MINUTES
2027 Budget Hearing
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 2, 2026

The 2027 Budget hearing for the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Tom Ahlberg, Ben Krohn Jeff Rogers, and Steve Bousmea. Also, present Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe Reporter; Tyler Wadzinski, Landowner; Bob Demuth Nobles County Commissioner and Nathan Schuck, Administrator.

The proposed budget was published twice in the Globe as a part of the 2027 budget public hearing notice. No comments were received, and no one was present to give comments.

Ingenthron moved to close the public hearing at 4:06 p.m. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Mahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
September 2nd, 2026

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:07 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Tom Ahlberg, Ben Krohn Jeff Rogers, and Steve Bousmea. Also, present Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor; Julie Buntjer, Globe Reporter; Tyler Wadzinski, Landowner; Bob Demuth Nobles County Commissioner and Nathan Schuck, Administrator.

The August regular and August special board meeting minutes were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers, Bousema. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Bousema moved to approve the August treasurers' report, pay the bills, and transfer money as needed from the money market account to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers, Bousema. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS
The 2027 levy was discussed. Rogers moved to certify the 2027 levy with a 10% increase for a total of $275,000.00 Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers, Bousema. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Treasurer Krohn will sign the levy certification; Schuck will send it in to the county.

The 2027 Budget was discussed after certification of the 2027 levy. Krohn moved to approve the budget for 2027. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers, Bousema. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
The Crailsheim project was discussed. The DNR has issued a permit for the Crailsheim Project on 9/1/2026. Schuck credited this to a good working relationship between Watershed, Houston, and the DNR during the design phase. Bidding opened on August 27th and will close on September 18th at 10 a.m. Bid opening is scheduled for September 18th at 10 a.m. virtually. Houston has suggested a special meeting in the week of September 21st – 25th. Dates and availability were discussed and a tentative date of September 23rd at 8 a.m. was set.

LG Sonic MPC-Buoys for Sunset Bay and Lake Okabena were discussed. Schuck had talked with City Council member Dennis Weber, and he recommended talking with City Administrator Steve Robinson about possible funding before the 2027 budget for the City of Worthington was set. Schuck presented the idea of a pilot project on Sunset Bay with possible implementation on Lake Okabena if the pilot project was successful. Robinson recommended a Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board Meeting to discuss this further and talk about potential funding sources. A Joint Powers Board Meeting is scheduled for September 11th at 9 a.m.

Lake Ocheda drawdown was discussed. Schuck has been in contact with Maggie Gross with the MN DNR and they have sent out a Lake Ocheda Advisory Team survey on a drawdown for the winter of 2026 into 2027. They have received no comments as of noon today, end of comment period in 9/3. Per the management plan a 2 week notice to landowners is required. The expected drawdown start date is September 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS
Schuck was approached by the Nobles SWCD to help pay for the Wetland Learning Area tours for the local 5th graders in Worthington at the Worthington Waterfowl Production Area. Schuck will be available to help with the tours on 9/16-9-18.

ADJOURNMENT
The next regular meeting will be held at 4:00 on Wednesday October 7th, 2026, in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers, Bousema. Opposed: none. Motion carried.