

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
May 6, 2025

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present Al Langseth, district landowner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter, and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. A CD matured at First State Bank SW on May 5th. Rogers moved to approve the report, pay the bills and renew the CD for seven months at 4.05 APR. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ahlberg, Mahlberg and Livdahl participated in a Teams meeting with the Crailsheim project engineers and DNR to discuss a hybrid pond and restored stream alternative for the Crailsheim project. Todd Kolander stated that the DNR would permit a small pond if it includes fish passage and the remaining stream channel's meanders are restored. The DNR said they will provide information on how to calculate phosphorus retention for a restored stream channel and a list of fish species that need to be accommodated. Sufficient engineering will be done to create a drawing of the project's footprint and location for the School Board to review. It is unknown if the project can be completely accommodated within the existing easement area. Phosphorus removal capacity and construction costs will also be calculated to see if Clean Water Legacy Grant money can be spent on construction and the project is affordable.

A dumpster for carp disposal was placed in the Centennial Park boat ramp parking lot on April 23rd. Only two fish have been placed in the dumpster as of today. Both were Bigmouth Buffalo. It is expected that carp spawning will begin soon.

Passing another motion stating the board's support of the Lake Ocheda Management Plan addendum was discussed. Since Lake Ocheda is an impaired water and it is the OOWD's responsibility to protect and improve its resources, and the up to two full year drawdown period allowed by the addendum is the most likely and cost-effective tool to improve the lake, Rogers moved to support the addendum and send a statement of support to the DNR. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Olson Trust Board met last week. They allocated about \$10,000 to temporary repairs for the Lake Okabena dam stoplog bays.

The stream flow monitoring equipment arrived in April. Ahlberg and Livdahl will install what they can this week. Tech Sales will send a technical support person to help with the final installation and setup.

The Lake Ocheda plan addendum comment period ended on April 18th. The plan opponents did a good job of organizing to submit comments.

McCuen Welding and Machining is working on an I-beam frame for a short bridge over the intermittent stream on the eastern Lake Bella Park trail. Mahlberg and Livdahl will install it when it is finished.

NEW BUSINESS

A board and staff succession plan was discussed. President Mahlberg's term expires at the end of October. Recruiting qualified applicants for the board was discussed. Livdahl will retire by the end of 2025. The administrator's position description was discussed. The position opening will likely be advertised in August with a new employee beginning work in October.

The district's rules are unclear as to whether OOWD erosion and sediment control permits are required for sites within larger developments with active state Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans. Since the OOWD issued permits to Worthington for

the Glenwood Heights 2nd and 3rd Additions and the Cecilee Street Expansion SWPPPs, and no construction stormwater transfer forms were submitted when lots were purchased from the City, it may be argued that no OOWD erosion and sediment control permit is required. A rules update and better communication with Worthington is needed to insure either an OOWD erosion and sediment control plan, or the project SWPPP requirements are followed when lots are developed.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications:

City of Worthington – to perform erosion and sediment control during reconstruction of the Olson Park recreational trail.

City of Worthington – to implement the project stormwater pollution prevention plan during Service Drive street and utility improvements.

Lonny Johnson – to perform erosion and sediment control during construction of a new home at 745 Sterling Avenue, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on June 3, 2025, 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, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Administrator's Report
June 3, 2025

Bella Park

Rolf began mowing in Bella Park in May. He will do it as often as every two weeks depending on the need.

Rolf also picked up the modified I-beams from McCuen for the trail bridge and delivered them to the site last week. We will install planks to complete it sometime in June.

Water Sampling – June through September

Ordered Storm Drain Markers and Adhesive