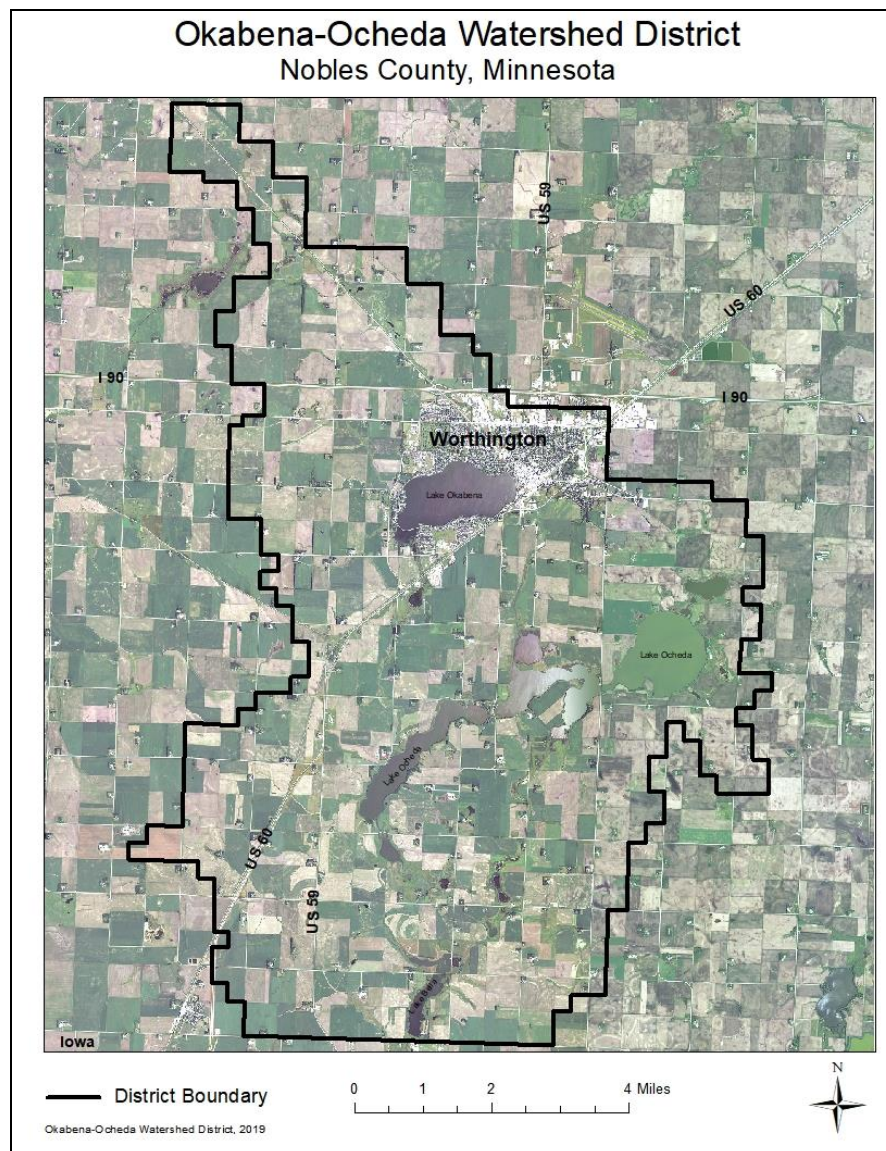


# OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Boundary change transferred approximately 6.4 square miles to the  
Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District

**OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**960 Diagonal Road, P.O. Box 114**  
**Worthington, MN 56187-0114**  
**(507) 372-8228**  
**<http://www.okabenauchedawd.org>**

# OKABENA-UCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

## BOARD OF ANAGERS

President	Rolf Mahlberg 29403 Paul Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Vice-President	Casey Ingenthron 26962 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Secretary	Jeff Rogers 1627 Fairway Lane Worthington, MN 56187
Treasurer	Jay Milbrandt 27494 Read Avenue Worthington, MN 56187
Manager	Steve Bousema 1040 Maplewood Drive Worthington, MN 56187

## STAFF

Administrator	Dan Livdahl 960 Diagonal Road, P.O. Box 114 Worthington, MN 56187
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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Ahlers 31431 330th Street Bigelow, MN 56117	Logan Ahlers 31384 330 <sup>th</sup> Street Bigelow, MN 56117
Doug Anton 2335 West Ridge Road Worthington, MN 56187	Robert Demuth, Jr. 1404 Indian Hill Road Worthington, MN 56187
Caleb Fellows 29856 Plotts Avenue Worthington, MN 56187	Galen Gordon 23797 Oliver Ave. Worthington, MN 56187
Dwayne Haffield City of Worthington P.O. Box 279 Worthington, MN 56187	Les Johnson 28967 Co. Highway 35 Worthington, MN 56187
Ben Krohn 31161 Quine Avenue Worthington, MN 56187	Justin Langseth 35702 280 <sup>th</sup> Street Worthington, MN 56187
Paul Langseth 35505 280 <sup>th</sup> St. Worthington, MN 56187	Eric Roos Worthington Public Utilities P.O. Box 458 Worthington, MN 56187
John Shea 1619 Birchwood Place Worthington, MN 56187	Matt Widboom 22487 Highway 59 Worthington, MN 56187

# OKABENA-OCHEDA WATERSHED DISTRICT

## 2019 Annual Report

### **Wet Year Creates Challenges**

The watershed district received record precipitation for the second year in a row in 2019. While totals varied from place to place in the district, the weather station in Worthington measured 43.51 inches of precipitation – more than 14 inches above the annual average. An area wide federal disaster was declared for damages caused by the rain and snowmelt event in mid-March.

