

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers**  
**November 4, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 4:02 p.m. Present were managers Steve Bousema, Casey Ingenthron, Tom Ahlberg, Ben Krohn, and Jeff Rogers. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor; Al Langseth, district landowner; Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor, Nathan Schuck, administrator, and Dan Livdahl.

The September regular and October special meeting minutes were discussed. Rogers moved to approve the minutes. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, 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. Ahlberg moved to approve the amended September and October report with the correction, pay the bills, and transfer money as needed from the money market account to checking. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. An updated monthly report will be provided to the board when the payroll error is corrected.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Board members and district administrator will meet with ISD 518 Superintendent Heitkamp to discuss the roadblocks to building the project on the Crailsheim site. A one-year grant extension was approved by BWSR.

The Lake Ocheda water level drawdown began in September. Lake levels fluctuated with the recent rain and now are .38 foot from the bottom of the dam. A social media post was brought up about Lake Okabena polluting Lake Ocheda. According to years of monitoring that speculation was found untrue. Some beaver activity is happening at the culverts south of the Ocheda Dam and the County Road 57 culverts. Trapping was brought up along with removal of the existing dams.

2026 Budget and Annual Plan was Discussed. The possibility to do some Cover Crop or Soil Health Programs were brought up. Changes to the boards per diems were discussed. Schuck will check into per diem caps and amounts other watersheds are using. In the past mileage was paid to the Administrator for the use of their vehicle for work. Purchasing a Watershed vehicle was discussed. A pickup for hauling the side-by-side and other tools and items were brought up. This led to another discussion of the possible purchase of a new side-by-side that could be driven to sites in place of a pickup. Schuck will come up with some options and put it in the budget for 2026. Ingenthron brought up the restrooms at Bella Park. The current restrooms are getting ratty and rundown. A pre-fabricated structure or rebuilding structure overtop the current pit would be a good option. Schuck will check to see if a permit is needed and if it will be required to update the tank changes are made to the structure.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Having a third party doing the payroll for the district was discussed. Schuck will find out pricing and bring that to the December board meeting. A CD with First State Bank will mature towards the middle of this month. Schuck will find rates and length options and talk with the President and Treasurer for renewal.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board officers were discussed. Rolf Mahlberg's term ended on October 31 leaving the President position vacant. Bousema moved to keep the same officers, with Tom Ahlberg appointed as President and Ben Krohn appointed as Treasurer. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. The officers are:

President – Tom Ahlberg  
Vice President – Casey Ingenthron  
Secretary – Jeff Rogers  
Treasurer – Ben Krohn  
Manager – Steve Bousema

Ahlberg, Ingenthron, Schuck, and Krohn have rooms to attend the Minnesota Watersheds conference at Grand View Lodge in December. Registration is open now.

A Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board meeting should be held before the end of November before Dan retires. Dates were discussed and Schuck will reach out to the other members to schedule a meeting.

Schuck brought up insurance for the remainder of 2025 and 2026. Ahlberg moved to cover cobra for the remainder of 2025. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Schuck will have more information on 2026 insurance at the December board meeting.

## **PERMITS**

**Efrain Patino** – building addition at 1725 Donavon Drive, Worthington

**Fertilizer Dealer Supply Inc.** – to construct a new warehouse on East Gateway Drive.

Bousema moved to approve the SWPPP permit for Fertilizer Dealer Supply Inc and Erosion Control permit and Efrain Patino. Rogers seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

## **Set Date for Next Regular Meeting**

Rogers moved that with some board members and staff being at the Annual Watershed Conference it was decided to move the next regular meeting back a week to December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Bousema seconded the motion. Affirmative: Bousema, Ingenthron, Ahlberg, Krohn, Rogers. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.