

# OKABENA-CHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Prairie Management at 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-OCHEDEA 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	Jay Milbrandt 27494 Read Avenue 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 <sup>th</sup> Street Bigelow, MN 56117	Scott Rall 1027 Lexington Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Keith Schroeder 30230 230 <sup>th</sup> Street Worthington, MN 56187	Tom Krohn 29268 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Dwayne Haffield City of Worthington P.O. Box 279 Worthington, MN 56187	Katherine Tieken 608 1/2 Lake Street Worthington, MN 56187

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE (continued)**

Herman Hinders  
1010 Park Avenue  
Worthington, MN 56187

Eric Roos  
Worthington Public Utilities  
P.O. Box 458  
Worthington, MN 56187

Galen Gordon  
23797 Oliver Avenue  
Worthington, MN 56187

Paul Langseth  
35505 Lakehill Drive  
Worthington, MN 56187

# OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

## 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Clean Water Partnership

1. Contributed \$1137.50 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 board affairs and structures.
3. Conducted water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena monthly from May through October.
4. Worked with Worthington, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Wenck Associates to complete analysis of Lake Okabena impairments.
5. Monitored flow and water quality on Whiskey Ditch and the stream flowing into Sunset Bay to provide data for Lake Okabena pollution sources study.
6. Installed equipment at Sailboard Beach to collect continuous lake water level data during the ice free season. Downloaded data for analysis by Wenck Associates.
7. Collected sediment samples at four locations in Lake Okabena and Sunset Bay. Sediment content and internal loading potential analysis was completed by the University of Wisconsin Stout.
8. Purchased lake level monitoring equipment and stream velocity metering equipment.
9. Worked with the City Engineer and Midwest Engineering to reproduce a survey of Lake Okabena's bottom elevations. Elevation information was compared to a lake bottom survey completed in 1999.
10. In partnership with Worthington, issued incentive payments for 162.7 acres of grass filter strips covering 90 percent of the streams in the Lake Okabena sub-watershed.

### Conservation Practices

1. Issued 57 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$36,630.50 covering 337.8 acres throughout the District. These filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Made \$300 cost-share payment to seal one unused well.
3. Made \$500 cost-share payment totaling to replace one non-compliant septic system.
4. Made cost-share payments totaling \$10,068.76 to build two terrace systems.
5. Made \$2000 cost-share payment to remove sediment from a pond on the stream flowing into Sunset Bay.
6. Worked with Minnesota West students and the E.O. Olson trust to install four floating island wetlands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond.
7. Built, planted and launched experimental floating island wetland on Lake Bella.
8. In partnership with the Olson Trust and Bioverse, experimented with Bioverse products to control algae in Whiskey Ditch and the Glenwood Heights neighborhood stormwater pond.

### Invasive Species Exclusion

Signed an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to close the Herlein-Boote Wildlife Management Area diversion ditch to prevent Asian carp from using the channel to enter the district and the Des Moines River watershed. Construction of the ditch plug and a new outlet structure for the Herlein-Boote Slough was completed in May.

### Wellhead Protection

Worked with Pheasants Forever, Worthington Public Utilities, DNR and private donors to purchase approximately 138 acres of highly vulnerable land in the Lake Bella Wellhead Protection Area. Donated \$60,000 to Pheasants Forever to make the land purchase possible. The property was transferred to the DNR, permanently retired from agricultural production and planted to native prairie vegetation.

## **Public Information and Education**

1. Sponsored and led educational tours for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students using the Prairie Ecology Bus at the Worthington Prairie Wetland Learning Area.
2. Conducted healthy soils sessions for the Elementary Field Day at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lambertton.
3. Led watershed tours for Worthington High School agriculture classes, and Minnesota West Community and Technical College students.
4. Gave two classroom presentations to Minnesota West students on soils and watershed management.
5. Gave presentations to Early Risers and Noon Kiwanis clubs on improving water in Lake Okabena.
6. Sponsored meeting for Lake Ocheda riparian landowners to discuss the draft lake enhancement plan.
7. Updated the district website monthly.
8. Worked with Worthington to accomplish educational components of the city's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan including:
  - Distributing three pollution prevention factsheets to Worthington Public Utilities customers.
  - Installing 50 catch basin markers in Worthington.

## **Construction Site Inspections**

Completed semi-weekly inspections of construction sites with NPDES stormwater permits in Worthington from March through December. 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. Repaired the Lake Bella Dam Spillway.
2. Planted cover crop on the farmable portion of the St. John property preparing the site to demonstrate cover crops in future years.
3. Conducted controlled burns on approximately 60 acres at Bella park to enhance prairie grasses and flowers.
4. Completed land preparation and seeding to replace six acres of degraded grassland vegetation with native prairie plants.
5. Repaired picnic tables, restrooms and fence at Bella park.
6. Picked up litter and mowed around the picnic shelters and restroom weekly at Bella Park.
7. Sprayed to control thistles on the Ocheda Dam, St. John, and Bella Park properties.
8. Removed barbed wire fence wire on the boundaries of Lake Bella Park
9. Cleaned up litter multiple times at the St. John Property.
10. Operated and maintained the fish barrier at the Lake Ocheda dam.
11. Planted 500 willow tree cuttings on western shore of Lake Bella to improve bank stability.

## **Permits and Drainage Project Notifications**

Issued twenty-two permits for projects. Monitored erosion and sediment control activities on twenty-one construction sites. Received and reviewed notification forms for four agricultural tile drainage projects.

# Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2014 Income and Expenses

## Ordinary Income/Expense

### Income

Checking Interest	0.12
CWP Reimbursements	8,532.84
District Levy	170,150.78
Insurance Premium Refund	938.00
Local Government Aid	576.48
Miscellaneous Income	250.00
Money Market Account Interest	396.99
Permit Inspection Fees	375.00
Property Rent	350.00
Storm Water Education	2,860.00

**Total Income** 184,430.21

### Expense

Audits	2,200.00
Bank Fees	48.00
BMP Cost-Share	12,868.76
Capitol Outlay	10,071.78
Education Expenses	2,407.40
Filter Strip Incentives	35,860.50
Insurance and Bonds	3,086.00
MAWD Dues	961.99
MAWD Meeting Expenses	605.46
Miscellaneous	136.60
Office Expenses	4,885.79
Payroll Expenses	70,685.19
Property Maintenance	11,768.64
Property Taxes	6.34
Public Notices	531.90
Staff and Managers Training	403.52
Storm Water Education Expenses	6.43
SWCD Services	5,000.00
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
Vehicle Maintenance	159.51
Water Quality Projects	5,432.84
Water Sampling	863.23
Wellhead Protection Projects	60,000.00
Lake Okabena Monitoring Lab Analysis	2,420.11
Lake Okabena Project Equipment Purchases	7,058.86

**Total Expense** 237,468.85

**-53,038.64**

# Balance Sheet

## December 31, 2014

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

District Checking 1,969.85

Wells Fargo Checking 77,860.12

Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct. 47,436.36

**Total Checking/Savings** 127,266.33

**Total Current Assets** 127,266.33

**TOTAL ASSETS** 127,266.33

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

##### Other Current Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities 0.01

**Total Other Current Liabilities** 0.01

**Total Current Liabilities** 0.01

**Total Liabilities** 0.01

#### Equity

Opening Bal Equity 193,655.50

Retained Earnings -10,490.54

Net Income -55,898.64

**Total Equity** 127,266.32

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 127,266.33