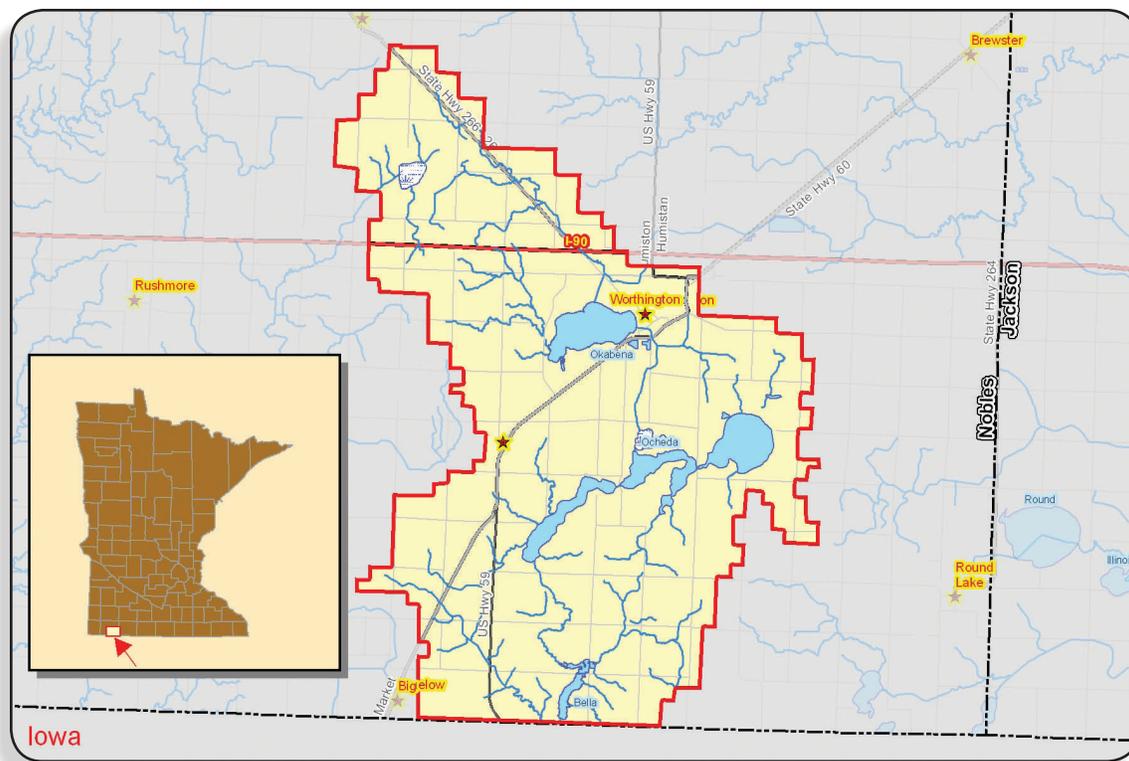


Okabena-Ocheda

WATERSHED DISTRICT



GENERAL INFORMATION

Established: August 11, 1960
by citizen petition

Included Counties: Nobles

District Size: 71 square miles

Major Lakes: Okabena, Ocheda, Bella

Major Streams: Okabena Creek,
Ocheyedan River

Number of Staff: 1

2008 Taxable Market Value:
\$531,647,800

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Name	Position	County	Address	Phone
Lester Johnson	President	Nobles	28967 County Rd 35, Worthington, MN 56187	(507) 376-6828
Rolf Mahlberg	Vice President	Nobles	29403 Paul Ave, Worthington, MN 56187	(507) 372-7521
Jeff Rogers	Secretary	Nobles	1009 Smith Ave, Worthington, MN 56187	(507) 372-4381
Jeffery Williamson	Treasurer	Nobles	1638 S. Shore Ave, Worthington, MN 56187	(507) 376-4015
James Mc Gowan	Manager	Nobles	670 West Shore Dr, Worthington, MN 56187	(507) 376-6067

RECENT PROJECTS

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Program (CREP) incentive payments — for easements protecting critical groundwater and surface water resources. The District made payments to landowners totaling \$124,558 for this program.

Conservation Reserve Program Filter Strip incentive payments — implemented by the District beginning in 1997. The ongoing program, which will continue through 2022, provides incentive payments of \$100 per acre per year on approximately 328 acres of CRP filter strips to protect surface water in critical sub-watersheds.

Wellhead Protection Partnership — worked with Pheasants Forever, the Minnesota DNR and Worthington Public Utilities to purchase 155 acres of marginal agricultural land in Worthington’s wellhead protection area. A wetland was restored and upland buffer created in the critical recharge area for the City’s wells. The land will be donated to the DNR in 2009 to become part of the Wachter Slough WMA.

Education Materials — work with the City of Worthington to annually produce and distribute education materials on non-point source pollution prevention programs for City residents.

Environmental Education Programs — sponsored by the District through partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service for approximately 600 fifth-grade students at the Worthington Prairie Wetland Learning Area.

Water Monitoring — worked with the MPCA and volunteers to monitor lakes in the District. The data will be used by the Agency to assess whether the lakes should be listed as impaired.

Cost-Share Funding — provided by the District for rain gardens and agricultural Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion and protect surface water quality.

Construction Site Erosion Control Program — for small construction site within the District

FUTURE PROJECTS

Continue — to work with public agencies and private wildlife organizations to pursue conservation easements and property purchases to protect and preserve the District’s surface and ground water resources.



Lake Okabena

Continue — to offer Best Management Practices cost-share and filter strip incentive payments throughout the district to protect surface and groundwater quality.

MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Education Programs — will continue to work with the City of Worthington and the Heron Lake Watershed District to educate citizens about stormwater pollution prevention.

Worthington Wellhead Protection Plan — will be implemented and coordinated effort with Worthington Public Utilities.

2007 EXPENDITURES

Management / General Administrative	\$71,722
Data Collection / Monitoring	\$1,910
Permitting / Regulatory Programs	\$2,000
Projects / Implementation	\$130,348
Water Management Programs	\$2,676
Public Education Programs	\$1,253