

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers
December 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 3:59 p.m. Present were managers Casey Ingenthron, Tom Ahlberg, and Ben Krohn. Also present were Bob Demuth, Jr, County Commissioner; Julie Buntjer, Globe editor, Paul Langseth, SWCD Supervisor, Nathan Schuck, Administrator.

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

The Treasurer's report and bills payable were discussed. Schuck reported that there was an insurance premium for Dan taken out that shouldn't have. Reimbursement was made was mistake was found. Krohn moved to approve the November treasurers' report, pay the bills, and transfer money as needed from the money market account to checking. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried. An updated monthly report will be provided to the board when the payroll error is corrected.

OLD BUSINESS

2026 Budget was Discussed. Changes to the boards per diems were discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve a flat rate \$125 for per diem for Watershed Board members. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Purchasing a Watershed vehicle was discussed. With multiple board members absent this was tabled for discussion when more board members were present. The restrooms at Bella Park were discussed. An inspection of the tank will need to be conducted and if the tank is structurally sound, just a permit will be needed to replace the structure. Ingenthron moved to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Schuck brought up insurance for 2026. Krohn moved to approve \$526.45 per month for Health Insurance Premium and taxes. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried

A proposed fee for payroll and bookkeeping services from Legacy Tax & Accounting Inc was received and discussed. Ingenthron moved to approve Legacy Tax & Accounting Inc. to perform payroll for and bookkeeping services for the Watershed District. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

The Lake Ocheda water level drawdown was discussed. Water is currently flowing 2.25 inches over of the dam. Warren Meinders was contacted to trap beavers at 2 sites. He said it was in our best interest to wait until spring and have him trap then.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board was held November 19th. 2 City Council members, 2 Watershed Board members, a citizen at large, Watershed Administrator, and Dan Livdahl were present. The City of Worthington has interest in Lake Okabena and it's a high priority to the City Council. Long-term and short-term proposed projects were discussed. Approval of Invoices for work in 2025 were approved for payment. The City would like to have a work session meeting with Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Board after the Annual Convention and Holidays.

ISD518 Meeting for Crailsheim Project was held November 26th. Superintendent Joel Heitkamp and Josh Nobles were present for the School District; 2 Board members and Administrator were present for the Watershed. The School District is very interested in seeing the project go through. Reshaping on the current waterway was discussed. Digging for depression instead of building a dam was an item of discussion. Schuck will discuss this with Engineers to see if that's an option.

A CD with First State Bank is up for renewal. Rates and lengths were discussed. Schuck will renew the CD for 7 months at 4% interest.

Cost of Living increase was discussed. No Increase was proposed this year with Schuck starting 2 months previous.

A First State Bank Credit Card was discussed in place of the current Wells Fargo Credit Card. Ingenthron moved to apply for a credit card, with a \$3,000 limit, Nathan Schuck as the card holder, and to cancel the current Wells Fargo credit card after he receives the First State Bank credit card. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

PFMLA contribution rates were discussed. For small businesses the percentage is .66%. Ingenthron moved to approve the watershed paying 56% of the amount and Schuck will pay the remaining 44% of the total. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

U of M SWPPP Certification program fee of \$320 for online course for certification to inspect SWPPP Permits. Ingenthron moved to approve the fee. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Increasing Permit Fees was discussed. Schuck will bring more information to the next meeting.

2025 Audit Engagement Letter from Katie M. Jacobson CPA was received. Ingenthron moved to approve Katie M. Jacobson CPA for 2025 Audit. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

Interest in a meeting with Jeff Strock U of M Drainage Specialist was brought up. Schuck and Ahlberg will set up a meeting after the holidays.

Changing the Day for Regular Board Meetings was brought up. With multiple board members absent this was tabled for discussion when more board members were present.

PERMITS

Dan Krueger – Sediment Removal from Pond. Krohn moved to approve the permit. Ingenthron seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be held at 4:00 on January 6, 2026 in the Nobles County Public Works building meeting room. Ingenthron moved to adjourn the meeting. Krohn seconded the motion. Affirmative: Ingenthron, Ahlberg, and Krohn. Opposed: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.