

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

September 2, 2008

President Kral called the meeting to order. Managers present: Coughlin, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Raeker, Rettig, Rothstein and Mostad. Also present: Patrick Welle, Bemidji State; Jim Hodgson, MPCA; Jason Weinerman, BWSR; Jim Egan, SRCL Association; CAC members, Dennis Fuchs, Kay Cook, Bob Bjork, and Marie Duncan. Adam Hjelm, Heather Lehmkuhl, Starla Arceneau, Interim Administrator and Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Arceneau introduced Marie Duncan who is interested to be on the Advisory Committee. Manager Kutter made a motion to appoint Marie Duncan to the Advisory Committee. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

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

After reviewing the items on the consent agenda, a motion was made by Manager Coughlin and seconded by Manager Raeker carried unanimously to approve the following items on the said agenda: August 19 minutes, Treasurer's Report, State Revolving Funds and Appropriations. The motion passed with all in favor.

Jim Hodgson and Pat Welle gave a PowerPoint presentation on the final results of the Willingness to Pay Survey. The board thanked Hodgson and Welle for their presentation.

Manager Coughlin handed out the Employee Performance Appraisals and Employee Self Evaluation Forms for discussion at the next board meeting.

The Activity Report was reviewed. Arceneau reviewed a proposal for the Weed Harvester and the ditch Assessments for 2009. Manager Hensley made a motion to assess a one year assessment for 10% of the total benefits for each ditch to cover maintenance costs. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Coughlin opposing.

Dennis Fuchs gave the CAC Report. Fuchs handed out information Paul Hetland presented to the CAC in regards to establishing a checklist of Birds of the Sauk River, a field guide to the Sauk River and a possible Sauk River Natural History Center. Hetland will present his ideas to the Friends of the Sauk River at their annual meeting on September 13, 2008. The CAC recommends that the board re-evaluate two policies. (The time clock and the personnel handbook stating that employee's are at will employees).

The board reviewed dates to meet with Sharon Klumpp and Jim Egan. Egan reviewed the time line process for hiring a new Administrator. The board will meet with Egan on September 18 at 7:00 pm. Arceneau will confirm either September 16 or 18 meeting with Sharon Klumpp.

Manager Coughlin questioned the wording in the approved pay equity report regarding the Assistant Administrator's wage. Manager Coughlin made a motion to approve Arceneau's new pay equity wage retroactive to July 1st and that the Administrator's compensation pay be in addition to her wage. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed a new pay equity report that clarifies Melissa Roelike as the Monitoring/Admin Assistant and promoting Heather Lehmkuhl to the Monitoring Coordinator. Manager Coughlin made a motion to accept the new pay equity rates presented for the Mon/Adm Assistant Group VI step 6 at \$16.73 and Monitoring Coordinator Group VIII step 0 at \$14.58. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Kuseske opposing.

The proposed budget was reviewed. The preliminary budget needs to be certified to the Auditor by September 15, 2008. Manager Kutter made a motion to accept the budget as written. Manager Mostad seconded it. Manager Hensley opposed the budget as presented because of he felt there is an \$80,000 cushion. Manager Coughlin then amended the made motion to add \$10,762 for Youth Education and \$45,200 for Adult Education to the presented budget. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with Manager Hensley opposing. A vote was taken on the first motion to accept the budget as written. The motion passed with Manager Hensley opposing.

The Request for Proposals for an audit firm to complete the July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 Fiscal Year Audit. Manager Coughlin made a motion to hire Kern DeWenter Viere for \$14,950. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

John Kolb gave a brief Attorney's report. Kolb suggested the board work with the new auditor to establish a longer term relationship. Kolb apologized for not taking care of the Jeff Brown request sooner but will send the letter to the Interim Administrator to distribute to the board. Due to the late meeting Kolb will report more at the next regular meeting he attends.

Manager Rothstein will give a presentation at the next regular meeting.

Manager Kuseske suggested setting up an informational meeting with County Ditch 9 landowners. Manager Coughlin made a motion to set up a County Ditch 9 informational meeting. Manager Rothstein seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Virgil Rettig
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau