

Watershed District Meeting
MINUTES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Located at: Sauk River District Office, Sauk Centre, MN, 6:00 p.m.

Managers Present:	Gary Barber, Larry Ladwig, Donavon McKigney, Bill Becker, Scott Klatt, Paul Hartmann, Lee Bautch, Scott Wittkop, Emily Wolf
Staff Present:	Scott Henderson, Administrator; Zach Burmeister, Attorney; Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager; Jon Roeschlein, Ditch & Permit Coordinator
Guests Present:	Jerry Rapp, Cody Rogahn, Randy Neumann, Steve Wischmann, Dave Wanderscheid, Mary Wanderscheid, Roger Uhlenkamp, Greg Duchene, Tim Massman, Leo McKigney, Dana McKigney, Matt Symalla, Jerry Zabinski
Manager's Absent:	

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:00 p.m. and a legal notice regarding the lift of COVID restrictions and the return to in-person meetings was read. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda items** – President Becker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. There were none. **Manager Barber made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes**
 1. Checks for May
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. May 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status

Manager Ladwig made a motion to approve the consent agenda with 1 typographical correction to the minutes. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Henderson and staff*
 - a. Administration
 - i. 2020 Financial Audit Presentation, Steve Wischman, BerganKDV – Scott Henderson, Administrator, introduced Steve Wischman from BerganKDV to present the final 2020 audit. **Manager Barber made a motion to accept the**

2020 Audit. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.

- ii. Stearns County SWCD Letter of Support – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, informed the board that the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is requesting letters of support for their FY2022 Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) grant application. The district partnered with the SWCD during the planning and provided monitoring data for the focus area. The grant application is now for implementation funding. **President Becker made a motion to approve the letter of support to the Stearns SWCD for the FY2022 Mississippi River Basin Initiative. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**

b. Projects and Programs

i. Project 349-Getchell Creek Stabilization

1. Engineering Report – Boser presented the Getchell Creek Stream Stabilization Phase I Engineer’s Report from Houston Engineering and gave a brief background of the initiation of the project.
2. Update – Boser informed the board that the engineer’s report identified stream stabilization work downstream of Getchell Lake as the main focus. The cost of project implementation is eligible for funding through existing grant funds and donor funding as long as the work is completed before December 31, 2021 when the grant funding expires. In order to successfully complete the stream stabilization, the District will need to acquire approximately 5 acres of easements through voluntary negotiations. The board will need to determine the rate and funding source as it is not eligible for grant or donor funding. Staff recommends using project tax levy to compensate the landowners. There was discussion on how to determine the value of the lands and to use county data and land use type. **President Becker made a motion to cap the highest value of the land at \$5061 with negotiations pertinent to the type of land funded by project tax levy. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.** Boser will be looking into land rates in that area and will be offering accordingly.

ii. Project 2001-01-JD 2 Sedimentation Ponds

1. Funding Discussion Continued – Administrator Henderson presented different scenarios that would depict how an assessment⁵ using part tax levy and part current benefitted area would look. There was discussion but no conclusion. **Manager Ladwig made a motion to table discussion to a future date. The motion was seconded by Manager Barber. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager Wolf against.**

c. Committees

- i. Citizen Advisory Committee – No comments.
- ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, McKigney – No comments.
- iii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Ladwig, Wolf – No comments.
- iv. Education/Outreach – Managers Bautch, Wolf – No comments.
- v. Budget – Managers Barber, Becker, McKigney – No comments.

5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
 - a. Draft 2022 Budget
 - b. New Manager Appointments

6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
 - a. Regular Board Meetings
 1. Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting
 2. Tuesday, August 17, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

 - b. Other Meetings
 1. None

7. **Adjourn Regular Board Meeting – Manager Bautch made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Barber. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
MINUTES**

1. **The Drainage Authority meeting was called to order by President Becker at 7:10 p.m.**

2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. Administrator Henderson added a discussion item under Stearns County Ditch 17. **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Manager Ladwig. The motion passed with all in favor.**

3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period**

4. **Reports**
 - a. Stearns County Ditch 17
 - i. Findings and Order - Administrator Henderson read the Findings and Order Dismissing Proceedings for Stearns County Ditch 17. **Manager Klatt made a motion to adopt the Findings and Order Dismissing Proceedings for Stearns County Ditch 17. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. Roll call vote was taken. Barber-aye, Bautch-aye, Hartmann-aye, Klatt-aye, Ladwig-aye, McKigney-aye, Wittkop-aye, Wolf-abstain, Becker-abstain. The motion passed with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions.**
 - ii. Letter from Landowners – Administrator Henderson read a letter from landowners Matt Symalla and Jerry Zabinski. It was suggested that a letter be sent to landowners explaining the current actions taken by the board.

 - b. Stearns/Pope JD 1, Pope CD 6 and CD 11
 - i. CSAH 33 and Krantz Lake Dike Repair – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, informed the board that the culvert under CSAH 33 has been lowered

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- and seems to be working well. The Krantz Lake dike is also finished with the exception of the cap that belongs on the top of the weir.
- ii. Culvert Repair Costs – Roeschlein provided a summary table of estimates to conduct repairs of culverts in the Pope County ditches. There was discussion on the types of culverts to be used and the possibility of some not being readily available. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to proceed with bidding the culvert replacements on Pope County Ditches 6 and 11, and JD 1. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - iii. JD 1 Repair Request – Roeschlein informed the board that landowners along JD 1 are requesting the Drainage Authority to proceed with a portion of the ditch repair from the beginning to 490th Street as soon as possible. The estimated cost of this work is expected to be \$235,000. **Manager McKigney made a motion to submit bids for the full repair of JD 1. The motion was seconded by Manager Ladwig. The motion passed with all in favor.** Manager McKigney spoke about a phased approach for CD 6 to provide some relief to landowners having flooding problems. Administrator Henderson will put this on the July agenda for discussion.
- c. Future Drainage Authority Meetings
 - i. Separate the meetings into two different days/times – There was brief discussion on separating the regular meeting and drainage authority meetings to separate nights. Manager Wolf asked for the Citizen Advisory Committee’s opinion. President Becker asked Administrator Henderson to put in on the next meeting agenda when there will potentially be new board members.
 - d. Ditch and Permit Manager
 - i. Monthly Report-written report
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings**
 - a. Draft assessments for collection starting in 2022.
 6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
 - a. Other Meetings
 7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Ladwig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. The motion passed with all in favor.**