

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

March 15, 2005

President Cook called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Hunstiger, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Mostad, Schmidt and Rettig. Others present were Dan Thielen, Harold and Peggy Bethel and Mona Haag, City of Eden Valley; Don Otte, Stearns County Commissioner; John Kolb, Attorney; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator; Lynn Nelson, Environmental Quality Technician.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the February 1 meeting. Manager Mostad stated that he had listened to the tape of the previous meeting and had written a comment that John Kolb made and made a motion to include that comment in the minutes. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Kuseske made a motion to approve the minutes. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Kutter then made a motion to approve the treasurer's report comprised of checks 13802 through 13851. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Eden Valley Mayor Dan Thielen along with Eden Valley representatives attended the meeting to ask about the situation concerning their petition to the Board for the Eden Valley Stormwater Study Project. There was discussion on having the next meeting in Eden Valley to give the public an opportunity to learn more about what the study will entail. Manager Hensley made a motion to have the April 5th meeting in Eden Valley. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Lynn Nelson gave a presentation on the District's Incentive Program. The board thanked Nelson for an informative presentation.

Administrator Klocker gave a presentation on the Stoney Creek Study that was completed by Inter-Fluve this fall. Klocker showed several areas where the incentive program dollars could help fund restoration projects along this creek. We will continue to work with Spring Hill Township and other agencies to implement the recommendations of this plan.

President Cook tabled the resolution to transfer the funds from the Sauk Lake Project to the new Big Sauk Lake Aquatic Plant Harvesting Project to the April 5th agenda.

The Weed Harvest Committee went with Gene Harren to look at a 92-F700 truck with 68,000 miles. The committee recommended to the board to purchase the truck for the Big Sauk Lake Aquatic Plant Harvesting Project. Manager Kral made a motion to purchase the truck. Manager Hensley seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Mostad reviewed pictures of an on-site inspection of a road next to Judicial Ditch 2 that will need to be moved and Commissioner Bales asked if a district permit would be needed for such work. Administrator Klocker mentioned that typically the plans are submitted for the staff to review before determining if a permit is necessary. Manager Hensley made a motion to have the staff send a letter stating such to Commissioner Bales. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

President Cook turned the meeting over to Vice-President Kuseske to ask the board for a letter of support for the Clean Water Legacy. The board supports the concept but has concerns of who will be in charge of distributing the money as well as the method of collecting the fee. The boards approved by general consensus to have staff write a draft letter of support outlining the board's support and concerns for the April 5th meeting.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Lower Sauk Project petition process. Klocker informed the board that she is working with Jeff Hrubes from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on a plan that allows the MPCA to contribute up to \$55,000 to the study without having to complete the TMDL process. Administrator Klocker will continue scheduling with the Board and/or Council's time on their agenda to approve and sign the petition to be brought to the Board.

Administrator Klocker and Greg Berg presented the Melrose Sauk River Park Streambank Restoration project at the MECA conference on March 10 and 11th. At the end of the conference Administrator Klocker and Greg Berg were presented the 2005 Environmental Leadership Award.

Administrator Klocker has been working with Representative Heidgerken and Senator Fischbach to pass through Legislation to increase the general fund.

Administrator Klocker reviewed that she has been working on writing a report with Bruce Wilson and Jeff Hrubes to set a side funding for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes TMDL Study.

Administrator Klocker will be meeting with Chris Meehan on March 17 to review his recommendations to update the Corps of Engineers Alternative Study for Big Sauk Lake. Klocker stated that she recommends that when he is ready to present his findings that he does so at a Board meeting and that members of the lake association, DNR, and MPCA are also invited.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Adult Education she has coordinated with State and County Agencies.

Greg Berg and Administrator Klocker submitted the BWSR Challenge Grant that will focus on sub-watershed assessments and prioritization of the Grand and Sauk Lake areas.

Administrator Klocker is reviewing permit applications for Geneva Estates and Stearns County Highway Department CSAH 17 Road and Bridge replacement. Klocker will give recommendations at the April 5th regular meeting.

Administrator Klocker reviewed an extension for permit 03-12. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to grant the extension on permit 03-12. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker requested to purchase a Zodiac Cadet 285 S to monitor lakes that do not have easy access. Manager Schmidt made a motion to purchase the Zodiac with Survey and Data Acquisition funds. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Attorney Kolb did not have an Attorney's Report.

Manager Hensley informed the board of an upcoming development near Lake Osakis.

Manager Mostad would like to donate \$25 to help cover the cost for Dick Beeson's memorial.

Manager Hunstiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary, Ed Hunstiger
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau