

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**June 6, 2023**

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: Carol Olson, Advisory Committee member and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

Rogers moved to approve the May board meeting minutes. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report, pay the bills and to transfer money from the First State Bank Clean Water Legacy Grant accounts and CDs into checking as needed to pay the Crailsheim pond project expenses. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Houston Engineering staff said the legal description for the Crailsheim water quality pond site will be completed next week. It will be delivered to that attorney as soon as it's received to develop the permanent and construction easement document. The document has been promised to the school board for review in July.

American Engineering Testing will be doing soil borings for the Crailsheim pond project next week. Adam Bloom rents the land and planted a crop at the site. He will be informed the work will occur and will be offered payment for any crop damages.

The Minnesota Watersheds summer tour is on June 20 – 21 in Albert Lea. Ingenthron and Livdahl are registered to attend. Other managers are encouraged to participate since the Shell Rock River Watershed District is doing projects like those proposed in the OOWD.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Management of the Prairie View pond water levels has been challenging this spring due to beaver plugging outlets and low flows through the sand filters. Trees growing on the dam and around the filters need to be controlled. The sand filter layer may need replacement this year too.

The Minnesota Agriculture for Pollinators Project will hold a meeting and tour beginning at 11:00 a.m. on June 15<sup>th</sup> in the Nobles County Public Works meeting room.

Due to Minnesota Watersheds' lobbying efforts, the administrative levy cap for districts has been raised to \$500,000 per year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Information from Ross Simpson on BioChar US products was reviewed by the board. Simpson plans to be here to assess Lake Okabena on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to develop a proposal for improving water quality.

The Lake Okabena Improvement Association is meeting at 5:00 on June 14<sup>th</sup> in Slater Park. A history of the district's work and review of Okabena management strategies was created for the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 5, 2023, 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: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.