



## Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee Meeting

November 20th, 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).

**Implementation Team & EO Committee:** Steve Zeece III (SRWD), Steve Zeece (SRWD) Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD), Kory Klebe (SRWD) Becky Schlorf (Stearns County Env.) Emily Forbord (Stearns County Env.), Jason Weinerman (BWSR)

**Others:** Annie Felix (MN Dept of Health)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Chair, Steve Notch.

- Introductions were given by those in attendance.

### Review of previous meeting minutes & agenda additions:

- Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Becker, second by Wildman
  - All in favor

### Quarterly fiscal agent report & FY 26/27 Update

**Fiscal Report Summary:** Emily Forbord Collaborative Fiscal Agent from Stearns County provided a report on the fiscal activity for each of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative grants.

#### Fiscal Year 2022 Watershed Implementation Based Funding

- The Interest Earned through October 31st, 2025, is \$32,035.30 (not part of the budget).
  - The unbudgeted interest has been earmarked by the Implementation team for both the mid-point planning of the current 10- year plan or for the writing of the next 10-year plan.
- The current expenditure percentage is 51%. The fiscal the fiscal agent has requested and received the next grant allotment, which is 40% of the total FY22 grant (50-40-10 grant schedule).
- In addition, the Stearns County Auditor's Office in their annual audit using an outside firm found fiscal compliance.
- The grant period expires 12/31/2026.
- 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 from Wildman with second from Reents to recommend approval from Collaborative Members' boards of the Fiscal Year 2024 workplan revision.
  - All in Favor
- SRWD will draft and distribute resolution template and workplan attachment for passing/approval from collaborative member boards.
- A supermajority is required

### **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

### **Cost Share Policy Revision**

- Upon motion from Neumann with second from Rutten the revised cost share policy was approved.
  - All in favor.
- Modification include:



- clarifications on affected fiscal year workplans
- Design standard to follow SWCD FOTG.
- Corrected spelling and grammar.
- Inspections to follow affiliated local governments procedures.
- 7.5 Non-structural practices must follow BWSR WBIF program policy referenced in the BWSR grant agreement.

## **Collaborative Agreement Adjustment**

- Becky Schlorf, Stearns Environmental informed the Policy Committee of the benefits and differences between a Joint Powers Collaborative (JPC) agreement and a Joint Power Entity (JPE).
  - Final decisions can be made directly by the JPE, whereas JPC decisions often require further formal action from each member's board.

## **Cold Spring Dam Rock Arched Rapids Update-**

The state requires a feasibility study to be completed due to the bedrock geology before design, engineering, and implementation. Funds have been identified for design, engineering, and construction, while funding has not been identified for the feasibility study. WBIF funding for the feasibility study is not explicitly supported by the comprehensive 10-year plan.

The feasibility study is estimated to cost \$112,000.00

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association are supportive and willing to fund a portion of the study, possibly fulfilling a grant-match requirement.

The City of Cold Spring is supportive and interested in seeing this project implemented.

Implementation Team will explore additional funding opportunities for the feasibility study.

Potential for this project to be included in the 10-year comprehensive plan at the midpoint or in the next

## **Regulatory Review**

Motion by Reents with second from Becker to approve of the regulatory review report.

- Project is now considered complete.
- SRWD will immediately utilize this report in their rule revisions.
- SRWD will coordinate a meeting with LGU regulatory staff

## **Project Highlight- Julig Livestock-**

Steve Zeece provided a brief overview of the Livestock exclusion project on behalf of Todd SWCD.



- Todd SWCD cost shared WBIF funding with the landowner adjacent to the SRWD's sediment ponds along Judicial Ditch 2, immediately upstream from Lake Osakis.
- Livestock can no longer access the buffer, banks, or the channel of JD2.

## **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 Wildman.

### **Next Meeting Dates & Open Discussion-**

Hatzenbihler of Stearns CD provided an update on behalf of the Education and Outreach Committee on the status of the Soil Health Management Practice report from the UofM's Sarah Roth.

By consensus the policy committee set the 2026 meeting schedule following the quarterly pattern of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

**Becker Motioned to adjourn, seconded by Wildman at 2:20 pm**