

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
November 3, 2015

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: Keith Schroeder, advisory committee member; Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; John Shea, SWCD manager; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the October regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. 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 \$6000 from savings into the checking account. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Cost-share payments for Terry Neugebauer, Gary Boltjes and Joel Olson were approved with the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

The managers discussed the state buffer initiative. Much is still unknown about how the buffer law will be implemented. Nobles County will hold a public meeting about the buffer law on November 10th. Kurt Dieter will be the speaker.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Paul Langseth will cut the cedar trees on district property at the intersection of 330th Street and CSAH 57 for about \$100. The trees will be piled on site and burned this winter. Bruce Amundson was given permission to remove small volunteer cedar trees from Bella Park to be transplanted elsewhere for wildlife habitat.

HDR Engineering staff will be on site to do an assessment of the Lake Bella dam structure for the NRCS on November 9th. They will also do an analysis of the downstream hazards if the dam fails.

The Lake Ocheda dam fish barrier was opened on October 27th. Partially sunken logs on the lake side of the dam were removed.

Four of the floating islands on the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond broke free from their anchors in October. The islands floated to shore and will be left there until spring. Gordy Heitkamp said Minnesota West staff will buy chain and make concrete anchors before spring.

Zebra Mussel monitoring plates from public docks in East Graham, Indian, Okabena, Ocheda and Bella lakes were removed and inspected in October. Worthington's public docks and private boat lifts stored in Sunset Park were also inspected. No zebra mussels were detected.

Ingenthron will be the voting delegate at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual meeting in December.

NEW BUSINESS

The future of the district's CRP buffer strip incentive program was discussed. The district will update its program when more is known about implementation of the state buffer law, which streams and ditches need to be buffered and the required buffer widths. Until a new program is developed, the existing program will remain in place.

The 2016 budget was discussed. Personnel expenses need to be determined. Rogers and Mahlberg will complete a performance review for Livdahl and talk to him about salary and benefits before the next board meeting.

PERMITS

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit application:

N & C Construction - to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 1932 Woodland Court, Worthington.

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 December 1, 2015 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.