

Watershed District Meeting
MINUTES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

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

Managers Present:	Donavon McKigney, Bill Becker, 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:	Greg Knowles, Roger Uhlenkamp, Steve Notch, Cody Rogahn, Todd Malecha, Jennifer Olson, Bridget Osborn, Lance Kalthoff, Jason Lina, Greg Duchene, Dana McKigney, Leo McKigney, Miller Bay landowners, and Mark Origer.
Manager's Absent:	Scott Klatt

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 Zerr 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 August
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. August 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status

Manager McKigney made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the additions 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. **Projects and Programs**
 - i. **Project 2001-01 – JD2 Sedimentation Ponds**
 1. **Inspection Report** – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented the current Inspection Report for the JD 2 Sediment Ponds. He informed the board that there was evidence of traffic on the property and that the “No Trespass” sign had been removed. There was

discussion on other possible options, such as fencing the property in or putting up cameras. Roeschlein emphasized that if anyone is interested in seeing the ponds, they should call the office and set up a visit with a staff person.

2. JD 2 Project Team Update – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, informed the board that an email had been sent out to partners inviting them to participate in the project team process. An invite will be sent to landowners next.
 3. Miller Bay Update – Boser updated the board that Todd County will incorporate the Districts permit conditions within their permit. The DNR will also issue a permit. The number of landowners now interesting in utilizing the funding or doing the project has changed. Boser will work with the landowners and Kolb to modify the agreement.
- ii. Project 349 – Getchell Creek Stabilization
1. Design Plan – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, gave a brief summary of the project. Boser presented design plans and informed the board that requests for quotes will be going out soon with plans that the construction could begin around November 1st. The project is being funded by grants, donor funds, and matching funds towards the grant from the District.
- iii. Sauk River 1W1P
1. Update and workshop scheduling – Sarah Jo Boser told the board that the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) created through the One Watershed, One Plan process was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on August 26, 2021. The District and nine local partners now have 120 days to approve the plan and the Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement at their local board level. Boser would like to hold a workshop before the next regular meeting to provide a summary of the plan and the corresponding agreement.
- b. Permits
- i. Permit #20-049 – Permit extension – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, asked the board to approve an extension of an existing permit dated October 6, 2020. **President Becker made a motion to approve the 1 year extension of permit #20-049 to October 6, 2022. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - ii. Permit #21-032 – Requirements Exception Request – Roeschlein presented a permit from Stearns County requesting an exception to the rules. Roeschlein went through the proceedings worksheet for granting/not granting the exception. **President Becker made a motion to vote yes to question A. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor. President Becker made a motion to vote yes to question B. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Bautch made a motion to vote yes to question C. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor. President Becker**

made a motion to vote yes to question D. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor. The exception was granted.

c. Administration

- i. District Administrator resignation and transition – Administrator Henderson read his letter of resignation to the board. **President Becker made a motion to accept Jon Roeschlein as the interim Administrator upon Administrator Henderson’s leave. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.** President Becker said he would call a meeting of the executive committee to discuss additional compensation for Roeschlein as interim administrator. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to post for the Administrator position. The motion was seconded by Manager Botner. The motion passed with majority in favor, President Becker against.**
- ii. Board and Conference Room Rental Use – Boser presented a memo regarding groups using either of the conference rooms. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to charge outside groups (partners, agencies, consultants, businesses, lake associations, etc.) that are not within the Sauk River Watershed District \$50 to rent the conference room, and groups within the District can use it at no charge. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- iii. Board Committees – Administrator Henderson updated committee members based on which committees they were most interested in.

d. Committees

- i. Citizen Advisory Committee – No comments.
- ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, and McKigney – No comments.
- iii. Rules – Manager Klatt, Lahr, Bautch – No comments.
- iv. Public Relations/Education – Managers Wittkop, Zerr, Botner– No comments.

5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**

- a. LSOHC Sauk River Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase 3 Public Hearing
- b. Wocken Property Update
- c. August Engineering Check inquiry

6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**

- a. Regular Board Meetings
 1. Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting
 2. Tuesday, November 16, 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 7:06 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 7:11 p.m.**
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. There were none. **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – Greg Duchene discussed drainage issues he has. Attorney Kolb and Manager Lahr discussed history of that area. **President Becker closed the comment period.**
4. **Reports**
 - a. Pope CD 6 and Stearns/Pope JD 1
 - i. Todd Malecha-Observations – Landowner Todd Malecha showed the board areas of the ditch that needed maintenance.
 - ii. CSAH 33 Culvert History – Manager Lahr gave a history of the CSAH culvert.
 - iii. Returned Bids Awards – CD 6 Culverts and Repair from CSAH 33 to Branch 2 and JD 1 Repair – Roeschlein reviewed the bid recommendations for the replacement of culverts on Cd 6 from ISG. Bids came in higher than expected due to the prices of pipe going up exponentially. **President Becker made a motion to approve the estimate for bid alternate from MBC Drainage for culvert replacement on Pope CD 6 for \$283,300. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager Botner voting against and Manager McKigney abstaining.** Administrator Henderson and Roeschlein reviewed the bid recommendations for the scaled back repairs to CD 6 from ISG. **President Becker made a motion to approve the estimate for Bid alternate 2 from MBC Drainage for the ditch repairs to CD 6 for \$146,977.50. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager Botner voting against and Managers McKigney and Lahr abstaining.** Roeschlein reviewed the bid recommendations for the scaled back repairs to Pope/Stearns JD 1. **President Becker made a motion to approve the estimate for Base Bid from MBC Drainage for the ditch repairs to Pope/Stearns JD 1 for \$274,190. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with majority in favor, Manager Botner against, and Managers Lahr and McKigney abstaining.**
 - iv. Draft Assessment – Administrator Henderson provided information to the board to aid the Drainage Authority in approving assessments for the Pope County Ditches and Pope/Stearns JD 1. **Manager Botner made a motion to do a 20 year assessment at 2.5% interest for CD 6 at \$1,225,000, Pope CD 11 at \$200,000, and Pope/Stearns JD 1 at \$980,000. The motion was not seconded. Manager Hartmann made a motion to assess Pope CD 11 \$229,000 for 20**

years at 2.5%, CD 6 \$1,200,000 for 20 years at 2.5%, Pope/Stearns JD 1 \$1,082,000 for 20 years at 2.5%. The motion was seconded by President Becker. The motion passed with majority in favor, Managers Botner and Lahr against, Managers McKigney abstaining.

- b. Stearns CD 9
 - i. Allan Gregory – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, reviewed the Repair Report for the Allan Gregory property. Mr. Gregory is requesting damages for crop loss. Roeschlein suggests payment of \$1,000 for damages. **Manager Botner made a motion to accept staff recommendation to pay Allan Gregory \$1,000 in damages. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - c. Drainage Policy
 - i. Updates and amendments – Roeschlein informed the board that beaver are a continuing problem and that the current bounty of \$50 isn't attractive to trappers. He suggested an increase in compensation and provided his draft policy update for approval. **President Becker made a motion to approve the beaver bounty update to the drainage policy as presented with an increase of \$200 per tail as well as changing the acronym of the Drainage Authority to SRDA and name to Sauk River Drainage Authority. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - d. Ditch and Permit Manager
 - i. Monthly Report-written report
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 – President Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**