



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting  
 MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022**

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

<b>Managers Present:</b>	Bill Becker, Paul Hartmann, Scott Wittkop, David Zerr, Scott Klatt, Curt Botner, Kevin Lahr, Lee Bautch, Donavon McKigney
<b>Staff Present:</b>	John Kolb, Attorney; Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Randy Neumann, Jerry Rapp, Tim Kalina, Cody Rogahn, Chuck Boser, Erik Jones, Megan Jacob, Greg Duchene
<b>Manager’s Absent:</b>	

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 were additions of an update on the water resource manager vacancy and an update on Miller Bay. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with additions. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes
    1. Checks for June
    2. Receipt Book
    3. Revenue Guideline
    4. Cash Balances
    5. Expenditure Report
    6. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
    7. Permit Status Summary

**Manager Bautch made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  
4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*
  - a. Administration
    - i. Oath of Office-Becker, Klatt, McKigney – Managers Becker, Klatt and McKigney recited and signed their oaths of office. They also signed the bond paperwork.
    - ii. Draft Preliminary 2023 Budget, Ditch Assessments – Roeschlein presented the draft preliminary 2023 budget for discussion. **Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the draft preliminary 2023 budget to be presented at the public hearing on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.** The board discussed the draft assessments for Stearns CD 17 and CD 24. **Manager Zerr made a motion approve a preliminary assessment for CD 17 in the amount of \$31,500 and a**

---

**preliminary assessment for CD 24 in the amount of \$35,000, to be presented at public hearing on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**

- iii. Permit #22-014 Exception Request – The Board proceeded with an Exception Request from the City of Sauk Centre for permit application #22-014. In order to grant the exception, the board had to affirmatively answer 4 questions. Do special conditions apply to the applicant’s property that do not apply generally to other property within the District? **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve by majority vote that special conditions do apply to the applicant’s property. The motion was seconded by President Becker. The motion passed with all in favor.** Is there undue hardship to the applicant, as distinguished from mere inconvenience, if the strict letter of the rules is carried out? **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve by majority vote that there is undue hardship if the rules are carried out. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.** Will the proposed activity for which the exception is sought not adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare; or not create extraordinary public expense; and will not adversely affect water quality, water control, or drainage in the District? **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve by majority vote that the project will not adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare and not create extraordinary expense, and will not affect water quality, control or drainage in the District. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.** Is the intent of the District’s rules met? **Manager Wittkop made a motion to approve by majority vote that the intent of the District’s rules are met. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  - iv. Zimmermann 103F.48 Buffer Compliance Order – Administrator Roeschlein reported that the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has certified that the Zimmermann’s are in compliance with Minnesota State statute 103F.48 and have installed their alternative practices as required. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the Findings and Order Regarding Completion of Corrective Action for Buffer Compliance under Statutes Section 103F.48. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  - v. Water Resource Manager Position vacancy – Administrator Roeschlein informed the board that two applicants were interviewed for the position. An offer was extended to one application but the offer was declined.
- b. Projects
- i. CWMP Update – Roeschlein updated the board on the Comprehensive Water Management Plan. All of the collaborative members have signed the biennial work plan for 2022-2023. The watershed based implementation fund grant was also awarded to Stearns County as the fiscal agent. Stearns County is working through the process and paperwork to secure the funds and implementation of projects can begin. The SRWD will be receiving an agreement from Stearns County for the fiscal agent process.

- ii. Crooked Lake Wetland Restorations-LSOHC Phase 4 – Roeschlein informed the board that the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council gave final approval to the SRWD grant award in the amount of \$4,091,000. The funds are slated for fee acquisition, easement acquisition, Crooked Lake wetland restorations, outreach, etc. The final grant agreement will be forthcoming. The Watershed District board will need to establish this as a project and authorize the Administrator to sign the grant agreement to move the projects forward. This requires a public hearing and that hearing is scheduled for the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 board meeting.
- iii. Long/Higgins Lake Flood Damage Reduction request – Discussion was held regarding the Long/Higgins Lake Flood Feasibility Report. As directed at the June regular board meeting, the feasibility study was distributed to the board. Landowners from Long/Higgins Lake were present, Megan Jacob being the spokesperson. Jacob invited the board to do a tour of the lake area and the damage that is being done due to high water. There were no commitments from any of the board members to do so. Roeschlein will continue to work with the landowners and Todd County to proceed with discussions amongst the organizations.
- iv. JD 2 Sediment Pond-Inspection Report – The board reviewed the JD 2 Sediment Pond inspection report as presented by Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager.
- v. Miller Bay – Roeschlein reported that the Miller Bay dredging was completed. They did not pull out as much material as they thought was there. To date, about \$13,000 has been spent, approximately \$8,000 of it coming from the SRWD. Roeschlein indicated to the landowners that these funds would be available through the end of this season (2022), specifically, when things freeze up.

c. Committees

- i. Citizen Advisory Committee – No report
- ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, and McKigney – Lightfoot memo: Allison Lightfoot, Monitoring Coordinator, provided an update to the board on the water quality monitoring that has taken place over the past month. She also noted that she was able to pull some samples from the dredged material from Miller Bay for analysis with the University of Minnesota soils lab.
- iii. Rules – Managers Bautch, Klatt, Lahr - No report
- iv. Public Relations/Education – Managers Botner, Wittkop, Zerr – Adam Hjelm, Public Outreach Coordinator, provided a few different news releases and his fall community education Zoom schedule.

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

- a. August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Preliminary 2023 Budget Hearing and project establishment for the Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 4.
- b. September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – St. Cloud Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour – Board Meeting to follow on site.



---

**6. Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**

- a. Regular Board Meetings
  - 1. Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
  - 2. Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting (St. Cloud)
  
- b. Other Meetings
  - 1. None

- 7. Adjournment of the Regular Meeting - Manager Bautch made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. 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 7:50 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 Lahr 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** – Landowner Greg Duchene was present with concerns about how the construction repairs were being conducted on Pope CD 6 and JD 1.
4. **Reports**
  - a. **CD 9**
    - i. **Tile Connection Repair** – Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager, reported that the tile connection has been repaired in the neighborhood of Wayne Klaphake.
    - ii. **Allan Gregory Repair** – Gruber also reported that repairs to the ruts in the meadow and the leveling of spoils along CD 9 on Allen Gregory’s property have been completed.
  - b. **Ditch and Permit Manager**
    - i. **Monthly Report** – Gruber presented his monthly report. There were no further comments.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings** – None at this time.
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
  - i. Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
  - ii. September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – **Manager Klatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**