

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**November 7, 2017**

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 and Jay Milbrandt. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe reporter; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Keith Schroeder, advisory committee member; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; John Shea, SWCD manager and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the October regular board meeting were reviewed. Ingenthron moved to approve the minutes. Mahlberg 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 \$30,500 from savings into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

A cost-share payment to Paul Busse to construct water and sediment control basins was approved with the bills payable.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Prairie View ponds project sand filters are not working. The filter manhole covers were removed last week to dewater the site so the contractor and engineer can diagnose the problem. When a hole was dug through the sand layer to the rock layer, water began to move through the drainage pipes within a few minutes. It appears the sand layer is nearly impermeable. This could be due to the wrong materials being installed or too much compaction during construction. Samples will be taken of the sand layer tomorrow to see if it meets the construction design specifications. When the problem is diagnosed, the contractor, engineer and Livdahl will develop a plan to correct it.

Duininck submitted a payment application request to Wenck Associates totaling \$490,931.43 for work completed at Prairie View. The engineer recommends paying for the items completed, less the work done on the filters, totaling \$337,807.83. They recommend a second payment request be processed for the filter benches after the problem is diagnosed, the contractor and engineer agree on how to fix it, and it is agreed who will pay for the work and materials needed.

The managers discussed how much to pay Duininck Inc, if anything, before the sand filter benches are functional. Livdahl recommended paying for the work completed, minus the filters, since the engineer is willing to certify the work was done according to project design specifications. Mahlberg moved to pay the request that includes earthwork and spillway, totaling approximately \$338,000, and to authorize Ingenthron and Livdahl to review and sign the payment request forms. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Abstained: Johnson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Milbrandt reported that he and Livdahl attended a Worthington City Council work session to make a presentation about transferring ownership of the Prairie View property to the district. The council was interested in trading about 20 acres of the St. John property for it. Milbrandt showed copies of the work session presentation to the board and discussed management and recreational opportunities on the site. He wrote a proposal to the council outlining the land transfer, property trade and future management of the site.

The results of the Lake Okabena carp population study were discussed. Wenck staff used electrofishing equipment to survey three areas of the lake on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Few carp were stunned, but most were large. The information was plugged into a model to estimate the lake's carp population. The model estimated the population exceeds the level where water quality will be adversely affected. Wenck and DNR fisheries staff have questions about whether the population

model works on large shallow lakes. Wenck proposed options for better understanding carp population and dynamics. The managers will review them at a future meeting.

District filter strip incentive payments were mailed in October to program participants with valid CRP contracts. Two participants have filter strips in place, but district records show the CRP contracts expired in 2016. Livdahl contacted the site owners and will issue incentive payments after receiving proof the sites are enrolled in CRP.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The Lake Ocheda Management plan public hearing was held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Public comments were very positive. DNR and district staff will meet on November 16<sup>th</sup> to assemble and review the package of information to be submitted to the DNR Commissioner.

Mahlberg reported that the renter of the St. John property was disappointed with soybean yields this year. Mahlberg moved to return the second half of the rent payment. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Mahlberg. Opposed: Milbrandt, Ingenthron, Johnson. Motion failed. Johnson will contact the renter and negotiate a rental rate for next year.

Scott Rall will be contacted to plant the St. John property field buffers.

Livdahl met with Kurt Deter and Brad Harberts to discuss the history of the Herlein-Boote diversion and dam structures.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A request from Bedford Industries to vacate a portion of the Whiskey Ditch flood control project easement was discussed. Mahlberg moved to vacate the easement. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg. Opposed: none. Abstained: Milbrandt. Motion carried.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District annual meeting will be held in Alexandria on November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Livdahl is registered to attend.

A draft 2019 annual budget will be discussed at the December board meeting. Mahlberg and Rogers will complete an employee performance review before the meeting.

### **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications.

**Johnson Builders and Realty** – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a retail facility and parking lot at the intersection of North Humiston Avenue and Ray Drive, Worthington.

**Minnesota West Community College** – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of the Villas housing project on the Minnesota West campus, Worthington.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on December 5, 2017 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting