

Sauk River Drainage Authority Special Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, January 2nd, 2026

Located at: Sauk River Watershed District Office, Sauk Centre, MN at 10:00 a.m.
 Virtual attendance option was available.

Managers Present in Person:	Scott Klatt, Kevin Lahr, Paul Hartmann, Donavon McKigney, Eugene Mensen
Staff Present:	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; John Kolb, Legal Counsel; Scott Wittkop, Ditch and Permit Manager, Steve Zeece III (Virtually)
Managers Present Virtually:	Bill Becker, Russell Miller, Jon Folkedahl
Manager's Absent:	David Zerr
Others Present in Person	Paul Wildman, Pope County Commissioner; Jerry Rapp, Douglas County Commissioner
Others Present Virtually	Leon Duchene

Public Comments –

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*
 - a. 2026 Special Assessment for Pope County Ditches #6 and #11, and Stearns-Pope Judicial Ditch #1 – Consider cancellation and withdrawal of said assessments – Administrator Roeschlein explained that the information that the board had when the assessment determination was approved indicated that a special assessment should be placed. After receipt of the 2023 Audit Report in November of 2025, fund balance information had changed and it appeared that an assessment would not be urgent at this time. Several landowners had contacted the office with concerns about this placing undue hardship on them financially. Landowner, Leon Duchene, addressed the board reinforcing these concerns. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to withdraw the special assessment for Pope County Ditches #6 and #11, and Stearns-Pope Judicial Ditch #1 for payable 2026. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. Roll call vote was taken: Klatt, aye; Mensen, aye; McKigney, aye; Lahr, aye; Hartmann, aye; Miller, aye; Folkedahl, aye; Becker, aye. The motion passed with all in favor, Manager Zerr absent.** Administrator Roeschlein was instructed by the board to send a letter to all of the landowners in these 3 systems explaining that the assessment has been removed.
1. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – **Manager Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**