

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
August 6, 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 Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present were: Bob Demuth Jr, County Commissioner; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Tom Ahlberg, advisory committee member; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Crailsheim pond project engineering and permits were discussed. HEI is redesigning the spillway and waiting for the DNR's dam safety review. It is still possible that the project could be ready for bidding and review in September.

Bella Park roads held up well during heavy rains this year but would benefit from grading to fill some gullies and potholes. The Bella WMA dam on the west side of the park is no longer overflowing onto park property. Bill Schuna was contacted about removing the beaver dam blocking the spillway pipe. Mowing the park trails has been a challenge due to flooding and water draining onto the property.

The Lake Ocheda Management Plan proposed amendment public meeting will be held sometime during the week of September 16th. A Doodle poll is currently open to see when the management team members can make it. After the date is set, public notices will be published. Maggie Gross will draft a letter to the riparian landowners and other interested parties. The OOWD will mail the letters and invite others by email.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The 2023 financial audit report will be completed by the end of the week. It needs to be approved and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor by August 16th. A special meeting to review and approve the audit will be held at 8:00 a.m. on August 12th.

NEW BUSINESS

A draft of the 2025 budget was reviewed by the board. The budget assumes construction of the Crailsheim water quality pond project will occur during 2025, with all grant funds received and bills paid by the end of the year. Bousema moved to approve the budget and use it for the 2025 public hearing notice to be published in the Globe. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Solitude, Inc was contacted about the feasibility and cost of applying a Phoslock treatment to Lake Okabena to capture and sequester phosphorus. After a discussion about Okabena's water quality, size and watershed, it was the salesman's opinion that alum treatment would be cheaper and more cost-effective.

PERMITS

Ingenthron moved to approve the following permit application.

City of Worthington – to remove accumulated sediment from Whiskey Ditch near the flood control gates opening to County Ditch 12.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A special meeting to discuss and approve the 2023 financial audit report will be held at 8:00 a.m. on August 12th. The next regular board meeting will be held on September 3, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

MINUTES Special Meeting Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers August 12, 2024

The special meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers to review and approve the 2023 financial audit report was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg and Jeff Rogers. Also present was Dan Livdahl, administrator.

The audit report and letter about deficiencies were emailed to the Managers on August 9th for review before the meeting. The report and internal controls were discussed. Bousema moved to approve the audit report and submit it to the Office of the State Auditor. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on September 3, 2024, in the Nobles County Public Works Department building conference room at 960 Diagonal Road, Worthington. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Administrator's Report September 3, 2024

Prairie View Filters Maintenance

The low flow pipe was opened at Prairie View last week to dry out the filter benches for inspection and maintenance. I'd recommend removing the top three inches of sediment and mud and placing an average of 7" of clean sand on the filter benches.

We may or may not need to get competing bids for the project. Projects under \$25,000 have no requirements, from \$25,000 to \$175,000 negotiations are required with at least 2 bids, and above \$175,000 formal bid process must be followed.

Beaver Dam Removed at Bella WMA Pond

The DNR removed the beaver dam blocking the Lake Bella WMA pond outlet culvert on August 19th. The beavers built a small dam overnight backing up about 4" in the pond. Bill Schuna is working on getting the money allocated to trap them.

I placed some solar powered LED lights around the culvert end last Thursday to see if they would deter the beaver from rebuilding. It didn't work. They rebuilt the 4" high dam by the following morning. It probably wasn't a fair test since it rained the afternoon that I installed the lights and they likely didn't get fully charged.

College Pond Fish Screen Repair and Replacement

After talking with the maintenance staff at Minnesota West, I asked Jeff Meinders to give us a quote for repairing the fish barrier at the college stormwater pond. The biggest problem is that the holes in the fish screens are too small and quickly are plugged with algae and organic matter. The new screens will have larger holes.

Meinders will get us a quote for stainless steel and aluminum construction materials.

Worthington Federal CD Matures 9-10-24

An approximately \$98,000 CD at Worthington Federal Savings Bank matures on September 10th. This is undesignated money belonging to the district. I think it should be reinvested for another 9 months.

Prairie Wetland Learning Area Tours

Worthington fifth grader tours at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area will occur on September 17th and 18th. I will help guide students around the prairie trail. The OOWD will pay for two days of Prairie Ecology Bus programs and the toilet rental.

Stormsewer Catchbasin Markers

We purchased about 200 stormsewer markers and the adhesive to install them. I will glue on as many markers as possible on warm days before winter.