

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**November 5, 2024**

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, Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth, Jr., county commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. The report includes the 2024 filter strip incentive payments. The CD with the Legacy Grant money matures at First State Bank SW on November 9th. The money will be reinvested for a shorter duration. Ingenthron moved to approve the report and pay the bills. Ahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS**

After communicating with the DNR Area Hydrologist, it became apparent the present design of the Crailsheim pond project would be classified as a significant hazard and a state permit would be difficult, time consuming and expensive to obtain. For this reason, Livdahl asked Houston Engineering to provide an engineering services proposal to start over and design a low hazard structure that could prevent as much phosphorus and sediment loading as possible to Lake Okabena. The managers reviewed the proposal. It is likely, but uncertain, that the Legacy Grant money received for the original project can be used for the engineering and construction of a lower hazard and less effective project. BWSR will likely need more information on the revised project before a final decision on grant eligibility. After much discussion, Ingenthron moved to sign the agreement and proceed with the redesign of the pond. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: Bousema. Motion carried.

The feasibility of dredging Lake Okabena was discussed.

The list of the 2024 filter strip incentives paid in October was reviewed. The payments were approved with the treasurer's report.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ahlberg, Ingenthron and Livdahl are registered to attend the Minnesota Watersheds conference at Grand View Lodge in December. Rogers moved to appoint Ahlberg and Ingenthron as the meeting voting delegates. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan Advisory Team meeting will likely be scheduled sometime in November. Riparian landowner comments were discussed. A copy of the compiled comments will be emailed to Ahlberg.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Board officers were discussed. Jay Milbrand's term ended on October 31 leaving the Treasurer position vacant. Rogers moved to keep the same officers, with Tom Ahlberg appointed as Treasurer. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The officers are:

President – Rolf Mahlberg  
Vice President – Casey Ingenthron  
Secretary - Secretary  
Treasurer – Tom Ahlberg

Ryan Henning estimated the cost of removing and hauling away about three inches of dirty sand from the Prairie View pond filters and replacing it with five inches of washed sand, would be \$21,500. No written bid or estimate has been received.

Rogers and Mahlberg will complete Livdahl's annual performance evaluation before the December board meeting. Evaluation forms will be emailed to the managers.

The 2025 annual budget was discussed. Livdahl will bring a draft budget to the December meeting for discussion.

## **PERMITS**

Rogers moved to approve the following permit applications.

**Steve Schnieder** – to replace three driveway culverts at 29511 State Highway 266, Worthington.

**Jennifer Andersen** – to repair and replace shoreline riprap at 1800 South Shore Drive, Worthington.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held on December 10, 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: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

**Administrator's Report**  
**December 10,2024**

**Minnesota Watersheds Convention**

Casey, Tom and I attended the Minnesota Watersheds Annual Convention at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa last week.

**Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Meeting**

I didn't schedule a meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Joint Powers Board in early December as in past years. I was hoping work would be started and completed on the Prairie View filters so we could request the city to pay a part of the expense along with the filter strips incentives. With Jay gone, we need to appoint an OOWD representative to take his place.

It would be good to have a meeting before the end of the year to get them to approve filter strip and insurance payments.

**Ocheda Plan Advisory Team Meeting**

Maggie Gross emailed last week that she will meet soon with others at the DNR to decide next steps for Lake Ocheda Plan addendum before scheduling an Advisory Team meeting