

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

Held at the Sauk Centre City Hall

May 3, 2005

President Cook called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Mostad, Schmidt and Rettig. Manager absent: Hunstiger. Others present were Jeff Hrubes, MPCA; Dan Steward, BWSR; Chris Meehan, Wenck; Rob Sip, Stearns Environmental Services; Tracy Ekola, SEH Engineering; Bob Bjork and Tim Weir, Big Sauk Lake Association. John Kolb, Attorney; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the April 19 meeting. The minutes were approved by general consent with corrections for clarifications.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Kral then made a motion to approve the treasurer's report comprised of checks 13926 through 13962. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Chris Meehan, Wenck Associates, gave a presentation on the updated Big Sauk USACOE Alternative Report. Meehan reviewed six possible aquatic plant management alternatives with cost breakdowns for the board to consider. The board tabled the discussion until they had an opportunity to review the Alternative Report. The board thanked Meehan for an informative presentation.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Lower Sauk Basic Water Management Project petition process. We have received all the petitions except Cold Spring and Waite Park which have been approved but have not been received by the District. Administrator Klocker reviewed resolution 05-03 authorizing financial Assistance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Manager Kuseske made a motion to approve Resolution 05-03. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker and John Kolb gave a presentation on several management options for the board to consider on County Ditch 17 including petitioning for the transfer from a Ditch Authority to a Water Management Authority. Attorney Kolb outlined the steps necessary for the Board to make for this process. Dan Steward mentioned that BWSR may have dollars available for Wetland Restorations. The Board tabled the decision of how to proceed until a future meeting.

Manager Cook will draft a summary on stormwater issues that she learned about at the NAMLS conference for the next meeting.

The board discussed requesting services to appoint an Engineering firm on a retainer. There was considerable discussion on the scope of services needed before appointing an engineering firm. Manager Mostad questioned Administrator Klocker why she has not requested services from other Law Offices like we do for engineering services. Administrator Klocker responded that the board has never directed her to advertise for services from law firms. Administrator Klocker recommended a

committee review the needs of an engineering firms and report to the board. Managers Cook and Kutter were appointed to work with Administrator Klocker.

Manager Kuseske reported on the April 20th Todd County ditch committee meeting. The committee will be working with Kurt Deter and Ron Ringquist on ditch issues.

Manager Kuseske gave his recommendations of using a 112"x75"x40' aluminum galvanized culvert needed to complete the crossing on the Rolf Dean's property. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve Manager Kuseske to use his discretion on the materials needed. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor with Manager Kuseske abstaining.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District's summer tour is scheduled for June 23-25. Managers interested should turn their registrations into the staff.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Eden Valley Project. Klocker has received the preliminary task list from Houston Engineering but has not reviewed it.

Administrator Klocker testified in front of the House on April 26th. The District's bill is now in both the House and Senate Omnibus Bill.

Administrator Klocker asked the board how the staff should address complaints regarding the Judicial Ditch 2 sediment pond assessments. President Cook offered to take the complaints but the board felt that the Administrator can address any further issues. Manager Hensley volunteered to address any complaints from within the City of Osakis.

Administrator Klocker addressed the need for parcel mapping in Todd County. Klocker will bring a proposal to the next regular meeting.

Administrator Klocker reported on a situation where land within the District has been clear cut and a destroyed an Eagle's nest and there will be a future development. Klocker will keep the board updated when more information becomes available

The board reviewed State Revolving Funds for a Shoreland Restoration Project. Manager Hensley made a motion to approve the allocated dollars. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Mostad reported on work completed on the two Weed Harvest trucks.

Manager Mostad reported on the personnel issues that the Employee Committee learned of from the staff, except the Administrator. Mostad discussed that one of the issues was regarding job classification of one employee under the current board policy. The committee agreed that they felt they should seek outside assistance and recommends hiring Bruce Miles \$4000. Manager Mostad made a motion to hire Bruce Miles for \$4000. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Mostad then stated that he had the list of issues from the staff, except the Administrator, and that with the Board's approval he would hand it out copies of the statements. Manager Hensley questioned whether or not the statements would be public information if they were handed out. Attorney Kolb stated that every employee is entitled the rights of due process and that the document should be kept internal as we move through the process with the consultant.

Todd County reappointed Manager Kral for a three-year term on the board.

Manager Rettig reported that on May 12th MPCA will be meeting in Eden Valley to review their Eden/Vails LAP Study Report.

The memorial fund and employee meal reimbursement will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

Jeff Hrubes, MPCA project coordinator, expressed concerns regarding a statement being attributed to him in the April 19th minutes authorizing meal reimbursements. He never made that statement. Hrubes would have to review the workplans, budget and approval process before authorizing meal reimbursements.

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

Acting Secretary, Sharen Kutter
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau