

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
July 1, 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 Tom Ahlberg, Casey Ingenthron and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Phil Kruger, HLWD board member; Al Langseth, district landowner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter, and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Ahlberg moved to approve the report and pay the bills. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Houston Engineering's conceptual drawing of a hybrid project that includes stream meanders, wetlands and a pond on the Crailsheim site was reviewed. The plan will be submitted to the DNR for review before spending more money calculating pollution prevention removal rates and costs.

The Centennial Park carp dumpster was removed last week. Approximately 30 carp were placed in it this spring.

Succession planning was briefly discussed. A draft job announcement and advertisement will be reviewed at the August board meeting. A hiring committee will need to be formed to direct the process.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The flow monitoring equipment was installed in the County 266 culvert between the Bousema and Prairie View properties. Samples were taken after a rain event at the site and at the urban stormwater pumping station outlet on Whiskey Ditch. Samples will be analyzed at the Worthington Wastewater Treatment Plant lab. More samples will be collected and analyzed when culvert flow is present. We are learning this year how to use the equipment, developing sampling procedures and comparing water sample results to flow data.

NEW BUSINESS

Katie Jacobson was present to discuss and explain the results of the 2024 financial audit. Ahlberg moved to approve the audit report and to authorize Jacobson to submit it to the State Auditor's office and BWSR. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A draft of the 2026 budget will be presented at the August board meeting. A budget hearing will need to occur before the 2026 levy is certified in September.

The DNR commissioner has not approved or rejected the Lake Ocheda Management Plan addendum. The advisory committee plans to do a temporary level drawdown beginning this summer if hydrological conditions are right and the DNR Ecological Services and Waters Division authorizes it. The drawdown will be limited to one winter season if the addendum is not approved or could last up to two years if it is.

PERMITS

Rogers moved to approve the following permit application:

Kuepers, Inc – to implement the stormwater pollution prevention plan during construction of the South Shore Acres apartments project, Worthington.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on August 5, 2025, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Ahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Administrator's Report
August 5, 2025

Well Sealing Cost-Share Rate

The Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District raised its cost-share rate for well sealing from 50% up to \$300 to 50% up to \$800. Do you want to raise the OOWD rate to be the same?

Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Petitions Meeting

Voting delegates are needed for the Minnesota Watersheds resolutions and petitions meeting on Monday, August 25 at 10:00. Jan Voit would like our delegates list as soon as possible.

Ag vs Urban Watersheds Water Quality Samples

I have only taken two sets of samples at the Whiskey Ditch storm sewer outlet and the 266 culvert into Prairie View. The samples were analyzed for total phosphorus, ortho phosphorus and total suspended solids. The phosphorus concentrations were about the same for all the samples.