

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

November 18, 2008

President Kral called the meeting to order. Managers present: Coughlin, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Raeker, Rettig, Rothstein and Mostad. Also present: John Kolb, Attorney; Holly Kovarik, upcoming Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Interim Administrator and Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

After reviewing the items on the consent agenda, a motion was made by Manager Rothstein and seconded by Manager Kuseske and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the said agenda: Restoring Water Resources of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes, Middle Sauk River Water Quality Restoration Project, Treasurer's Report for November 6th, 2008 and Appropriations. The motion passed with all in favor.

The November 6th minutes were reviewed. Manager Hensley made a motion to approve the minutes with the clause that granted authority to the attorney and the president to negotiate with the incoming administrator regarding any changes to the draft contract language. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board tabled Resolution 08-01 & 08-02 until the new Administrator can review it. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Arceneau informed the board that Steve Wischmann was unable to attend the meeting. Arceneau handed out a proposal of the estimated hours needed for training on the information necessary to be completed prior to the audit. Manager Kutter made a motion to table for 30 days to give the new Administrator a chance to review it. Manager Hensley seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board recessed the regular meeting for the public hearing on the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. President Kral asked for public comments. After no public comments, Manager Coughlin made a motion to close the public hearing. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The regular meeting was re-opened.

Manager Rothstein suggested putting an advertisement in the Osakis Resort Association Guidebook. After discussion, Manager Rothstein made a motion to put a \$150 advertisement in the guidebook. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Concerned landowners from County Ditches 26 and 15 attended the meeting to discuss the September 2nd motion that approved an assessment for 10% of the total benefits of each ditch to cover maintenance costs. After considerable discussion, Manager Kutter made a motion to delay the assessment for one year. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Activity Report was reviewed. Arceneau asked for direction on the memo regarding the District's media outlet. Manager Raeker made a motion to table until the new Administrator has an opportunity to review. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Arceneau informed the board that Public Employees Retirement Association has requested Lehmkuhl's and Hjelm's 2007 wages to determine if they qualified for benefits.

The Attorney Report was given by Attorney Kolb. Kolb informed the board that a new request for proposal has been sent to the Minnesota Viewers for estimates on completing a redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 26 and 15.

Kolb reviewed the hold harmless agreement. After discussion Manager Hensley made a motion to allow the cleanout as long as the landowner agrees to sign the agreement drawn up by Rinke-Noonan. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Coughlin opposing.

The rules were discussed. Manager Coughlin made a motion to give Attorney Kolb and Administrator Kovarik authority to set up meetings with Townships, Counties and Cities regarding the rules. Manager Raeker seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Coughlin attended the Stearns County Commissioners meeting to discuss supporting and possible funding Shawn Beauduy's position with the Stearns County Environmental Services. Manager Coughlin made a motion to have Attorney Kolb and Administrator Kovarik sit down with Don Adams to negotiate terms of a partnership between the District and Stearns County Environmental Services. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

President Kral questioned the Interim Administrator's additional pay. The supplemental pay will be eliminated when the new Administrator starts.

The board reviewed the candidates for the Ditch/Permit Coordinator position. The board chose Andrew Dotseth and James Wynnemer as the top two candidates. Administrator Kovarik will complete second interviews and give her recommendation to the board. Arceneau will send letters to all the candidates.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau