

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
April 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Tom Ahlberg, Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present Al Langseth, district landowner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter, and Dan Livdahl, administrator. Don Bajumpaa and Doug Goodrich attended the meeting by Zoom to present the PRAP performance assessment report and recommendations.

The March meeting minutes were discussed. Bousema moved to approve the minutes. Ahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A CD matures at First State Bank SW on April 12. Rogers moved to approve the report, pay the bills and renew the CD. Ahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Bajumpaa presented the PRAP organizational assessment report. The district met 9 of the 11 basic performance standards and 13 of the 14 high performance standards measured. Partner comments were mostly positive. The district will need to review and update its rules and update its data practices policies within 18 months. Recommendations to make the district more effective in the future were discussed.

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan Addendum public hearing was held on March 18th. Attendance was good. The public comment period runs through the middle of April.

Flow measurement equipment for water quality monitoring was ordered on March 17th. It will be delivered in 4-6 weeks. Nobles County will clean the culvert where it will be installed.

The draft letter from the School Board to Senator Weber and Representative Fogelman asking for help getting a permit approved by the DNR for the Crailsheim project was discussed. The OOWD hopes to hold a meeting between the DNR, school board representatives, project engineers and BWSR legacy grant staff when Tom Kresko returns to work in April.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Replacing the entrance sign at Bella Park was discussed. The existing sign is faded and has many bullet and shotgun pellet holes. While the new sign will likely be similarly damaged, it will be replaced anyway to demonstrate the district cares about the property.

Mahlberg repaired the small washout in the Lake Ocheda dam levy last week. The disturbed area was seeded and erosion control matting installed before last weekend's snow and rain.

Mahlberg also installed the Bella Park Boat ramp dock last week.

NEW BUSINESS

The district will place a dumpster, if allowed, in the Centennial Park boat ramp parking lot for carp disposal this spring during the spawning season. The City parks department will be contacted soon to get permission. Signs that are like those used on the dumpster in 2024 will be ordered.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on May 6, 2025, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.