

**MINUTES**  
**2024 Budget Hearing**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**4:00 pm**  
**September 5, 2023**

The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2024 budget hearing 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: Bob Demuth, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The public hearing notice and proposed budget was published in the Worthington Globe on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. No written or oral comments were received before or during the hearing.

Ingenthron moved to close the hearing. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Budget hearing adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**September 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jay Milbrandt and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

Rogers moved to approve the August board meeting minutes. Milbrandt 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 transfer money between bank accounts as needed. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

An original certified Crailsheim project easement survey was delivered to Todd Ahlquist. Livdahl believes he has what is needed to finish the project easement document.

Henning Construction was hired to spend a day mowing trees around the Prairie View filter benches in August. They will be asked to come back and mow the rest of the willow and cottonwood trees around the ponds this fall.

It is unnecessary to formally advertise for bids the project to replace the sand in the filter benches at the Prairie View pond, but at least two competing informal bids are needed. So far, local contractors are not interested in doing the job this year. Ingenthron will contact Randy Graham about removing sediment from the filters again this fall. Since the remaining sand is still functioning in the filters, replacing all the sand media can wait until next year.

The Eden Lakes proposal to install biochar filters in Lake Okabena to remove phosphorus and improve water quality was discussed. The board believes that not enough research has been done to show that the proposed project would be a cost-effective means of improving the lake's water quality.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A total of twenty-five Okabena, Ocheda and Bella algae bloom samples were tested for microcystins toxins and cylindrospermopsin toxins this season. Microcystins toxins were present in samples from Okabena and Bella lakes. All the samples tested negative for cylindrospermopsin toxin.

Livdahl will install up to 160 storm sewer catch basin markers this fall if the weather cooperates.

Fall tours for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area will occur on September 19-21. The district will pay for the portable restroom and ecology bus presentations in Worthington.

Beavers are building dams at the 310 street culverts again this year. Livdahl removed the dam a few weeks ago. It is being rebuilt.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The district must submit a 2024 certified levy form to the Nobles County Auditor/Treasurer by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Milbrandt moved to submit a 2024 levy certification totaling \$253,000. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Scott Rall will present an Advisory Committee report at the October meeting.

The board clarified that no work will be done on the St. John property cropland this fall. The vegetative cover will be evaluated next year to see if it needs to be improved.

#### **PERMITS**

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications.

**Walter Vogt Charitable Trust** – to perform erosion and sediment control during demolition of buildings at 1988 Lake Avenue West, Worthington.

**Daniel Russell** – to remove ditch sediment and replace failed tile with non-perforated tile in the NW ¼, NE ¼, section 36, Bigelow Township.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held on October 3, 2023, 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, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.