

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**December 7, 2021**

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, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Al Langseth, district resident; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Kari Lucin, Globe reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The second half of the 2021 levy will be deposited into the Bank of the West checking account in December. Bousema moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Lake Ocheda's water level today is about 0.4 feet below the spillway crest. The lake level will likely continue to drop a bit over the winter. The DNR intends to stock the lake with northern pike and perch in the spring.

Scott Deslauriers and his crew netted approximately 800 pounds of carp from Lake Okabena on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was decided that the small number of fish caught did not warrant bringing the consultant to town to count, scan, weigh and measure them. While disappointed with the small catch, Deslauriers planned to continue fishing the lake for a few days more before freeze up. After a sonar survey, however, he said they could not find a school large enough to sein. Scott said he may be back this winter to try again.

The future of Lake Okabena carp population control efforts was discussed. Carp Solutions will be contacted about the potential of providing plans and engineering services.

The 2022 budget draft was discussed. After Livdahl's job performance review results were summarized, Rogers moved to provide him with the 3 percent salary increase and fringe benefits shown in the draft budget. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Discussion on the budget will continue at the January board meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The district office lease agreement expires at the end of the month . If nothing is done, it will be renewed for another five years. Livdahl discussed updating the lease with the County Engineer. It is likely that the county will want to increase the rental rate.

A notice was received from the Social Security Administration stating that the 2020 taxable income the district reported to them and the IRS does not match. Livdahl is working with the auditor to file an amended federal tax return for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 and report the results to the social security administration.

Ingenthron and Livdahl attended the virtual MAWD annual meeting last week. The resolution to lobby for legislation allowing Managers to attend more board meetings from remote locations was discussed.

Samples of Lake Okabena's 2021 toxic algae blooms were preserved for species identification. It was decided not to pay to identify the algae species, since the information would not help predict or detect toxic blooms.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board annual meeting will likely be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Lake Okabena carp control efforts and the potential water quality pond on the Worthington School District's Crailsheim property will be on the agenda. A meeting notice will be emailed and posted soon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 4, 2022 in the Nobles County Public Works Building meeting room. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.