

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
January 7, 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, 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 December meeting minutes were discussed. Ahlberg moved to approve the minutes. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, 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, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Houston Engineering is expected to present alternatives for the redesign of the Crailsheim project in January. The proposed options will include expected phosphorus and sediment removal capacities and will be shared with the school district and BWSR as soon as it is received.

Henning Construction completed the maintenance of the Prairie View pond filter benches in December. The cost was \$21,500.

A draft of the 2025 budget was discussed. Ingenthron moved to adopt the budget as drafted. Ahlberg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board met on December 19th. They recommended that half the cost of the Prairie View filter maintenance be paid by City clean water funds.

Maggie Gross emailed a Doodle Poll link to Lake Ocheda Management Plan Advisory Team members today. She wants to schedule a meeting to discuss next steps for the plan addendum sometime during the last two weeks of January.

Livdahl plans to measure dissolved oxygen concentrations in Okabena, Ocheda and Bella lakes occasionally this winter. Since there is still open water and no snow on the ice, it is expected that oxygen concentrations will be high.

Reporting for the Crailsheim Project Clean Water Legacy Grant must be completed by February 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2025 annual plan was discussed. Ahlberg will contact the high school agriculture teachers about working with them to demonstrate cover crops and other soil health practices on the new ISD 518 property. The city engineer and equipment vendors will be contacted during the next month about the cost and feasibility of sampling water from urban and agricultural land runoff for comparison. The plan document will be updated to include these things and discussed further at the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular board meeting will be held on February 4, 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
February 4, 2024

Lake Ocheda Plan Advisory Team Meeting

The Ocheda Plan Advisory Team met electronically on January 18th. The advisory team decided to update the plan with the addendum and submit it for approval. It appears the plan will need to be signed by David Trauba, Wildlife Section Manager and Kelly Straka, Director of Fish and Wildlife Division and maybe the DNR commissioner.

Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)

BWSR will do a PRAP performance assessment of the OOWD sometime before the end of June. The last assessment was done ten years ago. They will be assessing the 1W1P Missouri River Joint Powers Board at the same time too.

Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event

Minnesota Watersheds is holding its legislative event on February 19th and 20th. I have not registered to attend yet, but am probably expected to since I am on the MW resolutions committee. There is also a MAWA meeting on the first morning.