

MINUTES
2025 Budget Hearing
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 3, 2024

The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2025 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: Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Tom Ahlberg, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The proposed budget was part of the hearing notice in the Globe published on August 21st and 28th. No written comments were received before the meeting and no comments were made at the meeting. Rogers moved to approve the budget and certify a 2025 levy of \$253,000. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

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

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 3, 2024

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: Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Tom Ahlberg, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A CD matures at Worthington Federal Savings Bank on September 10th. Livdahl suggested purchasing another 7-to-9-month CD. Mahlberg, Milbrandt and Livdahl are authorized to shop around and reinvest the money in another short-term CD. Bousema moved to approve the report, pay the bills, and reinvest the money from the maturing CD. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mahlberg and Livdahl attended an electronic meeting with the Crailsheim pond project engineers and DNR staff to talk about the hazard classification of the proposed structure. The current design may or may not be considered a high hazard project for the residents of the homes downstream and highway traffic. More elevation and design information will be provided by HEI to Jayson Boyle before the next meeting. A copy of the state grant application will be emailed to Boyle to explain the goals of the project and alternatives considered.

The public meeting for the Lake Ocheda Management Plan addendum will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th in the Nobles County Public Works office meeting room. Maggie Gross will do the presentation on the previous drawdown attempts and explain the proposed addendum plan changes. Livdahl will mail meeting notices to the riparian landowners and interested parties.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The low flow pipe was opened at the Prairie View pond to expose the filter benches. Livdahl will contract Henning Construction about removing approximately 3 inches of dirty sand from the filters and spreading an average of 6 inches of clean sand on top of them. Bids will be needed if the cost is \$25,000 or more.

The DNR removed the beaver dam blocking the outlet pipe at the Bella WMA pond. The beavers immediately began rebuilding it. Solar powered lights were installed nearby to discourage dam building. It didn't work. The DNR will hire a trapper.

Jeff Meinders was contacted to get a quote for replacing the fish screens at the college pond outlet. The new screens will have larger holes and be made of stainless steel or aluminum.

Worthington 5th grade classes will tour the Prairie Wetland Learning Area on September 17th and 18th. The district will pay for the Prairie Ecology Bus programs and restroom.

Livdahl will install up to 200 stormsewer catch basin markers this fall if weather conditions are good.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on October 1, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Milbrandt, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.