

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**August 6, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth Jr, County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Tom Ahlberg, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the report and pay the bills. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Crailsheim pond project engineering and permits were discussed. HEI is redesigning the spillway and waiting for the DNR's dam safety review. It is still possible that the project could be ready for bidding and review in September.

Bella Park roads held up well during heavy rains this year but would benefit from grading to fill some gullies and potholes. The Bella WMA dam on the west side of the park is no longer overflowing onto park property. Bill Schuna was contacted about removing the beaver dam blocking the spillway pipe. Mowing the park trails has been a challenge due to flooding and water draining onto the property.

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan proposed amendment public meeting will be held sometime during the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>. A Doodle poll is currently open to see when the management team members can make it. After the date is set, public notices will be published. Maggie Gross will draft a letter to the riparian landowners and other interested parties. The OOWD will mail the letters and invite others by email.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The 2023 financial audit report will be completed by the end of the week. It needs to be approved and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor by August 16<sup>th</sup>. A special meeting to review and approve the audit will be held at 8:00 a.m. on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A draft of the 2025 budget was reviewed by the board. The budget assumes construction of the Crailsheim water quality pond project will occur during 2025, with all grant funds received and bills paid by the end of the year. Bousema moved to approve the budget and use it for the 2025 public hearing notice to be published in the Globe. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Solitude, Inc was contacted about the feasibility and cost of applying a Phoslock treatment to Lake Okabena to capture and sequester phosphorus. After a discussion about Okabena's water quality, size and watershed, it was the salesman's opinion that alum treatment would be cheaper and more cost-effective.

### **PERMITS**

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permit application.

**City of Worthington** – to remove accumulated sediment from Whiskey Ditch near the flood control gates opening to County Ditch 12.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A special meeting to discuss and approve the 2023 financial audit report will be held at 8:00 a.m. on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The next regular board meeting will be held on September 3, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

## **MINUTES Special Meeting Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers August 12, 2024**

The special meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers to review and approve the 2023 financial audit report was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present was Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The audit report and letter about deficiencies were emailed to the Managers on August 9<sup>th</sup> for review before the meeting. The report and internal controls were discussed. Bousema moved to approve the audit report and submit it to the Office of the State Auditor. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held on September 3, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.