reviewed and Livdahl will sign it for the district. Mark Their agreed to lift the survey boat into, and out of, Sunset Bay. The survey will likely occur in July.

The process for changing watershed district boundaries was discussed. The KLRWD and OOWD will need to pass motions to submit a boundary change petition to BWSR. A map showing Livdahl's recommendations for the new boundary was reviewed. Livdahl will ask the Auditor-Treasurer about how parcels split by new the boundary will be taxed.

Milbrandt explained that a committee led by Chad Nixon is identifying projects that may be funded to improve and protect Lake Okabena if Worthington's special sales tax is extended. The 2013 proposal from Lake Savers for whole lake aeration and biological treatment was discussed. Livdahl will contact Lake Savers to get an updated proposal and forward it to the lake committee.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Nobles County held a County Ditch 4 hearing on April 17th. The hearing was continued until tile elevation information is collected and can be compared to the wetland basin's normal water level. Harberts explained the results of the tile outlet survey.

Prairie View project engineer, Bryce Cruvey, will hire a contractor to replace the sand layer. The goal is to complete the work in mid-July.

Kassy Hendricks' email today stated that the draft Ocheda dam plans are almost complete but need to be reviewed by DU's engineer. Brian Nyborg, Bill Schuna and Josh Kavanagh will review the draft plans as soon as they are received. Kavanagh agreed to complete the DNR waters and Army Corps of Engineers permit applications after the final plans are done. Kavanagh will also draft an agreement allowing the district to do construction on the state owned structure.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources will likely hold their annual tour in southwest Minnesota in August. A committee will be in Worthington next week to look at facilities and plan tour stops.

Senator Smith's staff will hold a farm bill listening session at Prairie Holdings on May 10th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Johnson will attend the session.

NEW BUSINESS

Bella Park maintenance was discussed. Johnson hopes to complete a prairie burn at the north end of the lake when conditions permit. Livdahl will paint the picnic tables and paint or repair the restrooms. Mahlberg will mow the access trail on the west side of the park as needed.

Snow melt water and springs rains delivered a lot of turbid runoff to the Prairie View pond and Okabena Creek. Regulating land use activities to prevent soil erosion and downstream pollution was discussed. Livdahl and Shea will bring information to the board about the state's new soil loss rules.

Mahlberg moved to write a letter of support for the Prairie View regional park grant application. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A resolution amending the district management plan/county water plan to identify other waters that need protection under the state buffer law was discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the other waters resolution. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit application:

City of Worthington – to implement the stormwater pollution prevention plan best management practices during installation of new box culverts on County Ditch 12 at the Oslo Street and Oxford Street crossings.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on June 5, 2018 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.