

# OKABENA-CHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Construction underway at the Prairie View pond project site

**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	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	Caleb 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 2017 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 established by 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 2017:

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. Applied for and received permits from Nobles County and DNR to do construction on the Prairie View site.
5. Received an easement from Worthington allowing construction and operation and maintenance of the Prairie View ponds project on City owned property.
6. Advertised and awarded bids for the Prairie View ponds project. Completed construction of the enlarged pond and spillway structure. Constructed sand filter benches that will need to be modified in 2018 to meet the design specifications for draining the ponds.
7. Administered the \$428,000 Clean Water Fund Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to modify the Prairie View ponds. Local matching funds were provided by Worthington.
8. Issued incentive payments for 133.7 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 2018 to monitor water quality, provide filter strip incentives and complete the construction of the pond and filter benches at 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 2017.

1. Issued 57 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$36,001.00 and covering 319.8 acres throughout the District. The filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Issued cost-share payment of \$7857.00 to build water and sediment control basins protecting the Sunset Bay sub-watershed of Lake Okabena.
3. Issued cost-share payment of \$500 to replace a non-compliant septic system.
4. Worked with Nobles County 4-H members to plant and install and three new floating island wetlands in Sunset Bay.
5. Maintained and re-anchored floating island wetlands in the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond and Sunset Bay.

The district will continue to pay filter strip incentives and cost-share eligible best management practices in 2018.

### **Survey and Data Acquisition**

The district levied \$50,000 in 2017 to establish a survey and data acquisition fund. Money can be levied for this fund every five years. Below are practices supported by this fund in 2017.

1. Contracted with Wenck Associates to conduct a Lake Okabena common carp population study in October.
2. Contracted with Wenck Associates to do a feasibility study for Best Management Practices treating runoff from ISD #518 property and urban watersheds draining to Lake Okabena.

More work may be done in the future to assess whether the methodology for the carp population study is accurate in shallow lakes like Okabena and what actions can be taken for population control. The urban watershed BMP feasibility study will be completed in 2018.

### **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 2017.

1. Held a public information meetings explaining the Lake Ocheda management plan and receiving comments in January, February and September.
2. Held a public hearing for the management plan in October. Hearing officer sent recommendations to the DNR commissioner in December.
3. Received notification in December that the plan was approved and waiting for the Commissioner's signature.
4. Signed an engineering agreement with Ducks Unlimited to provide the engineering and construction observation services needed to modify the Lake Ocheda dam.

Needed engineering will be completed during spring 2018 and a DNR permit application will be submitted to modify the state owned dam. The district will advertise for bids to complete construction after the permit is issued. Weather permitting, construction will occur during late summer and a temporary water level drawdown will occur before the end of the year.

### **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 in early 2017. Nobles County is the fiscal agent and the district be the grant administrator.

Policy and advisory committees were formed and Houston Engineering was hired to produce the plan. Plan kickoff public meetings were held in Worthington and Pipestone during August. The planning process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018 with plan approval and adoption occurring in early 2019.

### **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 2017 accomplishments.

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 Lamberton.
3. Helped lead watershed tour for Minnesota West Community and Technical College students.
4. Gave two classroom presentations to Minnesota West students on soils and watershed

- management.
5. Gave a presentation to the Worthington Garden Club on improving water quality in Okabena and Ocheda lakes.
  6. Led tour of the watershed district for The Center for Active Living members.
  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 108 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 2017, the district completed approximately 70 inspections of 12 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 land management activities completed in 2017.

1. Replanted native plants buffer on the edges of the St. John property cropland.
2. Worked with volunteers from the Okabena Bees 4-H club to pick up litter weekly during spring and summer at Bella Park.
3. Picked up litter and mowed around the picnic shelters and restroom as needed at Bella Park.
4. Sprayed to control unwanted trees at Bella Park.
5. Mowed access trail on the west side of Bella Park.
6. Cleaned up litter multiple times at the St. John Property.
7. Operated and maintained the fish barrier at the Lake Ocheda dam.
8. Graded and installed crushed blacktop on roads at Bella Park to repair gullies, fill potholes and prevent erosion.
9. Signed an agreement enrolling 234 acres of Bella Park in the Walk-In-Access program.

### **Permits and Drainage Project Notifications**

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

1. 6 projects requiring state Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
2. 8 smaller projects requiring erosion and sediment control plans
3. 4 municipal street resurfacing, storm sewer and sanitary sewer projects
4. 1 lakeshore stabilization project

In addition, 13 agricultural drainage project notifications were received and reviewed for compliance with district rules.

# Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2017 Income and Expenses

**Ordinary Income/Expense**

**Income**

Checking Interest	\$0.04
CWP Reimbursements	\$854.84
District Levy	\$247,238.76
Insurance Premium Refund	\$922.00
Local Government Aid	\$3,789.33
Miscellaneous Income	\$558.82
Money Market Account Interest	\$873.73
Permit Inspection Fees	\$225.00
Prairie View Project Income	\$537,406.40
Property Rent	\$2,250.00
Storm Water Education	\$6,207.17
Survey & Data Acquisition Fund	\$50,000.00

**Total Income** \$850,326.09

**Expense**

Audits	\$2,900.00
Bank Fees	\$52.00
Bank Transfer	\$0.00
BMP Cost-Share	\$8,375.00
Education Expenses	\$1,567.35
Filter Strip Incentives	\$36,751.00
Insurance and Bonds	\$2,690.00
Lake Ocheda Enhancement Project	\$399.75
MAWD Dues	\$1,107.93
MAWD Meeting Expenses	\$1,318.80
Office Expenses	\$5,172.92
Payroll Expenses	\$83,378.85
Property Maintenance	\$1,904.26
Property Taxes	\$15.86
Public Notices	\$492.00
Storm Water Education Expenses	\$405.17
Survey and Data Acquisition	\$4,498.67
SWCD Services	\$5,000.00
Water Quality Projects	\$4,681.46
Water Sampling	\$1,240.69

**Total Expense** \$161,951.71

**Net Ordinary Income** \$688,374.38

**Other Income/Expense**

**Other Expense**

Legacy Grant Expenses	\$70.00
Prairie View Project	\$523,949.78

**Total Other Expense** \$524,019.78

**Net Other Income** (\$524,019.78)

**Net Income** \$164,354.60



## Balance Sheet December 31, 2017

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

District Checking 27,407.19

Wells Fargo Checking 18,140.30

Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct. 356,452.99

Total Checking/Savings 402,000.48

Total Current Assets 402,000.48

**TOTAL ASSETS 402,000.48**

### 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 43,990.37

Net Income 164,354.60

Total Equity 402,000.47

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 402,000.48**