Saturated soils and high rates of runoff caused multiple problems during the year. Fields were flooded, agricultural operations were delayed and crop yields reduced. Construction was delayed and work sites difficult to manage.

The Ocheda Lake level drawdown and dam reconstruction project was delayed by the weather. Stoplogs were removed from the Lake Ocheda dam in late August to lower the water level before construction modifying the dam. The drawdown was successful at lowering the lake below the full service level before construction began in November. The lake's level was about one foot below normal by the end of December.

The Prairie View spillway was damaged again during the March storm. After delays caused by high water, design considerations and busy contractors, the spillway repair was completed in October.

## **2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Clean Water Partnership**

Worthington and the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District formed the Okabena-Ocheda-Bella Clean Water Partnership Joint Powers Organization (JPO) in 1998 to accomplish the goals established by the 1993 Clean Water Partnership Implementation Plan. The governing board consists of two members from the city council, two managers from the watershed district and a city resident appointed at-large.

Since its formation, the JPO has paid annual incentives to install and maintain grass buffer strips, restored a wetland, installed water quality improvement basins, monitored surface water quality, measured lake water levels, and conducted studies on the sediment deposition in Sunset Bay and causes of Lake Okabena's impairments.

A rain and snowmelt runoff event in mid-March damaged the spillway again at the Prairie View site. It was decided to repair the spillway replacing the Flexamat erosion protection with riprap.

The district completed the following JPO activities in 2019:

1. Provided administrative and technical assistance to manage board affairs and structures.
2. Conducted water quality monitoring of Lake Okabena from June through September.
3. Conducted water quality monitoring in Lake Ocheda monthly from June through September.
4. Completed repairs to the Prairie View pond spillway. Applied for FEMA and state disaster assistance to pay for repairs.
5. Completed stabilization of the Prairie View project site and closed the state grant.
6. Issued incentive payments for 130.8 acres of grass filter strips covering 90 percent of the streams in the Lake Okabena sub-watershed.

The district will continue to work with Worthington in 2020 to monitor lake water quality, provide filter strip incentives and maintain the Prairie View project site.

## **Conservation Practices**

The district budgets money annually to install Best Management Practices to prevent flooding, and improve and protect surface water and groundwater resources. Below is a summary of how the money was spent in 2019.

1. Issued 47 CRP filter strip incentive payments totaling \$36,717 and covering 274.8 acres throughout the District. The filter strips protect about 13 miles of stream courses and 14 miles of lake and wetland shorelines.
2. Issued three cost-share payments to seal three wells.

The district will continue to pay filter strip incentives and provide cost-share payments for eligible best management practices in 2020.

## **Lake Ocheda Enhancement**

The Lake Ocheda management plan was approved by the DNR in December 2017. The plan allows for periodic lake level drawdowns to reduce carp populations, improve water quality and promote submerged vegetation. Below are tasks completed in 2019.

1. Stoplogs were removed to lower water levels before dam construction and begin a temporary drawdown.
2. Construction modifying the outlet dam was completed in December to better manage lake levels and exclude rough fish.

Fish screens were installed in the dam in early 2020. Stoplogs will remain out of the dam until March or April to promote the lake level drawdown. The plan management team will meet during late winter 2020 to evaluate the success of the attempted lake level drawdown and develop a plan of action.

## **Lake Okabena Carp Population Analysis and Control Project**

In 2018, Worthington allocated approximately \$52,000 for a multi-year carp population analysis and control project. The Olson Trust board approved approximately \$35,000 more for the project. The following tasks were completed during 2019:

1. Radio telemetry tags were implanted in 15 carp in early May to follow fish movement over the next two years.
2. Tagged carp locations were identified weekly during the spawning season and monthly during the rest of the year.
3. Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags were implanted in carp to better assess the fish population during future removal events.

Ice conditions did not allow for carp removal during December. If the radio telemetry tags show carp congregating in large schools and ice conditions are adequate, carp seining will be attempted during early 2020.

Carp will be tracked again in 2020. Measures to exclude carp from spawning areas will be evaluated and barriers may be installed during the year. Removals will be attempted if the right conditions exist.

## **One Watershed - One Plan**

The district and Nobles County received a One Watershed, One plan grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources in early 2017 for the counties, SWCDs and watershed districts in the Missouri River watershed of Minnesota. Nobles County was the fiscal agent and the district was the grant administrator.

