

**MINUTES**  
**2017 Budget Hearing**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**September 6, 2016**

The 2017 budget hearing was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Scott Rall and Keith Schroeder, advisory committee members; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; Brad Hoekstra, district resident; John Shea, SWCD manager; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The proposed 2017 budget was published twice in the Daily Globe. No written comments were received.

Keith Schroeder stated the proposed levy increase is too high and questioned the effectiveness of watershed district programs to address the problems on agricultural land and in the agricultural community. Brad Hoekstra stated that in a time of low corn and soybean prices, the proposed 59.4 percent levy increase is too much.

The levy for the survey and data acquisition fund was discussed. Up to \$50,000 may be levied once every five years. The published budget proposes to levy for the fund in 2017. The district would not be able to do it again for another five years.

The managers thanked Hoekstra and Schroeder for their comments.

The hearing was closed at 4:33 p.m.

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**September 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:33 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Scott Rall, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe reporter; John Shea, SWCD manager; Al Langseth, district resident; and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the August regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and transfer \$9000 from savings into checking. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following cost-share agreement:

**Steve Dykstra** - grass waterway repair - 75% of the actual cost, up to a maximum payment of \$1631.25

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rall explained that the advisory committee will meet at 4:00 on September 8th. The advisory committee will review the Lake Ocheda restoration plan and discuss ways to present the plan to the public. Their recommendations will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Mahlberg moved to set the 2017 levy at \$303,000. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Ingenthron will sign the levy certification form.

The district received notice that the One Watershed/One Plan grant was approved for the local governments in the Missouri River basin. The partners and BWSR staff will meet this fall to discuss state expectations and planning responsibilities.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Some road grading was done at Bella Park. Mahlberg will contact Jeppesen again about hauling in crushed blacktop.

Livdahl will do soil presentations next week at the Fall Elementary Field Day event in Lambertton.

The Prairie Wetland Learning Area tours will occur on September 19 - 21. Fifth grade classes from Prairie Elementary, St. Mary's and Worthington Christian schools will attend. Livdahl will guide tours as needed. The district will pay the fees for the Prairie Ecology Bus.

CRP filter strip payments will be issued in October.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The board discussed attempts to demonstrate cover crops on the St. John property. It was decided that the board does not have the resources to do a good job. Johnson will find a renter for the ground in 2017. He will try to get of rental rate of \$150 per acre to be paid after harvest.

## **PERMITS**

Mahlberg moved to approve the following permits:

**Henning Construction** - to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during removal of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of fill from a field in the NW 1/4, section 3, Bigelow Township, and restoration of the field to farmable conditions.

**City of Worthington** - to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction to improve the soccer fields and parking facilities at Buss Field park.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 4, 2016 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Mahlberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.