

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
November 13, 2012

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., county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD manager; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the October regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes as mailed. 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 \$5000 from the Worthington Federal money market account into the checking account at Wells Fargo. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Johnson summarized the meeting this afternoon about closing the Herlein-Boote diversion. Staff from the DNR Division of Ecological and Waters Resources and Division of Wildlife were present along with staff from the city of Worthington, Worthington Public Utilities, Nobles SWCD and the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District. Jim Solstad presented a hydrological evaluation of the contribution of Herlein-Boote sub-watershed to Lake Okabena's water level during low and high water events, and to recharging the Worthington's wells at Lake Bella. Additional hydrological information needs to be gathered to understand the effects of closing the diversion on the county ditch and road crossings west of the Herlein-Boote wetland.

The static levels of Worthington's wells continue to drop due to drought. Worthington Public Utilities will soon have a pipeline connected from the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System to supplement the city's water supply. The board discussed creating a permanent by-pass pipe to move water around the Lake Ocheda dam to recharge the wells at Lake Bella during water emergencies. Before issuing a permit, the DNR would require the city to declare an emergency and provide hydrological information showing the feasibility of moving enough water to recharge the Bella aquifer and the effects on Lake Ocheda. Mahlberg moved to enter discussions with Worthington Public Utilities and the DNR concerning moving water from Lake Ocheda to Lake Bella. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The watershed district presently pays landowners an annual incentive to participate in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) filter strip contracts. The managers discussed ways to make these filter strips permanent without the annual incentive payments. The district has the option of changing its rules to mandate stream bank and lakeshore setbacks. Carrot vs. stick approaches to achieve conservation goals were discussed. Lenz explained how permanent Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) filter strip easements work. Since RIM easement rates do not keep up with the rapidly increasing agricultural land values, additional incentive payments would likely be needed to entice landowners to voluntarily use the program.

An agreement was signed for the St. John property with R&G Construction Company. R&G will pay the district \$500 per acre for the entire site in 2013. The land must be restored to farmable conditions by the end of September 2013. Livdahl will ask R&G to pay the district for 2011 and 2012 before the end of the year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Worthington residents have expressed concern that Lake Okabena is quickly filling with silt. Livdahl suggested reproducing the lake bottom survey completed in 1998 to see how much silt is accumulating. The Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board members will be asked if they are willing to help pay for a survey.

Livdahl will order a plaque to present to Jim Mc Gowan at the December meeting for his many years of service on the board.

Some fire breaks were mowed at Bella Park. If conditions are right in the spring, these areas will be burned to encourage establishment of the newly planted prairie grasses and flowers.

Larye Mick plans to survey the eroding section of Okabena Creek before winter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mahlberg volunteered to replace Jim Mc Gowan on the Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board.

The account signature cards at Worthington Federal Savings Bank, Wells Fargo and the Bank of the West need to be updated because board members have changed. Rogers moved that the following people be authorized as signatories on the following accounts.

Wells Fargo - Business Checking Account

Casey Ingenthron
Les Johnson
Rolf Mahlberg
Jay Milbrandt
Jeff Rogers
Dan Livdahl

Bank of the West - Business Checking Account

Casey Ingenthron
Les Johnson
Rolf Mahlberg
Jay Milbrandt
Jeff Rogers
Dan Livdahl

Worthington Federal Savings Bank - Savings Account

Casey Ingenthron
Les Johnson
Rolf Mahlberg
Jay Milbrandt
Jeff Rogers

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

PERMITS

Mark Thier was contacted and told his permit application to work near the shoreline of Lake Okabena was tabled at the October board meeting because the proposed work is not in compliance with district rules or Worthington's shoreland ordinance. Thier will modify his plan and resubmit it sometime in the future.

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications.

Southwestern Mental Health – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a new facility at 1210 5th Avenue, Worthington.

GBM Properties – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of an addition to the Hagen Distributing building at 500 Industrial Lane, Worthington.

Midstates Builders – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of the Goodwill Store in Worthington.

Rogers 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 December 4, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.