

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

May 2, 2006

President Hensley called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Hermanutz, Mostad, Rettig and Robinson. Also present were: Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Chris Meehan, Wenck Engineering; Joel Dasher, City of Freeport; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the April 18th meeting. Manager Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Cook made a motion to approve checks 15063 thru 15113. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Starla Arceneau, the Office Administrator gave a presentation on the accounting and administration procedures. The board thanked Starla for a very informative presentation.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application from the Stearns County Park Department for maintenance of a culvert under the Wobegon Trail. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve the permit for the Stearns County Park Department. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker and Chris Meehan gave a brief update on the status of the Sanctuary development. Meehan will put together a memorandum for the board to review before the May 16th meeting.

The summer tour committee met on Monday, May 1 to review the draft summer tour agenda and put together a list of responsibilities for each Manager and staff. The committee also hired the entertainment for Friday night's performance. Manager Cook recommended that the board and staff have a special meeting on June 12th at 4:00 to finalize the summer tour. Manager Cook then made a motion to have the special meeting at 4:00 on June 12th for all Managers and Staff. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Managers Robinson & Rettig will not be able to attend the tour.

The rules committee met prior to the meeting and reviewed the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy and the Drainage policy. The committee will work with the Manager Kuseske and Attorney Deter to complete these policies.

Manager Kuseske reported the water level is high on all the ditches.

President Hensley mentioned that with the rain, construction on the west side pond in Osakis is at a stand still. Administrator Klocker reminded the board that the permit for the City of Osakis and MN DOT will expire the middle of June.

Manager Kral has talked with a contractor for repairing the JD 2 sediment pond access road, but has not received the quote at meeting time.

The Calendar was reviewed. The month of May is filling up with Water Festivals and Lake Association meetings. The multi-purpose room is near completion and hopefully our May 16th meeting will be held back at the office.

Administrator Klocker reviewed two options for a color copier. Manager Cook made a motion to complete the 7 month contract with a replacement color copier and pay the \$.085 per copy for the color copies. Manger Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the SRF request for approving two septic systems. Manager Kral made a motion to approve the applicants. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker gave a presentation on the District's mission, achievements, upcoming projects and future goals that need to be reached. The board thanked Administrator Klocker for a very informative presentation.

Attorney Deter gave an update on John Kolb and reported on the Wetland Conservation Act meetings he attended.

President Hensley handed out pictures taken on the flyover Manger Mostad paid for. Manager Hermanutz took over 150 pictures for the summer tour book. The board thanked Mostad and Hermanutz for the flyover pictures.

The board congratulated and thanked Starla Arceneau for working for the District for 16 years.

Manager Hermanutz read a statement that he would like to be part of the minutes. Manager Cook responded that she was asking the whole board for their opinion if Manager Hermanutz was representing the whole board or just representing himself. Manger Hermanutz commented that he was just representing himself and not the whole board. President Hensley recommended that Manager Hermanutz and Cook have a meeting outside of the regular meeting to discuss this further. President Hensley also recommended that the board have an educational training session with the Minnesota Pollution Agency and the Board of Water & Soil Resources to review the district's authority. There was also discussion on how the minutes are prepared and who should review and edit them. Manager Cook then made a motion to insert Manager Hermanutz statement in the minutes. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The statement reads: "Regarding Managers Cook's comments during the last meeting, I would like to make the following comments: As a board member, appointed by the Stearns County Commissioners to represent all the people of the Sauk River watershed, it is my responsibility to participate in the overseeing of the operations of this governing body. To do that, I need to ask questions in order to obtain full information on critical components of the operation, and I need to make comments on those components. As I see it, that is my responsibility as a board member. Hopefully, in time, questions and comments will be reduced. .

I can understand Manager Cook's feeling of frustration in having to frequently listen to issues in which she has no interest or listening to comments to which she disagrees. I probably have no good remedy for that, but I am willing to join in discussion groups and have discussions with her

outside of board meetings to see if we are on the best track for restoring water quality to our watershed.

At the present time I feel we are not on the best track in some critical areas. For example, In cases where permits are required by us, I believe that on recommendation, the board is approving projects that very likely are not providing adequate water quality protection. For instance, if we wish to reduce phosphorous to levels below 40ppb, how do we reach that objective by approving discharges that are above 40 ppb?

I believe that our administrator and consultant need to give the board better and more complete information regarding the issuing of permits. At the present time, often the board is asked to accept "staff recommendations" without being advised of the expected pollution consequences of such an action. I ask the board to consider a worksheet for the administrator and consultant to fill out. It could include items such as what is the expected type, concentration and frequency of the discharged pollutants? Does the design conform to our rules? If it doesn't conform, is there an alternative design we could recommend? Will the system and the discharge water be monitored? Will the system be maintained in a proper manner? Also, the statement "staff recommends" should not be used, if in fact, the staff does not participate in the review process.

Finally, I would like to talk about the procedure for recording minutes. Minutes should be objective and complete. To assure this objectivity, I ask the secretary to allow only the recording secretary to prepare the draft. At the present time, the administrator is assisting in the draft preparation. I believe that such an arrangement runs the risk of compromising objectivity and I think it should be discontinued.

In accordance with the board policy, I ask that the comments I have presented here be included in the minutes. Because of the length of the comments, it is of course at the discretion of the secretary and recording secretary, as to how they shall be included. A referenced attachment would be fine with me."

President Hensley wrapped the conversation up by saying that if a Manager wants his/her comments in the minutes they need to remember to state it so the recording secretary can add it to the minutes.

President Hensley thanked the City of Freeport for the use of their facility.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau