

OKABENA-CHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Grasses and Flowers at Lake Bella Park

**OKABENA-CHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
960 Diagonal Road, P.O. Box 114
Worthington, MN 56187-0114
(507) 372-8228
<http://www.okabenaokedawd.org>**

**OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

President	Les Johnson 28967 Co. Hwy. 35 Worthington, MN 56187
Vice President	Rolf Mahlberg 29403 Paul Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Secretary	Jeff Rogers 1627 Fairway Lane Worthington, MN 56187
Treasurer	Casey Ingenthron 332 Lakehill Drive Worthington, MN 56187
Manager	James McGowan 670 West Shore Drive Worthington, MN 56187

STAFF

Administrator	Dan Livdahl 960 Diagonal Road, Box 114 Worthington, MN 56187
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dick Duba 1011 S. Shore Drive Worthington, MN 56187	Bob Demuth, Jr. 1404 Indian Hill Road Worthington, MN 56187
Doug Anton 2355 W. Ridge Road Worthington, MN 56187	Robert Rohrer 420 Worthmore Street Worthington, MN 56187
David Benson 26461 320 th Street Bigelow, MN 56117	Scott Rall 1027 Lexington Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Keith Schroeder 30230 230 th Street Worthington, MN 56187	Tom Krohn 29268 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Dwayne Haffield City of Worthington P.O. Box 279 Worthington, MN 56187	Don Basche 29235 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Herman Hinders 1010 Park Avenue Worthington, MN 56187	Galen Gordon 23797 Oliver Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Eric Roos Worthington Public Utilities P.O. Box 458 Worthington, MN 56187	Paul Langseth 35505 Lakehill Drive Worthington, MN 56187

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Clean Water Partnership

1. Contributed \$2,319.95 to the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Organization (JPO) for operating expenses.
2. Provided administrative and technical assistance to the JPO to manage CWP board affairs and structures.
3. Removed sediment from the northern W9 basin forebay.
4. Conducted water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena monthly from May through October.
5. Worked with volunteers from the Ocheda Beavers 4-H Club to complete monthly water quality monitoring of Lake Ocheda from June through September.
6. In partnership with Worthington, issued incentive payments for 152 acres of filter strips covering 90 percent of the streams in the Lake Okabena sub-watershed.

Conservation Practices

1. Issued 54 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$30,540.50 covering 320.2 acres throughout the District. These filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Issued one cost-share payment of \$318.75 to install additional tile drainage in a water and sediment control system.
3. Made cost-share payments totaling \$1491 to seal five unused wells.
4. Made a cost-share payment of \$500 to replace one failing septic system.
5. Cost-shared \$6622.24 to build a terrace system and a diversion structure in a high priority sub-watershed for Lake Okabena.

Wellhead Protection

1. Worked in a partnership with Worthington Public Utilities, the DNR and the Nobles County Pheasants Forever chapter to acquire land to establish permanent grass buffers along the wetlands and stream flowing from the east into Lake Bella. Reimbursed the Pheasants Forever chapter a total of \$33,612.52 for the cost of land appraisals, surveys and legal work for a land trade completed in 2010, and the cost of an additional 8.6 acre land purchase in 2011. The land was donated to the DNR and is managed as part of the Wachter Wildlife Management Area.
2. Working in partnership with Nobles County Peasants Forever and Worthington Public Utilities to create a permanent grass buffer along the Ochedan River, contributed \$71,608 to purchase 47.86 acres marginal agricultural land and wetlands. The property was donated to the DNR and is now part of the Peterson Wildlife Management Area.
3. Using a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant, completed land preparation and the seeded grasses and forbs to enhance 68.4 acres of degraded grassland at Lake Bella Park. Once established, the new grasses and forbs will improve the value of the land as wildlife habitat, reduce the amount of herbicide needed for weed control, suppress gopher populations and reduce the long-term maintenance costs for the park area protecting Lake Bella.

Public Information and Education

1. Sponsored and led educational tours for 5th grade students using the Prairie Ecology Bus at the Worthington Prairie Wetland Learning Area.
2. Paid for a Prairie Ecology Bus session at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area for the Worthington Montessori Preschool students and parents.
3. Conducted SIREN classroom sessions for three classes at Worthington High School and one class at the Southwest Star Concept School, educating students about sustainable agriculture and the scientific method.

4. Led watershed tours for Worthington High School agriculture and wildlife classes, and Minnesota West Community and Technical College students.
5. Helped coach three Worthington High School Envirothon teams.
6. Gave classroom presentations to Minnesota West students on soils and watershed management.
7. Worked with the Ocheda Beavers 4-H Club to maintain and reinstall birdhouses on public land in the district.
8. Updated the district website monthly.
9. Worked with Worthington to accomplish educational components of the city's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan including:
 - Distributing two pollution prevention factsheets to Worthington Public Utilities customers.
 - Installing 200 catch basin markers in Worthington.
 - Working with a high school student to complete a storm water education video.
10. Organized and paid expenses for two meetings of the Lake Ocheda riparian landowners group.

Construction Site Inspections

Completed semi-weekly inspections of construction sites with NPDES stormwater permits in Worthington from April through November. Communicated regularly with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan responsible parties about installation and maintenance of Best Management Practices required by their plans.

District Property Management

1. Sold 15.42 acres of the St. John property to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Highway 60 right-of-way.
2. Entered an agreement with the R and G Construction Company to place fill from the Highway 60 reconstruction project on the St. John property during 2011 and 2012. The land will be restored to cropland in 2012.
3. Facilitated seining of rough fish from Lake Bella.
4. Repaired and painted Bella Park picnic tables.
5. Picked up litter and mowed weekly at Bella Park.
6. Sprayed to control thistles on the Ocheda Dam, St. John, and Bella Park properties.
7. Cleaned up litter multiple times at the St. John Property.
8. Monitored and modified the prototype fish barrier installed in one stoplog bay at the Lake Ocheda dam. Applied for a DNR permit to extend the barrier to block rough fish passage in the other nine stoplog bays.
9. Installed additional willow fascines on the western shore of Lake Bella.

Permits and Drainage Project Notifications

Issued twenty-seven permits for projects. Monitored erosion control activities on twenty-two permitted construction sites. Received and reviewed notification forms for nineteen tile drainage projects.

Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2011 Income and Expenses

Income	
Checking Interest	13.21
CWP Reimbursements	9,550.98
District Levy	116,057.22
Insurance Premium Refund	1,834.00
Local Government Aid	13,678.86
Money Market Account Interest	521.47
Permit Inspection Fees	550.00
Property Rent	3,575.00
Property Sale	<u>73,650.00</u>
Total Income	219,430.74
Expense	
Audits	1,800.00
Bank Transfer	0.00
BMP Cost-Share	9,931.99
CWP Board Expense Contributions	2,277.00
Education Expenses	2,563.68
Filter Strip Incentives	30,540.50
Insurance and Bonds	2,948.00
MAWD Dues	884.49
MAWD Meeting Expenses	597.78
Miscellaneous	110.53
Office Expenses	4,369.37
Payroll Expenses	66,920.89
Property Maintenance	418.95
Property Taxes	15.86
Public Notices	519.56
Staff and Managers Training	535.33
Storm Water Education Expenses	1,041.70
SWCD Services	5,000.00
Water Sampling	1,313.17
Wellhead Protection Projects	<u>105,220.52</u>
Total Expense	<u>237,009.32</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-17,578.58
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Legacy Grant Reimbursements	20,852.44
Wgtn Stormwater Ed Contract	<u>5,478.89</u>
Total Other Income	26,331.33
Other Expense	
Legacy Grant Expenses	<u>18,795.14</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>18,795.14</u>
Net Other Income	<u>7,536.19</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-10,042.39</u></u>

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

District Checking

35,259.64

Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct.

70,862.60

Total Checking/Savings

106,122.24

Total Current Assets

106,122.24

TOTAL ASSETS

106,122.24

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity

193,655.50

Retained Earnings

-77,490.87

Net Income

-10,042.39

Total Equity

106,122.24

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

106,122.24