

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
October 7, 2014

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Jay Milbrandt, Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson and Rolf Mahlberg. Also present were Don Buckhout, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Performance Review and Assistance Program coordinator; Mark Hiles, BWSR conservationist; Katherine Tieken, advisory board member; Bob Demuth, Jr., Nobles County commissioner; Robin Baumgarn, Daily Globe reporter; Ed Lenz, SWCD manager; Logan Ahlers, summer intern and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the September regular board meeting and 2015 budget hearing were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling about \$36,700 are scheduled to be mailed to landowners this month. Sites need drive-by inspections before payments are issued. Two landowners have filterstrips in place but may not have current CRP contracts. They will receive 2014 incentive payments after proof of enrollment in a CRP contract is received. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills, issue CRP incentive payments and transfer \$45,000 from savings into the checking account. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Buckhout explained the Performance Review and Assistance Program Level II draft report for the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District. The report showed strong compliance with BWSR's performance standards, but identified two action items that need to be addressed. The District needs to adopt updated personnel and data practices policies. A written response to the report will be mailed to BWSR by November 7th.

A draft of the memorandum of understanding between the district, Ducks Unlimited (DU) and DNR was discussed. The memo defines the organizations' roles and responsibilities for the Lake Ocheda enhancement project. The document is being reviewed by DU and the DNR now. Mahlberg moved to approve the document and authorize the chair to sign it when it is completed, as long as the district's responsibilities don't change significantly. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Mahlberg moved to authorize spending up to \$10,000 for the Lake Ocheda enhancement project. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to DU pledging the money to the project.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Osceola County finished cleaning the road ditch around the eastern Bella Park driveway. Livdahl installed some additional seed and erosion control matting downhill from the driveway culvert.

Nobles County will install riprap near the outlet of the culvert under County Highway 25 where it drains into Tom Bomgaars' land.

Extension will hold a cover crop workshop on November 13th in Okabena. We were asked to help pay for the Prairie Ecology Bus for workshop tour. Mahlberg moved to spend \$100 for the ecology bus. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Fifth graders from the Worthington Middle School, St. Mary's and Worthington Christian School attended tours at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area on September 30th through October 2nd. Livdahl helped lead tours of the area. The district paid for the Prairie Ecology Bus programs at the event.

Mahlberg, Livdahl and Al Langseth did presentations on healthy soils for students at the Extension Children's Field Day event.

Larye Mick completed the Lake Okabena and Sunset Bay bottom survey. The information will be compared to the survey done in 1999.

NEW BUSINESS

Logan Ahlers presented the results of his research project this summer on the water quality of Lake Okabena and the streams flowing into it. His project showed that pollution loading is highest from the Whiskey Ditch sub-watershed. The board thanked him for his presentation.

PERMITS

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permits:

Bob and Donna Tims – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 1919 Woodland Court, Worthington.

Todd Schwebach – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 847 Sterling Avenue, Worthington.

Nobles County – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction on County State Aid Highway 25.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on November 4, 2014 in the Nobles County Public Works Building household hazardous waste facility at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.