

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
November 5, 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, Rolf Mahberg and Jeff Rogers. Jay Milbrant attended the meeting using FaceTime. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the October regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers 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. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report, approve payment of the bills and transfer \$8,000 from savings into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Correspondence from Mike Tow about the Meyerdirk rules violation was discussed. Tow communicated that an engineer's opinion showing that replacing the culvert changed flow capacity under the road is necessary for either criminal prosecution or a civil case. Stormwater staff from Short, Elliot and Hendrickson, Inc. stated that without a detailed survey of the site before and after construction, a case could be made either way about whether the new culvert changed flow capacity. Since a survey was not done before construction, the managers decided not to further pursue the case against Meyerdirk. District rules will be reviewed in the future in an effort to make them more enforceable.

The district will work with NRCS staff this winter to write a cover crop and cropping plan for the St. John property. The Heron Lake Watershed District will hold a cover crop field day on November 13th at the Ackermann farm near Lakefield. Livdahl will attend the event.

The Nobles County Water Plan update will be presented to the Board of Water and Soil Resources southern committee on November 7th. The plan will need to be adopted by the district at a future date.

Staff from Wenck Engineering planned to take Lake Okabena sediment cores today. They cancelled due to the winter storm warning in eastern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Livdahl is registered for the MAWD Annual Meeting on December 5-7. Registrations are due soon if managers want to attend.

Johnson mowed fire breaks around the newly seeded areas of Bella Park on October 9th. Prescribed burns are planned for spring 2014. Riprap was repaired below the Bella dam spillway in early October. Barbed wire fencing was removed last month along the Ochedan River. Mahlberg will move the boat landing dock onto shore before freeze up.

Scott Deslauriers' crew seined buffalo fish and carp from Lake Bella last week. Scott says he plans to fish western Lake Ocheda next week.

Worthington Public Utilities banned non-essential water use on November 1st. The ban will remain in effect until the monitoring well at Lake Bella reaches the 15 year average level.

Office rent will increase 2.1 percent in 2014. Renting office space from Nobles County is still a great deal for the district.

NEW BUSINESS

Potential projects to be included in the 2014 plan were discussed. Discussion will continue at the December meeting.

A draft of the 2014 budget will be reviewed at the December meeting.

Mahlberg and Rogers will complete Livdahl's the annual performance evaluation before the next meeting. Evaluation forms will be mailed to the managers and should be returned to Mahlberg.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit application:

Ryan Huisman – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 1787 Donovan Drive in Worthington.

Ingenthron 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 3, 2013 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.