

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
October 4, 2011

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:10 p.m. Present were managers Les Johnson, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Stephanie McLain, NRCS DC; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Casey Ingenthron, future manager and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the 2012 budget hearing and the September 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$23,000 from the savings account into checking. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

A payment for Genevieve Mielke's septic system replacement was approved with the bills payable.

OLD BUSINESS

A list of 2011 filter strip sites and payments due was reviewed by the managers. Staff viewed the sites to verify the filter strips are in place. Pheasants Forever and the district purchased Catherine Seifert's site before the end of the CRP contract year. It was decided to give her a partial payment for the portion of the year she owned the filter strip site. Paul Busse's site was in a valid CRP contract, but the vegetation was not planted due to weather related construction delays and CRP grass planting deadlines. It was decided to pay Busse the promised payment. Williamson moved to approve the filter strip payments, including those for Busse and Seifert. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A meeting was held at Minnesota West about their regional stormwater pond on September 30th. Nobles County will do much of the excavation for the pond to obtain soil for the County Highway 10/Crailsheim road reconstruction project. Nobles County will likely be the fiscal agent for the earthwork and Minnesota West the fiscal agent for the other work. The OOWD's \$10,000 contribution will be used as needed to complete the project.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The 5th grade event at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area occurred on September 27th and 29th. Staff from the OOWD, DNR, USFWS and NRCS conducted tours of the prairie. Students also attended a session on the Ecology Bus. The NRCS and SWCD did a great job of organizing the event.

Mahlberg and Livdahl did soils presentations at the Kids Field Day in Lamberton on September 21st and 22nd.

Aaron Crowley and Livdahl surveyed the Bella Dam spillway area a few weeks ago. An area approximately 12' x 25' needs some additional riprap to prevent erosion during the next high water period. About 20 yards of rock should be installed on top of geotextile fabric. The area is too small to get any contractors excited about doing it.

Weather conditions are ideal for removing sediment from the northern forebay of the W9 project site. It was not completed last fall or winter due to high water levels and heavy snowfall. Hopefully, Larson Crane will get to the site soon.

Scott Des Laurier plans to sein Lake Ocheda when water temperatures are cool enough to allow survival of the netted game fish. He has three other lakes to do before Ocheda. He hopes to be here sometime in late October.

Scott is looking for seven volunteers to help.

Johnson signed a letter to the Nobles County Planning and Zoning Board asking them to adopt an ordinance for a no wake speed zone during high water periods on Lake Okabena. Wayne Smith thinks the board will discuss the issue sometime before the end of the year.

Jeff Rogers was reappointed for another term on the board. Casey Ingenthron was appointed by Nobles County to replace Jeff Williamson. Nobles County will be contacted about when Ingenthron's term begins.

NEW BUSINESS

The Advisory Committee met immediately before the board meeting. The committee discussed the proposed no wake speed zone for Lake Okabena, fish seining, the model fish barrier at the Lake Ocheda dam and wellhead projection projects. The committee's minutes will be forwarded to the managers before the next board meeting.

The Okabena-Ocheda Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting will be scheduled soon. Dedicating hospital sale money to a water resources fund will again be a topic of discussion.

McClain informed the board that the vegetation for the Hospice Cottage's rain garden/swale was mowed multiple times and likely destroyed. Cost-share for the project was received from the Resource Conservation and Development board and the district. Williamson moved to inform the Hospice Cottage board that the vegetation must be reestablished or the cost-share money provided by the OOWD must be repaid. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

An employee performance evaluation will be completed before the end of the year.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit application:

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during the replacement of a gravel surfaced parking lot with a bituminous surface, and the installation of stormwater infiltration areas in Ehlers Park.

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during the removal of driveways in Slater Park.

City of Worthington – to install riprap and to perform erosion and sediment control during other construction in the shore impact zone at Freedom Shore Park.

Johnson Builder and Realtors, Inc. – to perform erosion and sediment control during the construction of a new building and parking lot at the Schaap Sanitation site on Highway 60 south.

Lyle Voss/V&O Construction – to perform erosion and sediment control during the construction of townhomes at 1038 and 1048 Crailsheim Road.

Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on November 1, 2011 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.