

# Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting  
Approved  
October 2, 2007

President Kutter called the meeting to order. Managers present: Coughlin, Hetland, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Rettig Robinson and Mostad. Others in attendance were Eric Eveslage, Sauk Centre Herald, Attorney, Jerry VonKorff; Lowell Enerson, Administrator; Noah Czech, Inspector Technician and Starla Arceneau, Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The proposed agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Manager Hetland to approve the agenda with additions. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Manager Coughlin made a motion to approve the September 18<sup>th</sup> minutes with the attorney's advice on corrective wording clarifying a motion in the minutes. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Coughlin made a motion to approve checks 16805 thru 16832. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed a yearly maintenance assessment for the Sauk Lake Aquatic Project. Manager Hensley made a motion to certify a \$25,000 assessment. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion died. After considerable discussion Manager Mostad then made a motion to certify the recommended \$50,000 assessment. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Noah Czech reviewed the status of the District's ditches and recommended establishing maintenance funds for 6 out of the 12 ditches the district has jurisdiction over. Czech will send notification to the benefited landowners informing them of the need for a maintenance fund. Manager Rettig made a motion to certify the recommended assessments. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Robinson opposing.

Administrator Enerson informed the board that the internal memory on the districts harddrive is reaching the max of storage space and will need to be updated. Enerson will send the two quotes for the Managers to review before the next meeting. Manager Coughlin mentioned the City of Richmond just purchased a new system that was extremely cheaper and will send the staff the information to compare with the two quotes. The Assistant Administrator mentioned that the district's backup drive was damaged during the September 20<sup>th</sup> storm and would like approval to purchase a temporary backup system for \$130. Manager Robinson made a motion to allocate \$500 for the staff to purchase the temporary backup system. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The calendar and activity report was reviewed.

Manager Coughlin gave a brief description of the City of Richmond's plan for a new section that was just annexed into the city, and have been looking into grants and/or funding to cover the cost to provide services for stormwater, water and sewer. Coughlin mentioned that the City of Richmond might come to the District for a letter of support.

No Budget Committee Report.

No Nominating Committee Report

The Personnel & Salary Committee met before the regular meeting to review three applicants for an Evaluation Specialist. The committees recommended interviewing two consultants and bringing their recommendations back to the next meeting. Manager Coughlin made a motion to allow the Personnel Committee to interview the two recommended consultants. Manager Kral seconded it. After considerable discussion a role call vote was taken: Mostad–Aye, Robinson–Aye, Kuseske–Aye, Hensley–Nay, Kral–Nay, Hetland–Aye, Rettig–Aye and Coughlin–Aye. The motion passed.

Manager Hetland made a motion to abolish all committees and work together as a full board. Manager Rettig seconded. Manager Coughlin suggested a friendly amendment to give it a try for a few months. The motion died.

No Rules Committee Report.

No Weed Harvest Committee Report.

No TMDL Committee Report

No Professional Services Committee Report.

A letter was submitted to get permission to hunt pheasant and deer in the Judicial Ditch 2 sedimentation pond area from October 13 through November 24<sup>th</sup>. Manager Kral made a motion to allow the Olson's permission to hunt pheasants only. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Robinson opposing.

Manager Kuseske mentioned that he was appointed to the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's Board and gave a brief description of the Oberstar bill regarding the Clean Water Act.

Manager Hensley questioned if a letter was ever sent to the landowner requesting reimbursement for the DNR net. Administrator Enerson wrote a letter based on the District's Attorney recommendation that was sent to the individual. As of today the landowner has not responded. Administrator Enerson is working with the area Conservation Officer on the damage to the DNR fish net.

Manager Hensley also questioned a bill for \$309 to the Great Blue Heron for a SRCL TMDL informational meeting. Administrator Enerson informed the board that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant for the SRCL TMDL required an informational meeting that was published in the local paper, but unfortunately, no one attended, so the staff negotiated the actual price of \$600 with the owner and he agreed to reduce the price to \$300 plus tax. The board requested that the Administrator keep the Board informed on the status of previous motions, so they can stay updated.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the District's office had several areas of flooding due to 4.7 inches of rain. The staff showed pictures of the effected areas. Manager Hensley and Kral came to the office and noticed several areas that will need to be addressed. Manager Hetland recommended that the district address the building issues. Manager Hetland made a motion to have the staff hire a building

inspector to inspect the District Building. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Robinson opposing.

The board approved by general consent to purchase totes to file the retention data in the basement.

Manager Robinson made a motion to direct staff to submit a resolution/request for action with an explanation to the board in writing before Board meetings where action is necessary. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Hetland made a motion to close the meeting to discuss litigation procedures. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Attorney VonKorff asked if the District would like to proceed on pursuing the collection for damages already accrued and any further expenses on the Sanctuary Project Litigation. Manager Robinson made a motion to instruct the Attorney to pursue with all the collection for damages. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig  
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau