

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**November 1, 2022**

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, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A list of CRP filter strip incentive payments issued in October was reviewed. Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Milbrandt seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE**

A septic system replacement cost-share payment for Mark and Ann Wagner was approved with the Treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The final report on Lake Okabena's carp population is expected in December. Carp Solutions preliminary results show the lake's carp population is much lower than the electrofishing surveys indicated. Next steps to control the population of carp in Okabena were discussed.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Livdahl is registered for the MAWD Annual Meeting on December 1-3 in Alexandria. Ingenthron my attend too. Ingenthron will be the OOWD's voting delegate at the MAWD business meeting.

Someone is digging up the St. John property near the East Lake Boulevard right-of-way to collect buried bottles. The excavation is causing larger areas of the steep bank to collapse near the boundary between city and district property. Todd Wietsema said he would talk to the police department and ask them to patrol the area.

Scott Deslauriers fished Bella last from district park property at the north end of the lake. Deslauriers' equipment is staged now near the Centennial Park boat landing for fishing Lake Okabena.

Livdahl looked for Zebra Mussels on the boat lifts and docks parked for the winter in Sunset and Centennial parks. None were found.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The staff performance evaluation form will be mailed or emailed to board members soon. Mahlberg and Rogers will conduct the evaluation with Livdahl and discuss 2023 wages and benefits before the next board meeting. The performance evaluation and 2023 budget will be discussed at the December meeting.

An Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Board meeting needs to occur sometime in November or early December. It would be advantageous to have the final Okabena carp population study report and news about the Crailsheim Pond grant before the meeting occurs.

Activities for the 2023 annual plan will be discussed during upcoming meetings. The annual plan needs to be finalized by the end of the March board meeting.

Members of the public and Advisory Committee have recommended taking advantage of the current dry weather and low stream and tile water flow to conduct another Lake Ocheda winter drawdown. The OOWD board does not support another drawdown at this time because the lake's management plan states they will not be conducted every year. Also,

the lake's riparian landowners have been promised it will be two to four years before the next drawdown attempt.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on December 6, 2022, 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, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Meeting adjourned.