

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 6, 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, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan, Jeff Rogers and Jeff Williamson. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor, and Dan Livdahl, Administrator.

The minutes of the August 2011 regular board meeting were reviewed. Williamson moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

COST-SHARE

Williamson moved to approve the following cost-share applications:

Don Basche – Rain garden – 50% not to exceed \$300.

Genevieve Mielke – Septic System Replacement - 10% not to exceed \$500.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Johnson's tractor was used to mow approximately 10 acres of the area seeded in June for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. Approximately two acres of the newly seeded area were drowned out during the high water period in July. The areas will be evaluated next spring to see if they need to be reseeded.

A map of Minnesota West's proposed stormwater pond and the estimated costs for the project were reviewed. The board will consider increasing its cost-share for the project if a request is received from the college.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Minnesota statute 86B gives county boards the authority to regulate watercraft use through an ordinance. The statute says counties may regulate the speed of watercraft, so no wake zones could be created by the ordinance. Since Lake Okabena is completely within Worthington, the city would need to give its consent. Enforcement would be done by the sheriff's department, DNR, or could be contracted to some other agency with policing powers. A letter will be written to the Nobles County Planning Commission asking them to adopt a no wake speed ordinance.

The riprap around the Bella Dam spillway plunge pool was damaged by the high water in July. It is likely that more riprap and filter fabric will need to be installed on the western bank of the pool. Staff will survey the pool to see how much riprap is needed. Tom Kresko said a notification form must be filed with the DNR before construction work is done.

Soil and erosion control fabric were installed on a small area of Bella Dam to protect a joint in the concrete outlet tube. The area will need to be watered occasionally to get the grass established.

Some thistle patches in Bella Park should be sprayed this fall. Staff would need to borrow an ATV to do it well.

Filter strip incentive payments are normally approved at the October board meeting. The filter strip contract sites will be inspected before the meeting.

Marv Rall is working to build a bracket to attach the prototype fish barrier to the ends of the Lake Ocheda dam.

Nobles County will hold tire collections in Worthington and Adrian on September 21st. Livdahl volunteered to work at the Worthington collection.

The 5th grade event at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area will be held on September 27th and 29th. Students will spend time on the Ecology Bus and tour the prairie and wetlands. Livdahl will help conduct the tours.

NEW BUSINESS

Rogers submitted an application to the County Board asking to be reappointed for another three year term on the watershed district board. The managers support Rogers' reappointment. No other applications were received for the remaining open position. Staff and managers will work to recruit qualified applicants.

PERMITS

Williamson moved to approve the following permit application:

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during redevelopment of the Campbell's Soup site.

Ecumen – to perform erosion and sediment control during replacement of the existing parking lot at the Meadows facility in Worthington.

Schafer Contracting Co, Inc. - to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during the stock piling of materials and the operation of a portable concrete production plant for the Highway 60 reconstruction project.

Donald Slone – to perform erosion and sediment control during the demolition of a home at 809 Burlington Avenue.

R&G Construction Company – to perform erosion and sediment control during the stock piling and crushing of materials for the Highway 60 reconstruction project.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on October 4, 2011 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Mahlberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Williamson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers, Williamson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.