



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

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

Managers Present:	Bill Becker, Paul Hartmann, Scott Wittkop, David Zerr, Scott Klatt, Curt Botner, Kevin Lahr, Lee Bautch, Donavon McKigney
Staff Present:	John Kolb, Attorney; Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager
Guests Present:	Randy Neumann, Jerry Rapp, Tim Kalina, Cody Rogahn, Darren Mayers, J Heinen, Leon Duchene
Manager’s Absent:	

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – 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 was the addition of acknowledgement of the delivery of the order to come in to compliance on the buffers for Kenneth Zimmermann. **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with that addition. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. 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 17th, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status Summary

Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*
 - a. Projects
 - i. CWMP Update-Biennial Work plan – Administrator Roeschlein gave an update on the Comprehensive Water Management Plan. He indicated that the biennial work plan was drafted and has been circulated to all collaborative partners for their boards review and approval. He referenced a copy of the work plan that was included in the manager’s board packets and recommended that the board approve the resolution for the work plan adoption. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the CWMP biennial work plan for 2022-2023. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**

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- ii. BSLA Carp Management Project - Roeschlein discussed a request from the Big Sauk Lake Association to partner with them on a carp management grant to be applied for through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. He noted that the project aligns very well with the Comprehensive Water Management Plan goals and objectives. He also indicated that the Big Sauk Lake Association has agreed to do all of the work associated with the grant management and reporting with the SRWD serving as the pass through agency. Workload on the District would be minimal. **President Becker made a motion to approve the board to serve as the public sponsor in partnership with the Big Sauk Lake Association carp management grant. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with the majority in favor and one against.**
 - iii. Long/Higgins Lake – The representatives from Long Lake have asked that the board would consider being the local sponsor for a flood damage reduction grant from the State of Minnesota. Discussion about doing so ensued. The board requested that Roeschlein provide them the study that was completed on this outlet and to schedule it for the next board to meeting to have further discussion.
- b. Administration
- i. 2021 Audit Report Presentation – Representatives from BerganKDV were on site to present the 2021 Audit of the SRWD funds. **Manager Zerr made a motion to accept the 2021 Audit. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - ii. Water Resource Manager Position Update – Roeschlein gave a brief update on the Water Resource Position. The District has one candidate that they’d like to interview on June 27th.
 - iii. Budget Committee Report – Roeschlein reported to the board that the Budget Committee met to review and rework numbers on the draft budget for 2023. This preliminary budget will be presented to the full board for their review at the July meeting. The goal will be to adopt a draft preliminary budget for a public hearing in August. Once that hearing is complete, the board will need to adopt the preliminary budget so that it can be certified to the Counties before September 15th.
 - iv. Manager Lahr wanted it noted in the official record that he did deliver the order for the Zimmermann’s to install alternative practices or install the 16 ½ foot required buffer on Stearns County Ditch 51. A copy of the signed receipt is on file in the Sauk River Watershed District Office.
 - v. Monitoring – Allison Lightfoot, Monitoring Coordinator, presented a memo to the board in regard to what she’s been seeing this spring for water quality issues and concerns.
 - vi. Public Education – Adam Hjelm, Public Outreach Coordinator, provided website analytics for the board’s review.
- c. Committees
- i. Citizen Advisory Committee – No report
 - ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, McKigney – Lightfoot memo

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- iii. Rules – Managers Bautch, Klatt, Lahr - No report
 - iv. Public Relations/Education – Managers Botner, Wittkop, Zerr - Website analytics.

5. Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest

- a. Board Workshop - July 19th, 2022 – 2-Stage Ditch Design – Eric Jones from Houston Engineering will be presenting to the Board.
- b. Tentative – September 20th, 2022 – St. Cloud Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour – Board Meeting there? Roeschlein asked the board if they would be interested in a tour of the St. Cloud Wastewater Treatment Plant and to hold the board meeting there in September. By consensus of the board, Administrator Roeschlein was asked to set that up.

6. Upcoming Meetings to be Announced

- a. Regular Board Meetings
 - 1. Tuesday, July 19th, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
 - 2. Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- b. Other Meetings
 - 1. None

- 7. Adjournment of the Regular Meeting - Manager Zerr made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:04 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 7:05 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 Wittkop made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – Leon Duchene discussed the vegetation issue in JD 1 and the upper part of CD 6 and asked that the board consider removal of the vegetation as it's serving as an obstruction to the ditch system. This item is on the agenda for discussion.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **CD 15**
 - i. **Dirkes Crossing** – Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager, discussed the Dirkes crossing on CD 15. His memo recommended that the Drainage Authority repair it in a similar fashion to how the repairs are being done on the Jerry Gill crossing. **President Becker made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the repair of the crossing with the costs being paid with ditch funds. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - b. **JD 1**
 - i. **Submergent vegetation blockage** – Administrator Roeschlein indicated that there is a submergent vegetation problem in JD 1 downstream from where the excavation has stopped down to CD 6 where branch 2 connects. Roeschlein reported that those areas were not contracted for any excavation due to the fact that they are already at or below legal grade and that the repair was scaled back due to cost concerns. Landowners have reported that JD 1 had functioned very well this spring after the cleaning was complete and before any submergent vegetation appeared. Roeschlein recommended that the Drainage Authority proceed with removal of the vegetation but to proceed in such a manner that all permitting agencies are well aware of what we are doing as this is a deviation of the previously approved repair. Roeschlein suspected that this is the type of thing that happened back in the mid 90's that caused the legal issues that were dealt with at that time. **President Becker made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with vegetation removal in the areas indicated on the map that was circulated and to hold off on any crossing repairs on JD 1 until after the vegetation has been removed. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor**
 - c. **Ditch and Permit Manager**
 - i. **Monthly Report** – Discussion was held regarding CD 6 staking. Gruber has resolved the issue of the staking that was incorrectly completed for the repair of CD 6. He then gave his monthly report.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings - None**



6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
 - i. Tuesday, July 19th, 2022– Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
 - ii. Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 – Regular Drainage Authority Meeting

7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Bautch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.**