



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

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

Managers Present:	Bill Becker, Paul Hartmann, Scott Klatt, David Zerr, Scott Wittkop, Eugene Mensen, Kevin Lahr, Donavon McKigney, Russell Miller
Staff Present:	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Abigail Parker, Public Outreach Coordinator; John Kolb, Legal Counsel; Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager
Guests Present:	Jerry Rapp, Tim Kalina, Paul Wildman, Bob Floerke, Juergen Brunkhorst, Bill and Alice Rothfork, Steve Notch
Manager’s Absent:	

Public Comments -

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** – President Becker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. Manager Lahr asked for discussion on the rules. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. 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 21st, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Summary Table

Manager Lahr 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. Administrator Report – Administrator Roeschlein reviewed his Administrator’s Report and noted that the next KASM visit is scheduled for June 20th, 2024. Staff members Allison Lightfoot and Allison Schugel will be there. He also noted that in the recent past, board members have suggested that staff host a board tour of the watershed district, showcasing the projects the SRWD is involved in. Roeschlein asked the board for feedback. Response was favorable by most board members. Roeschlein will work with the Abi Parker, Public Outreach

Coordinator, and Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager, to put together a tour route by fall.

1. Preliminary Budget – On June 4th, the Budget Committee met and completed their work preparing the preliminary 2025 budget for board review and approval. The committee submitted their recommendation to the board for approval. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the preliminary 2025 budget that will be presented at the public hearing scheduled for August 20th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
2. Rules Discussion – Manager Lahr questioned if the stormwater rule was intended for agricultural businesses and wanted managers to consider changing a rule change to make agriculture exempt from SRWD stormwater requirements. Manager Klatt commented that impervious surface is all the same whether it is ag related or retail related and they are a business like anyone else, indicating that he didn't feel that the district should make an exemption for ag. Legal Counsel John Kolb addressed the board. He indicated that a change to the Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) rules requires a process under statute and they cannot change the rules at the current meeting. A process would need to be followed. Manager Lahr said that the rules committee should meet to at least begin discussions. Roeschlein reported that through the CWMP Implementation Team process there have been funds appropriated to do a review of regulatory rules within the watershed to look for duplication or gaps in the rules, so it may be appropriate for the rules committee to begin reviewing the Watershed District rules to determine if there are any changes they'd like to see made, as well as, participate in this review process and be kept abreast.
3. John Stommes Permit Requirement Discussion – Administrator Roeschlein introduced the discussion about poultry barns that are being proposed by John Stommes. He is proposing to build 2 large poultry barns which will create 1.7 acres of impervious surface in roof alone. This would trigger the need for a stormwater treatment plan and a stormwater permit from the Sauk River Watershed District. Roeschlein was asking for discussion and direction from the board. After discussion, the board directed Roeschlein, by consent, that Stommes would need to apply for a stormwater permit and that his project does require a permit under our rules.
4. Audit 2022 Update – Response from Auditor – Roeschlein presented an email response from the auditors on an update of the 2022 audit. His indication was that hopefully in the next 30 days we would get a draft for review.
 - ii. Outreach/Education Department Update – The Outreach and Education Department update was presented to the board. There were no questions.
 - iii. Monitoring Department Update – The May 2024 monitoring update was presented in writing. There were no questions.

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- iv. Water Resources Manager Update- Steve Zeece III, the Water Resources Manager, gave an update to the board and highlighted some of the items in the report. He proceeded to present the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District (SRWD) agreement for the Getchell project. Discussion ensued with making sure the board understood what staff was doing for this project. It is being funded through Comprehensive Water Plan WBIF funding. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to authorize staff to execute the contract with the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 1. Grant and Loan Status –
 - b. Projects
 - i. Little Birch Lake Outlet
 1. Hearing July 6th, 2024, 8:00 a.m., St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Grey Eagle, MN
 - ii. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Petition – The board received a petition for the Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project. A copy was provided to the board in their packet. In reviewing the petition, Roeschlein noted that signatures on the petition met the statutory requirement. He also noted that the petitioners had provided a cash surety for \$265,000 as recommended by the board a little over 1 year ago. **Manager Miller made a motion to adopt the Findings and Order that initiate the Long (Higgins) Outlet project. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - c. Committees
 - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, Hartmann, and McKigney – No report
 - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen - No report. Meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Wittkop, Zerr, Miller – The committee met June 18th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. A brief verbal update was given.
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board -
 - v. Personnel Committee – Executive Board
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
- a. MN Watersheds Newsletter (Separate Cover)
 - b. MN Watersheds Summer Tour (Separate Cover)
6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
 1. Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office.
 2. Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - b. Other Meetings
7. **Manager Wittkop made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. 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 7:23 p.m.**
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. The final pay request for JD 1 and Pope CD 6 repairs was added to the agenda. **Manager Zerr 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** – Douglas County Commissioner Jerry Rapp stated his favorable opinion about an agriculture exemption under the SRWD rules and encourage the board to have a discussion to consider that.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Ditch & Permit Manager Status Update** – Administrator Roeschlein reported on the Ditch & Permit Manager position and indicated that he would like a couple of board members appointed to assist with interviews once applications have been received. President Becker appointed Managers Zerr and Miller.
 - b. **Ditch & Permit Manager** – The Ditch & Permit Manager report was presented. Roeschlein indicated that there is a need to do some ditch spraying and being one staff person short in the office, staff is unable to do it in house, so options are being explored. It was suggested that Roeschlein discuss this with Todd Dirkes with Nutrien to see if they would be able to spray the ditches.
 - c. **Final Pay Requests for JD 1 and Pope CD 6** - **Manager Miller made a motion to authorize staff to make the final payment for Pope CD 6, bid packet #1 in the amount of \$13,463.38, bid packet #2 in the amount of \$32,531.48. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Miller made a motion to authorize staff to make the final payment for JD 1 in the amount of \$12,067.10. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings –**
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
 - a. **Regular Drainage Meetings**
 - i. **Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 – SRWD Office**
 - ii. **Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 – SRWD Office**
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – **Manager Wittkop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**