

**MINUTES**  
**2026 Budget Hearing**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**September 2, 2025**

The 2026 Budget hearing for the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor; Al Langseth, district landowner and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The proposed budget was published twice in the Globe as a part of the 2026 budget public hearing notice. No comments were received, and no one was present to give comments.

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

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**September 2, 2025**

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 and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor; Al Langseth, district landowner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The August 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. Livdahl reported that there was an error in the Quickbooks online payroll so one employee paycheck was not shown in the report monthly totals or on the list of bills paid. Rogers moved to approve the report with the correction, pay the bills, and transfer money as needed from the money market account to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. An updated monthly report will be provided to the board when the payroll error is corrected.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A letter from the DNR southern manager, Todd Kolander, regarding the latest proposal for the Crailsheim project was discussed. The project engineer, Chris Otterness, reviewed Kolander's comments and stated the arguments against building a retention pond and replacing it with reconstructed stream meanders and off channel wetlands made no scientific or engineering sense. Otterness suggested some options for the project but did not foresee the DNR issuing a permit for the structures needed to meet the project goals. Board members will meet with ISD 518 Superintendent Heitkamp to discuss the roadblocks to building the project on the Crailsheim site. The board will decide whether to request a one-year extension for the project grant, or return the money, at the October meeting.

The Lake Ocheda water level drawdown will begin next week. Dam stoplogs will be removed in stages to prevent potential downstream flooding.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Lake Okabena water quality is highly variable this year. Secchi disk water clarity was very good this spring and during the June and July monthly sampling events. Algae and total phosphorus levels were very high in July and August. It is difficult to predict water quality for the rest of the year.

Livdahl reported taking time off during the past month to provide care for his mother.

The Star Tribune story about Lake Ocheda receiving the lowest water quality grade in Minnesota was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ingenthron moved to certify the 2026 levy request at \$253,000. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The board closed the meeting to discuss the application received for the Administrator position, the candidate's qualifications, and the potential pay scales and a starting salary range.

The meeting was opened again to the public. Bousema moved to authorize Ingenthron and Ahlberg to conduct the job interview, and if appropriate, negotiate a salary and offer the job to the candidate. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting will be held at 4:00 on October 7, 2025 in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

**Administrator's Report**  
**October 7, 2025**