



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

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

Managers Present:	Bill Becker, Paul Hartmann, Scott Klatt, Russell Miller, David Zerr, Eugene Mensen, Kevin Lahr, Scott Wittkop, Donavon McKigney
Staff Present:	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager; Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager; Abigail Parker, Public Outreach Coordinator; John Kolb and Hannah Schacherl, Legal Council
Guests Present:	Randy Neuman, Shawn West
Manager’s Absent:	

Public Comments - None

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:00 p.m. President Becker asked for a moment of silence to honor the 2 police officers and paramedic/firefighter that were killed in the line of duty in Burnsville. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda** – President asked for corrections 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 Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes
 1. Checks for January
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. January 16th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Summary Table

Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.
4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*
 - a. Administration
 - i. Administrator Report – Administrator Roeschlein highlighted a few notes on his Administrator’s Report. Specifically, his plans to visit with the County Commissioners regarding expiring managers terms. He also noted that the audit work is moving forward and an additional accounting firm has been secured for work on the 2023 year-end financial work.

1. Annual Organization Resolution – Roeschlein presented Resolution #02-2024 to approve annual meeting items such as the meeting schedule, insurance, banks, official publications, IRS mileage rate and the Citizen Advisory Committee. **Manager Miller made a motion to approve Resolution #02-2024. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the tort liability waiver and waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- ii. Outreach/Education Department Update – Abigail Parker, Public Outreach Coordinator, reported to the board that at the most recent Waterfest, over 650 students were educated on various environmental subjects. Parker also noted that March 11th Lunch and Learn being held at the Greenwald Pub and the March 28th Lunch and Learn being held at the Eden Valley Community Center.
- iii. Monitoring Department Update – Roeschlein presented the Environmental Monitoring Manager’s monthly update. It was noted that with the mild winter, the monitoring season may start earlier than normal.
- iv. Water Resources Manager Update- Water Resources Manager Steve Zeece III
 1. Getchell Project Team
 2. Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Fund Update
 3. US Army Corps of Engineers-Planning Assistance to States Grant Update
 4. Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan updates
 5. Mississippi River-St. Cloud/Sauk River CWMP Planning Boundary
- v. Permit Exception - 24-008, Stearns County Highway Department – Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented an exemption request from Stearns County for Permit #24-008. Gruber gave an overview of the situation that led to the request for an exemption. Question A: Do special conditions apply to the applicant’s property that do not apply generally to other property within the district? **Manager Lahr made a motion that special conditions do apply. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor.** Question B: Is there undue hardship to the applicant as distinguished from mere inconvenience if the strict letter of the rules is carried out? **Manager Zerr made a motion that there is undue hardship. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.** Question C: 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 Mensen made a motion that the project will result in an improvement in stormwater management and treatment. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor.** Question D: Is the intent of the district’s rules met? **Manager Miller made a motion that the proposed design will have a net improvement on water quality. The motion was seconded by Manager Wittkop. The motion passed with all in favor. The exception request was granted**
- vi. Other – AMC Drainage Conference Report from Attendees



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- b. Projects
 - i. Little Birch Lake Outlet – Zeece III gave a brief update of the Little Birch Lake Outlet modification project and where staff is at in the process. The grant agreement has been signed, plans are being drafted to the 90% stage, and permit applications will be next.

 - c. Committees
 - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, and McKigney – Meets March 7th, 2024.
 - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen - No report
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Wittkop, Zerr, Miller – No report
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board
 - v. Personnel Committee – Executive Board – The Personnel Committee will meet on February 27th.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
- a. MN Watersheds Newsletter
 - b. March 2024 Board Workshop – 2023 SRWD monitoring season water quality report; Allison Lightfoot
 - c. JD 2 Sediment Pond Inspection Report
6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
 - 1. Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - 2. Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office

 - b. Other Meetings
 - i. March 5th, 2024 – Douglas County Commissioners, 9 a.m.
 - ii. March 11th, 2024 – Lunch and Learn-Understanding Minnesota’s Climate/Impacts on Drainage Infrastructure-Greenwald Pub, 10:00 a.m.
 - iii. March 19th, 2024 – Todd County Commissioners, 9:00 a.m.
 - iv. March 28th, 2024 – Lunch and Learn-What is the Sauk River Watershed District-Eden Valley Community Center, 11:00 a.m.
7. **Manager Lahr made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:50 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 6:50 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 Hartmann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – None
4. **Reports**
 - a. CD 15 Update – Galen Gruber, Ditch and Permit Manager, indicated that he will be doing some survey work in the field on the outlet end of 255th Street to determine the extent of damages caused by erosion.
 - b. CD 26, Branch 3 Update – Gruber noted that he felt there was a delta being formed in the ditch and he intends to survey the area to determine if sediment needs to be removed from the channel, therefore, relieving a flooding problem to the neighboring landowner.
 - c. Timothy Vogel vs SRWD – Case Dismissal – Attorney Kolb and Schacherl discussed the events leading up to the agreement with Timothy Vogel. Mr. Vogel has signed the settlement agreement for \$3,000 plus the \$79 filing fee. Minor discussion was held. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the agreement with Timothy Vogel. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.** Attorney Kolb introduced Hannah Schacherl to the board and indicated that Hannah may be substituting for him from time to time when his schedule conflicts.
 - d. Ditch & Permit Manager – The Ditch & Permit Manager Galen Gruber presented his written monthly report and asked if there were any questions. There were none. Attorney Kolb pointed out 4 bills that were being introduced and recommended the board review them. They are house file 3550, house file 3389, senate file 3684, and house file 3385. Kolb led a brief discussion about each of these files and how they would affect Watershed Districts.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings** –
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
 - a. Regular Drainage Meetings
 - i. Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 – SRWD Office
 - ii. Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 – SRWD Office
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – **Manager Wittkop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**