

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Bella Park Prairie Flowers

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT
960 Diagonal Road, P.O. Box 114
Worthington, MN 56187-0114
(507) 372-8228
<http://www.okabenaochedawd.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	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
Keith Schroeder 30320 230th St. Worthington, MN 56187	Eric Roos Worthington Public Utilities P.O. Box 458 Worthington, MN 56187

OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Clean Water Partnership

Worthington and the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District formed the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Organization (JPO) in 1998 to accomplish the goals listed in the 1993 Clean Water Partnership Implementation Plan. The governing board consists of two members from the city council, two managers from the watershed district and a city resident appointed at-large.

Since its formation, the JPO has paid annual incentives to install and maintain grass buffer strips, restored a wetland, installed a water quality improvement basin, monitored surface water quality, measured lake water levels, and conducted studies on the sediment deposition in Sunset Bay and causes of Lake Okabena's impairments.

The district completed the following JPO activities in 2016:

1. Provided administrative and technical assistance to manage board affairs and structures.
2. Conducted water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena monthly from May through October.
3. Conducted water quality monitoring in Lake Ocheda monthly from June through September.
4. Worked with Worthington and Wenck Associates to complete the engineering necessary to apply for a Clean Water Fund Grant to install Best Management Practices at the city's Prairie View property.
5. Applied for and received a \$428,000 Clean Water Fund Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to modify the Prairie View ponds and install iron enhanced filters to reduce nutrient loading into Lake Okabena.
6. Issued incentive payments for 160.6 acres of grass filter strips covering 90 percent of the streams in the Lake Okabena sub-watershed.

The district will continue to work with Worthington in 2017 to monitor water quality, provide filter strip incentives and build the ponds and filters on the Prairie View property.

Conservation Practices

The district budgets money annually to install Best Management Practices to prevent flooding, and improve and protect surface water and groundwater resources. Below is a summary of how the money was spent in 2016.

1. Issued 57 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$36,882.00 and covering 335.1 acres throughout the District. The filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Made cost-share payments totaling \$2100.00 to seal seven unused wells.
3. Made \$800 cost-share payment to install four alternative tile intakes.
4. Made \$1631.25 cost-share payment rebuild a grassed waterway.
5. Worked with Minnesota West students, the E.O. Olson trust and Lake Okabena Improvement Association to install and six new floating island wetlands in Sunset Bay.
6. Maintained and re-anchored floating island wetlands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond and Sunset Bay.
7. Contributed \$5000 to help Nobles SWCD purchase a drill for planting native grasses and flowers on buffer strips.

Lake Ocheda Enhancement

The district passed a motion in July 2014 asking the DNR to write a plan for Lake Ocheda and manage the basin for water quality. Since then, the district, DNR staff, Ducks Unlimited engineers and members of the public have met periodically to develop, review and comment on the draft management plan. Below is a list of activities during 2016.

1. Held a meeting in March with Lake Ocheda's riparian landowners to review the draft lake management plan and get comments from the group.
2. Worked with DNR staff to complete a draft Lake Ocheda management plan. The plan was posted on the district's website during August. A notice that the plan is available for public review and comment was published in the Daily Globe. A letter was also mailed to the lake's riparian landowners notifying them that the draft plan was posted on the website and giving them information on how to submit written comments.

The district will hold three Lake Ocheda Management Plan public information meetings in 2017 before a fall public hearing to approve the plan.

One Watershed - One Plan

The district applied to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a One Watershed, One Plan grant for the counties, SWCDs and watershed districts in the Missouri River watershed of Minnesota. The grant was awarded to the partnership. Grant Work Group meetings began in November to create the organization necessary to receive the grant in 2017 and begin the two year planning process. Nobles County will be the grant's fiscal agent and the district be the grant administrator.

Public Information and Education

The district works with partners to provide watershed related educational opportunities for Worthington's residents, area civic groups and schools. Below are the 2016 accomplishments.

1. Sponsored and led educational tours for 5th 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 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 the Noon and Early Risers Kiwanis clubs on improving water quality in Okabena and Ocheda lakes.
6. Contributed \$100 to help pay expenses for the SWCD Environmental Fair.
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 250 catch basin markers in Worthington.

Construction Site Inspections

The district works with Worthington to require erosion and sediment control permits for construction sites and complete inspections monitoring compliance with watershed district and state required plans. During 2016, the district completed seventy-eight inspections of fifteen different construction sites with NPDES stormwater permits in Worthington. District staff communicated regularly with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan responsible parties about installation and maintenance of required Best Management Practices.

District Property Management

The district owns 414 acres of land in four locations. Approximately 15 acres is managed as cropland, with the balance managed for water quality protection, recreational activities and wildlife habitat. At Lake Bella Park, the district operates and maintains the Stateline Dam structure, a boat landing, park shelters, roads and a restroom. Below are the 2016 land management activities completed in 2016.

1. Maintained a cover crop on the farmable portion of the St. John property for the cropping season.
2. Sprayed thistles on the native buffer strip on the St. John property
3. Completed controlled burns on portions of the Bella Park to maintain the native vegetation.
4. Mowed and sprayed six acres of native grasses and forbs along the Ocheyedan River in Bella Park.
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 wire fence 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. Replaced two missing stop logs in the Lake Ocheda dam.
12. Graded and installed crushed blacktop on roads at Bella Park to repair gullies, fill potholes and prevent erosion.

Permits and Drainage Project Notifications

The district reviewed applications and issued permits for twenty-five projects in 2017 including:

1. Seven projects requiring state Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
2. Seven smaller projects requiring erosion and sediment control plans
3. Eight municipal street resurfacing, storm sewer and sanitary sewer projects
4. Two agricultural drainage projects
5. One lakeshore riprap projects

In addition, twenty agricultural drainage project notifications were received and reviewed for compliance with district rules.

Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2016 Income and Expenses

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Checking Interest	0.28
CWP Reimbursements	7,655.00
District Levy	189,171.25
Insurance Premium Refund	1,762.05
Local Government Aid	1,983.63
Money Market Account Interest	559.08
Olson Trust	4,500.00
Permit Inspection Fees	425.00
Storm Water Education	6,774.36

Total Income 212,830.65

Expense

Audits	2,600.00
Bank Fees	40.00
Bank Transfer	0.00
BMP Cost-Share	4,531.25
Education Expenses	1,298.32
Equipment Purchase	5,000.00
Filter Strip Incentives	36,882.00
Insurance and Bonds	3,017.00
MAWD Dues	1,173.00
MAWD Meeting Expenses	875.04
MAWD Tour Expenses	152.59
Office Expenses	7,124.60
Payroll Expenses	79,273.35
Property Maintenance	4,378.66
Property Taxes	6.34
Public Notices	492.00
Staff and Managers Training	625.50
Storm Water Education Expenses	634.36
SWCD Services	5,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	51.00
Water Quality Projects	8,074.75
Water Sampling	1,407.66

Total Expense 162,637.42

Net Ordinary Income 50,193.23

Net Income 50,193.23

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
District Checking	4,817.42
Wells Fargo Checking	22,156.76
Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct.	210,671.70
Total Checking/Savings	<u>237,645.88</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>237,645.88</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>237,645.88</u></u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	0.01
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>0.01</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>0.01</u>
Total Liabilities	0.01
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	193,655.50
Retained Earnings	-6,202.86
Net Income	50,193.23
Total Equity	<u>237,645.87</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>237,645.88</u></u>