

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

July 18, 2006

Vice-President Kuseske called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Kuseske, Hermanutz, Kral, Robinson, Rettig and Mostad. Manager absent: Kutter and Hensley. Also present were: Chris Meehan, Engineer; Lynn Nelson, Environmental Quality Coordinator; Starla Arceneau, Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Election of Officers was tabled until the August 1st meeting.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the July 5 meeting. Manager Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Manager Hermanutz seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Attorney Deter stopped in to see if there were any issues that will need to be addressed.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Cook made a motion to approve checks 15366 thru 15421. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Dennis Fuchs attended the meeting to discuss a possible Urban Conservationist position that will provide technical and administrative direction and guidance for natural resource conservation projects in communities located in Stearns County. Manager Kral made a motion to allocate \$5,000 per year for 3 years. Manager Hermanutz seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Keith Pilgrim from Barr Engineering gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of Osakis sediment sampling taken on Lake Osakis and Clifford and Faille Lakes. The board thanked Keith for a very informative presentation.

The Budget Committee recommended that the Managers review the proposed budget and be prepared to approve at the August 1st meeting.

The Personnel Committee reviewed Julie Klocker's remaining vacation hours. Managers Mostad and Kral met with Attorney VanKorff on the process of paying the remaining vacation hours to Julie Klocker. Manager Kral made a motion to pay Julie Klocker her accumulated 124 vacation hours. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Cook suggested the personnel committee consider hiring Julie Klocker as a consultant to help the staff with the TMDL's and Lower Sauk Projects. Manager Cook made a motion to have the personnel committee investigate Julie Klocker as a consultant and bring back a possible arrangement at the next regular meeting. Manager Robinson seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Hermanutz Nay, Rettig-Nay, Cook-Aye, Kral-Nay, Robinson-Aye, and Mostad – Nay. The motion failed.

The board reviewed a deadline for the upcoming auditor to finalize the 2005-2006 fiscal year audit. Manager Mostad made a motion to have the fiscal year audit finalized and a report given to the board at the December 19th regular meeting. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Kuseske gave the ditch report. The ditches are extremely low with very little flow. CD6 will be sprayed for thistles. Kuseske met with landowners on lowering a culvert on County Road 33.

Chris Meehan gave a status report on permits. Meehan will complete on-site inspections before the next meeting.

The Calendar was reviewed. Commissioner Bev Bales purchased a cake for tonight's meeting to celebrate 20 years of service.

Minnesota Water's has asked the staff to do a presentation at the upcoming conference in Duluth. Manager Cook made a motion to allow 2 staff members to attend the conference. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Kuseske, Amy Trisko, Melissa Roelike, Bob Bjork, Gene Waldorf and Mike Stewart will be attending River Night on August 3rd; Manager Mostad made a motion to purchase extra tickets if needed to River Night. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Lynn Nelson gave a project update. Nelson asked if legal services could be obtained for the TMDL contracts. Manager Mostad made a motion to have the District's attorney generate the necessary contracts. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Lynn Nelson reviewed the staff work load. Manager Mostad made a motion to allow overtime to finalize projects. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Lynn Nelson reported on three email's that will need to be addressed:

- Dan Jordet requests the district conduct educational meetings with producers around Lake Maria. The board suggested the staff send a formal letter to Mr. Jordet requesting he contact the Stearns County Environmental Services.
- Peter Fandal has requested funds for an environmental study on the north side of Big Fish Lake also known as the former Shultz farm. Manager Cook reported that the Stearns County Water Plan Advisory Committee has also met with Mr. Fandal and informed him that the Water Plan would fund the study if they could obtain the landowners signature agreeing to the study.

- Jason Weinerman from BWSR has asked a board member to attend a formal meeting with Mary Peters regarding the Big Fish Alleyway. Lynn Nelson reminded the board that a motion was passed that the district will no longer work on the Alleyway and asked the board on how they would like to handle this request. Manager Hermanutz will attend the meeting but was directed by the board that the district will not get involved.

The board reviewed the SRF requests. Manager Cook made a motion to approve the applicants. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Hermanutz asked for more information on what kind of project is being approved.

The Office Administrator asked for clarification on who is authorized to sign checks since the election of officers was tabled and the district no longer has an administrator. The checks require three signatures. Managers Kutter, Hensley and Rettig are the three remaining signatures authorized to sign the checks. Manager Kral made a motion to authorize Manager Rettig extra per diem and mileage to come up to the office whenever signatures are needed. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed Amy Trisko's request for a leave of absence until September 5th. Manager Mostad made a motion to approve Amy's leave until September 5th. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Commissioner Hugh Wagner congratulated the district on a successful Summer Tour. He also addressed his concern on why Julie resigned as Administrator. Manager Hermanutz said he would be happy to meet privately with Commissioner Wagner. The board thanked the commissioners present for attending the meeting and addressing their concerns.

Bob Bjork also addressed his concerns on Julie's abrupt resignation. Bjork suggests that the board address the conflicts between the Managers and the Administrator's position before a new administrator is hired. The board thanked Bob for his comments.

Commissioner Neumann also congratulated the District on a successful Summer Tour.

Manager Kral reviewed a bid for \$1829.35 to repair the Judicial Ditch 2 access road. Lynn Nelson will write International Paper and get permission in writing allowing repair to the access road. Manager Robinson made a motion to have Manager Kral work with the contractor to repair the road once International Paper has granted the permission to repair the road. Manager Hermanutz seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Rettig gave an update on the Eden Valley Project. The City Council will be discussing the repayment process at their next meeting.

The board reviewed the proposed notice for the Administrator's position. Manager Robinson made a motion to advertise the Administrator's position. Manager Cook seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The board discussed the salary range to be included in the notice. Manager Mostad made a motion to advertise the salary range at \$42,000 - \$50,000. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Robinson mentioned that the hydrograph from the Sauk River monitoring USGS station in Waite Park shows a 5 to 20% increase in flow in the Sauk River around noon everyday.

Managers Cook, Kuseske & Rettig will be attending the Minnesota Association of Watershed District meeting.

Manager Cook made a motion to adjourn. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig

Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau