



**Watershed District Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

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

Managers Present:	Donavon McKigney, Bill Becker, Scott Klatt, Paul Hartmann, Lee Bautch, Scott Wittkop, David Zerr, Kevin Lahr, Curt Botner
Staff Present:	Scott Henderson, Administrator; John Kolb, Attorney; Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager; Jon Roeschlein, Ditch & Permit Coordinator
Guests Present:	Bruce Magnus, Janice Hauri, Bonnie Olson, Doreen Kopel, Dave Sandvik, Jerry Rapp, Steve Malz, Mike Zimmermann, Ken Rutten, Susan Capitola, Melissa Dilley, Jeremy Stover, Allan Gregory, Randy Neumann, Dana McKigney, Leo McKigney
Manager's Absent:	

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:00 p.m. 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 Klatt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes**
 1. Checks for July
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. July 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status

Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the additions to the minutes. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Henderson and staff*
 - a. **Projects and Programs**
 - i. **Project 2001-01 – JD2 Sedimentation Ponds**
 1. **Final Payment Request-Outlet Stabilization** – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented a technical memo to recommend the final payment to Blackstone Contractors for work completed through March 12, 2021, for construction of the JD 2 Sedimentation Pond outlet repair

project. **Manager McKigney made a motion to approve the final payment to Blackstone Contractors. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**

2. JD 2 Project Team Update – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, informed the board of her plan for the JD 2 project team and who she will be reaching out to for inclusion on the committee.
 3. Miller Bay Update – Administrator Henderson informed the board that Todd County received a shoreland alteration permit application from the property owners of Miller Bay. Todd County discussed doing a split of the costs between the County, Watershed District, and landowners. They also discussed the need to multiple estimates to ensure fair pricing. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to authorize the District to pay \$50,000 for the Miller Bay clean up. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr.** There was considerable discussion. **Roll call vote was taken: Bautch-nay, Botner-nay, McKigney-nay, Hartmann-aye, Wittkop-nay, Lahr-aye, Zerr-aye, Klatt-nay, and Becker-nay. Motion fails.** President Becker made a motion that a financial decision be made after the landowners get a scope of work and bids based off of that. **The motion was seconded by Manager Botner. Roll call vote was taken: Bautch-nay, Botner-aye, McKigney-aye, Hartmann-nay, Wittkop-nay, Lahr-nay, Zerr-nay, Klatt-nay, and Becker-aye. Motion failed.** Manager Lahr made a motion to amend Manager Hartmann’s original motion to authorize the District to pay \$30,000 for the Miller Bay clean up and have a hold harmless clause. **The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. Roll call vote was taken: Bautch-aye, Botner-nay, McKigney-nay, Hartmann-aye, Wittkop-aye, Lahr-aye, Zerr-aye, Klatt-aye, and Becker-aye. The motion passed with 7 in favor, 2 against.** Attorney Kolb will work with staff to create the reimbursement and hold harmless agreement with the landowners
- ii. Project 349 – Getchell Creek Stabilization
 1. Update – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, updated the board on the stream stabilization project. Three landowners indicated that they wanted to move forward with the proposed stabilization projects. It is anticipated that the construction work will begin in November and completed prior to December 31, 2021.
 - iii. Sauk River 1W1P
 1. BWSR Central Committee Meeting – Boser informed the board that staff presented at Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Central Region Committee on August 4th. The presentation went well and the BWSR staff recommended approval of the plan. It will be up for full BWSR approval at the August 26th BWSR Board Meeting.
 - iv. Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy Report/TMDLs

1. Update – Boser gave an update on the TMDL/WRAPS project. The TMDL from data collected in 2018-2019 is currently going through an internal staff review process. The TMDL study identifies the reductions needed to bring the water body to a healthy or unimpaired state. The WRAPS report is in the writing stage and will be going through an internal review process within the next couple of months.

v. External Funding

1. Grants Update – Boser updated the board on grant opportunities that staff is working on. They are Lessard Sam’s Outdoor Heritage Funds, Clean Water Funds and a CIG grant.
2. Cold Spring Fen CPL Grant – Boser gave the board an update on the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for the Cold Spring Fen Project and provided photos of the finished project.

b. Administration

Public Hearing @ 6:10 p.m. – 2022 Preliminary Budget – President Becker opened the public hearing. Administrator Henderson informed the board that a preliminary budget must be sent to the counties by September 15, at which time the amount can be decreased but not increased. Henderson presented a table that listed the District’s tax rate in comparison to other taxing entities in the area as well a table that listed how the levy would potentially affect various property types. President Becker opened up the public comment portion of the hearing. There was no public comment. **Manager Bautch made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor. President Becker made a motion to approve the preliminary budget. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**

- i. Zimmermann 103F Buffer Enforcement – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, updated the board on the Zimmermann 103F Buffer Enforcement. He provided a response from Ben Ruley, Stearns SWCD, in regards to alternative practices for a public drainage system. Stearns SWCD is willing and available to help with this investigation but has to wait until harvest to get onsite and develop a plan.
- ii. Board Committees – Will be discussed at a future meeting due to time.

c. Committees

- i. Citizen Advisory Committee – No comments.
- ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, and McKigney – No comments.
- iii. Rules – Manager Klatt – No comments.
- iv. Education/Outreach – Managers Bautch– No comments.

5. Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest

- a. LSOHC Sauk River Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase 3 Public Hearing

6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**

- a. Regular Board Meetings
 1. Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting
 2. Tuesday, October 19, 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 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. 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 7:33 p.m.**
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. There was an addition of CD 9 Allan Gregory. **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – Allan Gregory spoke about damages he received on CD 9. Dana McKigney, Dan Grundman, and Greg Duchene spoke about the Pope County ditches.
4. **Reports**
 - a. Stearns County Ditch 6
 - i. Todd Malecha-Landowner Presentation – Landowner Todd Malecha presented pictures and provided explanations of each picture and opinions of what should be done on the ditch. Attorney Kolb gave a chronology of what’s taken place and clarified points that were made in the presentation.
 - ii. Bid packages and estimates for various repair proposals – Administrator Henderson read a memo regarding the board motion from the July meeting to do a full repair on JD 1 and to replace all of the culverts on all three Pope County ditches. Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented a table of options and estimated project costs. **President Becker made a motion to go out for bids. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager McKigney abstaining.**
 - b. Drainage Assessments
 - i. Draft assessments for certification and payment starting in 2022 – Administrator Henderson presented a memo to the board that highlighted the need for some of the ditches to assess, along with the amount and recommended number of years. **Manager Bautch made a motion to not certify the assessment for CD 17. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed**

with 7 in favor, 2 against. Manager Hartmann made a motion to certify the assessment for CD 24. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor. President Becker made a motion to table the assessment on the Pope Ditches until the bids are received. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager McKigney abstaining.

- c. Ditch and Permit Manager
 - i. Monthly Report-written report

 - d. CD 9 Allan Gregory – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented a repair report for the Allan Gregory property on CD 9. He suggested 2 resolutions to the problem. One solution would be the Drainage Authority would hire out and the other option would be Gregory doing the work with the Drainage Authority paying damages based on the actual cost to perform the work. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to hire a contractor to mow the tall vegetation over the ruts, lightly till and drag the damaged area to level it and then reseed it as necessary. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with majority in favor, 1 against.**
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings**
- a. None at this time.
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
- a. Other Meetings
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Wittkop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**