



Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee Meeting

August 21st, 2025 1-3 pm
Sauk River Watershed District Office
642 Lincoln Rd Sauk Centre MN 56738

In attendance:

Policy Committee & Alternates: Bill Becker (SRWD), Randy Neumann (Todd Co), Tom Williamson (Todd SWCD), D. Gary Reents (Pope SWCD), Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD), Paul Wildman (Pope Co), Jerry Rapp (Douglas Co), Justine Meyer (Stearns SWCD).

Implementation Team & EO Committee: Steve Zeece III (SRWD), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD), Abi Parker (SRWD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns Cnty Env), Deja Anton (Todd Co/SWCD).

Others: Abigail Parker (SRWD), Cody Strom (Bolton Menk & City of Rockville), Bret Zimmerman (Houston Eng. Regulatory Review Contractor)

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 by Vice Chair Neumann (2025 Chair Steve Notch Absent)

- Introductions were given by those in attendance.

Review of previous meeting minutes & agenda additions:

- Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Reents, second by Rutten
 - All in favor
- Motion to approve agenda by Becker, second by Williamson.
 - All in favor

Quarterly fiscal agent report

- Fiscal Agent report approved upon motion by Williamson, second by Reents, with all in favor.

Fiscal Report Summary: Becky Schlorf, Stearns County, provided a fiscal report on each of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative grants.

Fiscal Year 2022 Watershed Implementation Based Funding

- The Interest Earned through June 30, 2025, is \$30,743.07 (not part of the budget).
- The current expenditure percentage is 48.7%. A 50% expenditure rate allows the fiscal agent to request the next grant allotment, which will be 40% of the funding.
- BWSR conducted a reconciliation of FY22 for 8/30/22 through 5/29/25. BWSR statement: "The purpose of conducting this reconciliation was to provide guidance to your agency and ensure expenses claimed were in compliance with the grant agreement and BWSR policies. Time tracking,



invoices and other supporting documentation were reviewed and found to be generally in financial compliance with the approved grant agreement.”

- In addition, the Stearns County Auditor’s Office in their annual audit using an outside firm found fiscal compliance.
- The grant period was extended to 12/31/2026.
- The grant agreement was amended to include the Supplemental WBIF money that was awarded by BWSR.
- Total award: \$1,136,821.

Fiscal Year 2024 Watershed Based Implementation Funding

- The \$1,212,865 grant agreement was executed by BWSR on June 3, 2024.
- The grant agreement will expire on 12/31/2026.

FY 2024 Workplan Revision/Rewrite

- Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2024 workplan revision from Rutten and second from Wildman.
 - All in Favor

Summary of FY 24 Workplan Revisions

- City of Rockville Stormwater Project
 - \$15,000 to objective 13 from objective 3
 - \$20,000 to objective 13 from objective 4
 - \$20,000 to objective 13 from objective 11
 - Added total of \$55,000
- Vails Lake and SRCOL Headwaters Feasibility Study
 - \$2,000 to objective 4 from objective 2
 - \$9,000 to objective 4 from objective 6
 - \$10,000 to objective 4 from objective 7
 - \$37,250 to objective 4 from objective 10
 - \$10,750 to objective 4 from objective 11
 - \$6,000 to objective 4 from objective 12
 - added total of \$75,000
- Added HSPF reaches to targeting for objectives 7,8,9,10, 11, 12, & 13.
 - Added HSPF reaches; Osakis 3, 10, 22; Sauk Lake 30, 43, 50, 54, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 77, 79, 100; Centre Sauk 110, 130, 181,190, 221; GUS Plus 157, 159, 230, 241, 242, 243, 245; Chain of Lakes 370, 375, 381, 383, 385, 388, 389, 392, 394, 400, 411, 420



Project Highlight- Regulatory Review

Bret Zimmerman, the contractor from Houston Engineering, connected online via Teams to present the final version of the regulatory review memorandum. The presentation was prefaced with the definitions of gap & overlap. In this memorandum the term “overlap” is in reference to the Sauk River Watershed District Administrative Rules regulating activities of stormwater, erosion Control, drainage, and water uses. Whereas “gap” is in reference to the 10-year goals identified in the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (SRCWMP).

Committee Members discussed the next logical step(s) in this process for the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative and each member-organization. Additional comments were made about potential unification of ordinances amongst collaborative bodies and other LGU’s within the Sauk River Watershed.

Roeschlein advised this could be a done after this analysis is complete, but it is not directly part of the review project.

Roeschlein suggested that this report should be brought back to regulatory entities for review. Subsequently, the regulatory bodies should convene to discuss and decide on the appropriate direction based on the findings of the memorandum.

Zimmerman additionally advised the group could use this report to reduce redundancy, streamline processes, and reduce local (staffing) costs, while also working toward meeting 10-year plan goals.

By consensus the Policy Committee tabled the decision until the next quarterly meeting to allow committee members to thoroughly review the final memorandum.

At the 4th quarter meeting the Policy Committee will vote to approve and/or adopt this report.

The contractor requested that any comments on the report be submitted by 9/5/2025. Comments can be sent directly to SRWD Staff Steve Zeece (Steve@SRWDmn.org) or Jon Roeschlein(Jon@SRWDmn.org)

Next meeting Date & Open Discussion

Hatzenbihler of Stearns CD provided the group a 1 page report and update on the analysis done with Sarah Roth from the UofM on social barriers and adoption of soil health practices.

Rapp inquired about the interest accruals. Becky Schlorf informed that interest is not a part of the budget. Currently we are earning interest on 3 grants- FY22 WBIF, FY 24 WBIF, and CRP FY25.

Hatzenbihler of Stearns SWCD advised that BWSR will likely not be funding any plan rewrites at the end of this 10-year cycle, and the interest earned could be set aside to support the writing of next 10-year plan.



Group discussion occurred around tracking plan goals. Roeschlein pointed out the maps created by SRWD's summer technician. SRWD has entered in all of our projects completed since the approval of the Sauk River CWMP, as well as permit program items that work toward the 10-year goals.

Becker motioned to adjourn seconded by William at 2:07pm.

At 2:07 pm, Becker Motioned to Adjourn the meeting, with second from Williamson.

Next Meeting Date- 11/20/2025 1-3 pm