The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Les Johnson, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr, county commissioner; Brad Harberts, county ditch inspector; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The minutes of the March 2018 regular board meeting were reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer’s report and bills payable were discussed. Mahlberg moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, pay the bills and transfer $6000 from the savings account into checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Copies of the public road easement and temporary construction easement documents for the bridge replacement at Bella Park were discussed. Rogers moved to sign the easement, sale, and offer to donate real estate documents. Mahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Costs for the Lake Okabena carp population assessment reviewed. Tom Langer, Wenck Associates, recommended adding potential carp spawning areas including Sunset Bay, the Olson Regional Stormwater Pond and the Prairie View ponds in the assessment. A proposal will be presented to the Olson Trust asking them to pay for the population study for the lake and Sunset Bay.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The Olson Trust Board meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on April 16 in the Worthington council chambers. Livdahl will attend the meeting to present proposals for the Okabena carp assessment and Lake Ocheda dam fish barrier.

Nobles County will hold a ditch obstruction hearing for the Herlein-Boote WMA dam on April 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the commissioners room. The hearing will also include discussion on removing obstructions in County Ditch 4 downstream of the dam.

A Star Tribune story about unregulated tiling and a Outdoor News story about wetland complexes were included in the board packets and briefly discussed.

A clarity tube was used to measure turbidity/clarity of water flowing into the Prairie View site last week. Water flowing from the Bousema’s waterway cleanout site had the highest turbidity and lowest clarity.

NEW BUSINESS

Cost estimates for the Prairie View and Bella Park signs were presented. The Prairie View project sign will likely be installed in June. Signs stating that Bella Park is open to public hunting from September through March and another sign restricting firearms use during the rest of the year were discussed. Mahlberg moved to purchase 10 of each sign type and post them at Bella Park. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Milbrandt represented the watershed district at a City Lake Committee meeting. The new committee will look how the City’s reauthorized sales tax can be used to implement projects to protect and improve Okabena. Information on lake water quality, Sunset Bay and best management practices feasibility studies was presented to the committee. The need to
dredge Sunset Bay someday was discussed.

PERMITS
Mahlberg moved to approve the following permit applications:

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during sewer and watermain reconstruction projects during 2018.

City of Worthington – to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of a sanitary sewer and watermain extension along the west side of Crailsheim Road.

Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Johnson, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT
The next regular board meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 2018 in the Nobles County Public Works Building at 960 Diagonal Road.

Meeting adjourned.