

# Sauk River Watershed District

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## Regular Meeting

Approved

November 20, 2007

President Kutter called the meeting to order. Managers present: Coughlin, Hetland, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter Rettig, Robinson and Mostad. Also Present:, Eden Valley residents, County Ditch 26 benefited landowners, Eric Evalange, Sauk Herald; Attorney, Jerry VonKorff; Lowell Enerson, Administrator; Brian Sanoski, Inspector Technician, Adam Hjelm, Education Coordinator, and Starla Arceneau, Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Manager Robinson made a motion to approve the November 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Coughlin abstaining.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Kuseske made a motion to approve checks 16961 thru 17004. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Stearns County Ditch (CD) 26 landowners attended the meeting to ask for more time to review their options regarding the CD 26 assessment. After considerable discussion Manager Hetland made a motion to rescind and expunge the County Ditch 26 and County Ditch 15 assessments and to work toward changing state law to more equitably apply ditch assessments. Manager Coughlin seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Mostad-Nay, Kuseske-Nay, Hensley-Aye, Kral-Aye, Hetland-Aye, Rettig-Aye, Coughlin-Aye and Robinson-Aye. The motion passed. The landowners thanked the board for giving them extra time.

The Eden Valley Public Hearing was opened. Residents were given a chance to give testimony. After all testimony was taken the Public Hearing was closed. The regular meeting was reconvened. Manager Hensley made a motion for a vote to determine what the people in attendance want. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. A vote was taken. Manager Hensley then made a motion to get a legal count for the minutes. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Kuseske opposing. The vote was 24 against and 13 in favor. Attorney VonKorff reminded the board that they cannot decide using tonight's vote but can use the vote to consider declining the project.

Administrator Enerson reviewed an estimate to remove the office mold and asbestos. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve Don McDonald to remove the mold for \$365 and VCI Asbestos Abatement Co. to remove the asbestos for \$3750. Manager Hetland seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Brian Sanoski gave an update on the proposed plugging of a waterway on County Ditch 26. Sanoski informed the board that the waterway is a private ditch no action is needed to clean out that portion of the private ditch.

Brian Sanoski reviewed a permitted project to clean out sediment and debris from a portion of Judicial Ditch 1. Sanoski requested Judicial Ditch 1 maintenance funds pay the landowner \$1500 for the maintenance cost. Manager Robinson made a motion to reimburse the landowner \$1500 after maintenance is completed. Manager Hensley seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The calendar and activity report was reviewed. Administrator Enerson gave estimates for establishing an 800 number. The board tabled until more information can be obtained.

No Budget Committee Report.

No Nominating Committee Report

No Personnel and Salary Committee Report.

Manager Kuseske gave the Rules Committee Report. The staff sent letters to all the cities and townships within the Watershed District to acquire their matrix rules.

Manager Kuseske reviewed two proposed resolutions that will be submitted to the Minnesota Association of Watershed District (MAWD) Board at their annual meeting. After a few updates Manager Mostad made a motion to approve the Duck stamp funding to be used at a rate of eighty percent for land acquisition and twenty percent for local taxes. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Kuseske then made a motion to approve the resolution to provide tax incentives for vegetative buffer strips. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. There was also discussion on Clearwater's resolution to MAWD that allows a watershed district to choose if they want a 15% increase to the Administrative Levy to support funding the TMDL activities. Manager Hensley made a motion not to support this TMDL resolution. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with Managers Coughlin, Hensley, Hetland, Kral and Rettig in favor and Managers Mostad, Kuseske and Robinson against.

No Weed Harvest Committee Report.

No TMDL/Water Quality Committee Report.

No Professional Services Committee Report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig  
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau