

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**December 10, 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; Paul Langseth, SWCD supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor/reporter and Dan Livdahl, administrator.

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

**COST-SHARE**

Septic system replacement cost-share payments for Soukkhy Thonesavanh and Juanita Briones were approved as a part of the Treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Livdahl spoke with HEI staff Chris Otterness, Christina Traner and BWSR conservationist, Mark Hiles, last week about the redesign of the Crailsheim project. HEI is working on an alternatives analysis and an Environmental Assessment Worksheet. The alternatives should be ready for board review soon. Mark Hiles said that the Clean Water Legacy grant money can likely be used for the redesigned project, but BWSR would need to approve the design.

The quote from Henning Construction to remove approximately three inches of silty sand from the Prairie View pond filter benches and replace it with approximately 5 inches of washed sand was \$22,000. Rogers moved to approve the quote for maintenance of the Prairie View filter benches. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. A track hoe is at the site this afternoon and if the weather allows it, work will be completed on the filters by the end of the week.

A draft of the 2025 budget was discussed. There are several expected expenditures of unknown amounts due to the redesign of the Crailsheim project. The budget will be discussed further at the January meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ingenthron, Ahlberg and Livdahl attended the Minnesota Watersheds meeting last week in Nisswa.

The Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting that usually occurs in early December has not been scheduled yet. Tom Ahlberg was appointed to replace Jay Milbrandt on the CWP board. A meeting will be scheduled for the end of next week if a quorum of members can attend.

Maggie Gross said in an email that DNR staff are talking to each other to decide next steps for the Lake Ocheda Management Plan addendum. An advisory team meeting will be scheduled later.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mahlberg and Rogers completed Livdahl's annual performance review. Livdahl requested a 3 percent salary increase in 2025. Ahlberg moved to grant the 3% increase and benefits as presented in the draft budget. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The signature cards on accounts at First State Bank Southwest and Worthington Federal Savings Bank need to be updated after Tom Ahlberg was appointed to replace Jay Milbrandt on the board. Rogers moved to remove Jay Milbrandt from the signature cards and authorize Tom Ahlberg, Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Rolf Mahlberg, Jeff Rogers and Dan Livdahl as signatories of money market and checking accounts at First State Bank Southwest, and the money market account at Worthington Federal Savings Bank. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

An engagement letter from Katie M. Jacobson, CPA to conduct the 2024 financial audit was discussed. The cost would be \$4500 to \$5500. Ahlberg moved to sign the engagement letter. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

A group photo for the website will be taken after the meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular board meeting will be held on January 7, 2025, 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**  
**January 7, 2024**

**CWP Joint Powers Board Meeting**

The Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. They recommended paying half the cost of the Prairie View filter bench maintenance work. Since we got the bill for the work on at 3:30 on December 31st, I submitted an invoice to the City yesterday.

**Lake Ocheda Plan Advisory Committee Meeting**

Maggie Gross sent out a Doodle poll today to schedule a meeting before the end of month to discuss feedback on the plan addendum and next steps.

**Lake Dissolved Oxygen**

With no snow on the ice, I expect dissolved oxygen will be high in Okabena, Ocheda and Bella lakes. I will likely test them anyway for dissolved oxygen occasionally in case something unexpected happens.

**Grant Reporting Due February 1st**

Annual reporting for the Crailsheim Project Clean Water Legacy Grant needs to be completed in eLINK by February 1<sup>st</sup>.