The resulting Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was completed and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources in October, 2019. The district adopted the plan by resolution in December. A joint powers agreement was signed to create the Missouri River Watershed Partnership (MRWP) to implement the plan. The district appointed a manager to the MRWP Joint Powers Board will dedicate the staff time needed to support plan

implementation activities.

### **Public Information and Education**

The district works with partners to provide watershed related educational opportunities for Worthington's residents, area civic groups and schools. Below are the 2019 accomplishments.

1. Sponsored and led educational tours for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students using the Prairie Ecology Bus at the Worthington Prairie Wetland Learning Area.
2. Gave a presentations to the Early Risers and Noon Kiwanis clubs on improving water quality in Okabena and Ocheda lakes.
3. Updated the district website monthly.
4. Worked with Worthington to accomplish educational components of the city's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan including:
  - Distributing three pollution prevention factsheets to Worthington Public Utilities customers.
  - Installing 147 catch basin markers in Worthington.

### **Construction Site Inspections**

The district works with Worthington to require erosion and sediment control permits for construction sites and complete inspections monitoring compliance with watershed district and state required plans. During 2019, the district completed approximately 104 inspections of 15 different construction sites with NPDES stormwater permits in Worthington. District staff communicated regularly with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan responsible parties about installation and maintenance of required Best Management Practices.

### **Boundary Change Approved**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the transfer of approximately 6.4 square miles from the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District to the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District. The boundary change order was issued on June 26<sup>th</sup> and notice of the order was filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **District Property Management**

The district owns 414 acres of land in four locations. Approximately 15 acres is managed as pollinator habitat, with the balance managed for water quality protection, recreational activities and wildlife habitat. At Lake Bella Park, the district operates and maintains the Stateline Dam structure, a boat landing, park shelters, roads and a restroom. Below are the land management activities completed in 2019.

1. Installed riprap around the Lake Bella spillway pool to repair damages done during the 2018 and 2019 high water events.
2. Worked with volunteers from the Okabena Bees 4-H club to pick up litter weekly during spring and summer at Bella Park.
3. Picked up litter and mowed around the picnic shelters and restroom as needed at Bella Park.
4. Completed controlled burn on approximately 20 acres to promote the health of the native prairie vegetation.
5. Cleaned up litter multiple times at the St. John Property.
6. Operated and maintained the fish barrier at the Lake Ocheda dam.

### **Permits and Drainage Project Notifications**

The district reviewed applications and issued permits for twelve projects in 2019 including:

1. Four projects requiring state Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans,
2. Two smaller projects requiring erosion and sediment control plans,
3. Four storm sewer, sanitary sewer and/or watermain projects,
4. One lakeshore stabilization project, and
5. One culvert replacement project.

## Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District 2019 Income and Expenses

### Ordinary Income/Expense

#### Income

Checking Interest	5.07
CWP Reimbursements	9,482.52
District Levy	251,921.50
Insurance Premium Refund	588.00
Local Government Aid	2,020.31
Money Market Account Interest	816.29
Permit Inspection Fees	100.00
Prairie View Project Income	12.27
Property Rent	2,800.00
Storm Water Education	7,098.98

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>274,844.94</b>
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#### Expense

Audits	3,500.00
Bank Transfer	0.00
BMP Cost-Share	900.00
CWP Board Expense Contributions	2,275.00
Education Expenses	1,475.00
Filter Strip Incentives	36,717.00
Insurance and Bonds	3,103.00
Lake Ocheda Enhancement Project	263,859.70
MAWD Dues	2,109.00
MAWD Meeting Expenses	2,425.79
MAWD Tour Expenses	459.76
Office Expenses	4,823.43
Payroll Expenses	88,400.17
Property Maintenance	13,213.40
Property Taxes	7.94
Public Notices	599.07
Storm Water Education Expenses	1,043.48
SWCD Services	5,000.00
Water Quality Projects	1,694.50
Water Sampling	1,740.09

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>433,346.33</b>
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<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-158,501.39</b>
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**Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District  
2019 Income and Expenses (continued)**

<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Disaster Assistance	55,295.77
Lake Ocheda Enhancement	180,000.00
Wells Fargo Checking Interest	<u>1.74</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>235,297.51</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>	
Okabena Carp Population	26,154.99
Prairie View Project	<u>227,652.19</u>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b><u>253,807.18</u></b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b><u>-18,509.67</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u><u>-177,011.06</u></u></b>

**Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2019**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

    District Checking 108,344.96

    Wells Fargo Checking 11,473.45

    Wgtn Federal Money Market Acct. 168,837.02

**Total Checking/Savings** 288,655.43

**Total Current Assets** 288,655.43

**TOTAL ASSETS** **288,655.43**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

**Other Current Liabilities**

    Payroll Liabilities 0.11

**Total Other Current Liabilities** 0.11

**Total Current Liabilities** 0.11

**Total Liabilities** 0.11

**Equity**

    Opening Bal Equity 193,655.50

    Retained Earnings 272,010.88

    Net Income 177,011.06

**Total Equity** 288,655.32

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **288,655.43**