

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Installing Floating Island Wetlands in Sunset Bay

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

OKABENA-OCHEHA 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, P.O. Box 114 Worthington, MN 56187
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Ahlers 31431 330th Street Bigelow, MN 56117	Doug Anton 2335 West Ridge Road Worthington, MN 56187
Robert Demuth, Jr. 1404 Indian Hill Road Worthington, MN 56187	Richard Fellows 29856 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Galen Gordon 23797 Oliver Ave. Worthington, MN 56187	Dwayne Haffield P.O. Box 279 Worthington, MN 56187
Ben Krohn 31161 Quine Avenue Worthington, MN 56187	Paul Langseth 35505 280 th St. Worthington, MN 56187
Jim Mc Gowan 670 West Shore Dr. Worthington, MN 56187	Scott Rall P.O. Box 635 Worthington, MN 56187
Bob Rohrer 1515 Darling Drive, #4 Worthington, MN 56187	Eric Roos Worthington Public Utilities P.O. Box 458 Worthington, MN 56187
Keith Schroeder 30320 230th St. Worthington, MN 56187	

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Clean Water Partnership

1. Provided administrative and technical assistance to the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Organization (JPO) to manage board affairs and structures.
2. Conducted water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena monthly from May through October.
3. Worked with Worthington, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Wenck Associates to complete an analysis of Lake Okabena's impairments.
4. In partnership with Worthington, issued incentive payments for 162.3 acres of grass filter strips covering 90 percent of the streams in the Lake Okabena sub-watershed.
5. Worked with Worthington and Wenck Associates to complete a stormwater best management practices feasibility study for the Prairie View Links Golf Course property.
6. Worked with Worthington and Houston Engineering to complete a study of sediment accumulation rates in Sunset Bay.

Conservation Practices

1. Issued 57 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$36,882 and covering 336.9 acres throughout the District. These filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Made cost-share payments totaling \$1050 to seal three unused wells.
3. Made cost-share payments totaling \$1000 to replace two non-compliant septic systems.
4. Made cost-share payments totaling \$1256.25 to install cover crops.
5. Made \$2422.50 cost-share payment rebuild a grassed waterway.
6. Worked with Minnesota West students and the E.O. Olson trust to install six floating island wetlands in Sunset Bay.
7. In partnership with the Olson Trust, built and installed two floating island wetlands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond.
8. In partnership with the Olson Trust and Bioverse, experimented with Bioverse products to control algae in Whiskey Ditch.

County Invasive Species Program

1. Worked with Nobles County and the Minnesota West Community and Technical College to educate boaters about preventing the spread of invasive species to Nobles County lakes.
2. Coordinated Nobles County's invasive species spread prevention media campaign.
3. Installed and maintained zebra mussel monitoring equipment at public boat landings.

Lake Ocheda Enhancement

1. Worked with Ducks Unlimited to do the survey work needed to complete a water level management feasibility study for Lake Ocheda. Contributed \$5700 to Ducks Unlimited to help pay for engineering staff time.

Public Information and Education

1. Installed an educational sign in Olson Park explaining the function of the floating island wetlands installed in Sunset Bay.
2. Installed an educational sign along the recreational trail explaining how the Olson Regional Stormwater Treatment Pond works.
3. Sponsored and led educational tours for 5th grade students using the Prairie Ecology Bus at the Worthington Prairie Wetland Learning Area.
4. Conducted healthy soils sessions for the Elementary Field Day at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lambertton.
5. Led watershed tours for Minnesota West Community and Technical College students.

6. Gave two classroom presentations to Minnesota West students on soils and watershed management.
7. Gave presentations to the Noon Kiwanis clubs on improving water in Lake Okabena.
8. Updated the district website monthly.
9. 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 250 catch basin markers in Worthington.

Construction Site Inspections

Completed biweekly 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. Planted soybeans on the farmable portion of the St. John property. Planted a cover crop into the standing soybeans in September.
2. Planted native vegetation to establish buffers strips on the edges of the St. John property.
3. Mowed fire breaks at Bella Park to prepare part of the grassland for prescribed burns during 2016.
4. Planted six acres of native grasses and forbs along the Ochedan River in Bella Park. Mowed the area twice to control weeds and aid vegetation establishment.
5. Worked with volunteers from the Okabena Bees 4-H club to pick up litter weekly during spring and summer at Bella Park.
6. Picked up litter and mowed around the picnic shelters and restroom as needed at Bella Park.
7. Sprayed to control thistles and unwanted trees on the Ocheda Dam, St. John, and Bella Park properties.
8. Removed barbed fence wire from 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 sixteen permits for projects. Monitored erosion and sediment control activities on fifteen construction sites. Received and reviewed notification forms for two agricultural tile drainage projects.

Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2015 Income and Expenses

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Checking Interest	0.25
CWP Reimbursements	18,429.24
District Levy	186,864.43
Insurance Premium Refund	781.00
Local Government Aid	6,844.34
Miscellaneous Income	64.77
Money Market Account Interest	353.26
Olson Trust	9,000.00
Permit Inspection Fees	350.00
Property Rent	350.00
Storm Water Education	10,219.47

Total Income	233,256.76
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Expense

Audits	2,300.00
Bank Fees	45.00
Bank Transfer	0.00
BMP Cost-Share	5,728.75
Education Expenses	3,407.52
Filter Strip Incentives	36,882.00
Insurance and Bonds	3,091.00
Lake Ocheda Enhancement Project	5,700.07
MAWD Dues	1,176.86
MAWD Meeting Expenses	1,763.61
Office Expenses	5,731.92
Payroll Expenses	76,367.33
Property Maintenance	5,280.84
Property Taxes	6.59
Public Notices	542.70
Staff and Managers Training	115.00
Storm Water Education Expenses	617.47
SWCD Services	5,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	84.75
Water Quality Projects	9,207.06
Water Sampling	1,489.13

Total Expense	164,537.60
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Net Ordinary Income	68,719.16
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Net Income	68,719.16
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Balance Sheet

December 31, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

District Checking 4,006.51

Wells Fargo Checking 13,833.52

Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct. 169,612.62

Total Checking/Savings 187,452.65

Total Current Assets 187,452.65

TOTAL ASSETS 187,452.65

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 -74,922.02

Net Income 68,719.16

Total Equity 187,452.64

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 187,452.65