

MINUTES
2013 Budget Hearing
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 4, 2012

The hearing for the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District's 2013 proposed budget was called to order at 4:02 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD manager; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Jack Slater, Olson Trust board member and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The budget notice published in the Daily Globe was reviewed. No comments were received from the public.

The 2013 levy must be certified by September 15th. More discussion about potential projects for coming years will occur at the regular board meeting.

Mahlberg moved to close the hearing. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Hearing closed at 4:12 p.m.

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 4, 2012

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:12 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jim Mc Gowan and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Ed Lenz, SWCD manager; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Jack Slater, Olson Trust board member and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the August regular board meeting were reviewed. Mahlberg moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mc Gowan seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. 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 the Worthington Federal money market account into the checking account at Wells Fargo. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Construction of the regional stormwater pond on the Minnesota West campus will begin soon. Representatives of Minnesota West, city of Worthington, School District 518, the Olson Trust Board and the watershed district met earlier today to discuss funding for the project. Approximately \$11,000 more is needed to complete the project. The group requested that the Olson Trust and the OOWD boards increase their contributions to cover the \$11,000. Jack Slater said he would recommend to the other Olson Trust board members that they increase their contribution from \$25,000 to \$30,500. Mahlberg moved to increase the district's contribution from \$10,000 to \$15,500. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The managers support naming the pond after E.O. Olson.

A list of potential projects including, placing easements on existing grass filter strips, restoring wetlands, acquiring land for stormwater treatment and wellhead protection, stabilizing eroding banks on Okabena Creek and Lake Bella, restoring Lake Ocheda and reestablishing vegetation in Lake Okabena were discussed. Additional funding would be needed to make progress on any of the projects.

The managers discussed increasing the levy to create a fund for future projects. Mahlberg moved to set the 2013 levy at \$170,000. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Mc Gowan, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A certified letter was mailed to R&G Construction informing them that the agreement for placing muck on the St. John property ended on September 1st. The letter stated that the final grading of the property must be completed by October 15th unless a new agreement is approved. The letter further stated that R&G will be charged rent for the 2013 cropping season if the grading isn't completed by that date.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Langseth shoreline stabilization project construction and seeding was completed last week. The site looks good.

Jay Milbrandt's blog, published in the Daily Globe last week, generated discussion by Worthington residents about whether operating an algae skimmer would benefit Lake Okabena. Livdahl told several people that the district would not want to own or operate a skimmer, but may be willing to contribute money to its purchase or operation.

The water level in Lake Bella this week is the same today as in November 2011. The monitoring well at Lake Bella is the lowest it has been in August since 2000.

The Prairie Wetland Learning Area event for 5th grade students will take place on September 25–27. Livdahl will lead tours on those days as needed. The district will be paying for the Prairie Ecology Bus for the two days it is there.

Livdahl will be helping Mahlberg teach students about soils at the Elementary Field Day in Lambertton on September 19-20

Livdahl painted the picnic tables and restroom at Bella Park in August. Some thistles in the newly planted prairie areas should be sprayed. Fire breaks need to be mowed sometime in September or October if there is enough fuel in the newly seeded areas for burning this fall or next spring.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2013 budget was discussed. The budget should be finalized during the December meeting.

Mc Gowan's and Johnson's terms on the board end on October 31st. Johnson submitted his application to the Nobles County Board for reappointment. Mc Gowan said he does not want to be reappointed. The county administration office requests that the managers recommend candidates for appointment by September 11th. Mahlberg moved to recommend the reappoint of Johnson. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Abstained: Mc Gowan, Johnson. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 2, 2012 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington.

Meeting adjourned.