



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

<b>Managers Present:</b>	Bill Becker, Scott Klatt, David Zerr, Kevin Lahr, Paul Hartmann, Eugene Mensen, Jon Folkedahl
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; John Kolb, Legal Counsel; Scott Wittkop, Ditch and Permit Manager; Garrett Monson, District Engineer
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Randy Neumann, Paul Wildman, Dennis Heinen, Jerry Rapp, Bob Floerke, Jason Weirnerman, Steve Notch, Chad Atkinson, Jacque Heinen
<b>Manager’s Absent:</b>	Russell Miller, Donavon McKigney

**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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda** – President Becker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 December
    2. Receipt Book
    3. Revenue Guideline
    4. Cash Balances
    5. Expenditure Report
    6. November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 2<sup>nd</sup> Special SRDA Meeting Minutes

**Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. 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 presented his written report. He noted that he’s had a couple of requests from attendees of the board meetings to be able to scroll through the board packet on the screen during the meeting. Roeschlein stated that he would ask Allison Schugel, Environmental Technician, if she would be willing to tackle the technology operations at the meetings. Doing that would also give the district the option to provide a virtual link for the public to monitor the meeting remotely if the board would like to provide that. Roeschlein suggested that if the public would wish to address the

board, that they would need to be present in person at the meeting. Roeschlein also noted that SRWD By-Laws and Minnesota Statutes do allow for remote participation for board members if they'd like to make that option available. There are certain conditions that apply. At least one board member must be in attendance on site and all votes would need to be a roll call vote if there's any virtual attendance. There was favorable response from the board to try this option. Roeschlein will work with staff to get this set up for the public to monitor the meetings and board members to participate.

1. Annual Designations – **Manager Lahr made a motion to approve Resolution #01-2026 to approve annual meeting items such as the meeting schedules, Insurance Policies, Banks, Official Newspapers, HSA, IRS mileage rate, and Citizen Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
2. Budgeting and Accounting Procedures – Administrator Roeschlein spent a few minutes discussing the Sauk River Watershed District budgeting and accounting procedures.
3. 2026 Budget Amendment – Roeschlein presented discussion on an amendment to the 2026 Budget. After review and discussion, **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve an amendment to the 2026 General Administration Budget to fund account 101-1100-43010 Auditing and Accounting Services with an increase to \$84,000 bringing the total 2026 amended general administration budget \$1,331,318.67 and to also include an increase in allocation from reserves from \$292,318.67 to \$331,318.67. The motion was seconded by President Becker. The motion passed with all in favor.** Roeschlein noted there was no change in the 2026 levy being distributed amongst the citizens of the watershed district.
4. Sample Summary Financial Report – Roeschlein presented a sample summary financial report for discussion and review. Board members thought it looked good and Manager Lahr will be meeting with Administrator Roeschlein to discuss any modifications
- ii. Monitoring Department Updates – The Monitoring Department Update was presented. There were no questions.
- iii. Education & Public Outreach Department Updates – The Education and Outreach Department written report was presented. There were no questions.
- iv. Water Resources Manager Update- The Water Resources Department written report was presented. There were no questions.
- v. Permit Manager Report – Scott Wittkop, Permit Manager, presented his monthly permitting report. There were no questions.
  1. Permit Summary Table was presented. Manager Zerr had a few questions regarding the permit numbers spreadsheet.
- vi. Environmental Technician Report – The Environmental Technician written report was reviewed. There were no further questions.
- vii. Engineer Report – Garrett Monson, District Engineer, reported that as of January 1, they will be moving to their new rate schedule and invoicing as agreed to in the original master services agreement.
- viii. Legal Counsel Report – No additional report.

- b. Projects
  - i. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Updates – Administrator Roeschlein reported on the Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet project. The district learned that there is a question about how the infiltration practice being explored would affect the quality of groundwater in the area, therefore, the district has gone to work to develop a preconstruction monitoring plan to gather baseline data about existing groundwater quality, as well as, water quality of Long (Higgins) Lake. A copy of that workplan was provided to the board for their information. Roeschlein also reported that the amended statutory language was developed for Representative Mike Wiener to carry to the 2026 Minnesota legislative session which would allow the \$1.4 million appropriation to be used for this infiltration alternative, if it moves forward, or any other alternative the district would propose if infiltration does not receive acceptance from the permitting authority. The wetland determination fieldwork is completed and is being submitted to the Wetland Conservation Act Administrators in Todd County for the concurrence process that is required. Further design development is on hold until the district completes the water quality monitoring and receives those results in the case the district would need to develop any design elements to address an issue that might be discovered.
  - ii. JD 2 Sed Ponds – See Permit and Projects Report.
- c. Committees
  - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, McKigney, and Folkedahl – Meeting February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.
  - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen – Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.
  - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Zerr, Miller, Hartmann
  - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board
  - v. Personnel Committee – Executive Board
- 5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
  - a. AMC Drainage Conference, Arrowwood, Alexandria – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- 6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
  - a. Regular Board Meetings
    - 1. Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
    - 2. Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
  - b. Other Meetings
- 7. **Manager Zerr made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**

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**Regular Drainage Authority Meeting  
MINUTES**

1. **The Drainage Authority meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:47 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 Lahr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – Pope Commissioner Wildman reported that Pope County had approved the Comprehensive Water Management Plan workplan amendment at their meeting earlier in the day.
4. **Reports**
  - a. Ditch & Permit Manager – Scott Wittkop, the Ditch Manager, provided his monthly report. There were no further questions.
  - b. CD 17 Tree Removal-RFQ – Wittkop gave an update on Stearns County ditch #17 work. **Manager Lahr made a motion to direct staff to clear the whole ditch and award the contract to Clearview Tree Service for \$112,800. The motion was seconded by Manager Mensen. The motion passed with majority in favor, President Becker abstaining.**
  - c. CD 26 Atkinson Petition to Remove Lands – Attorney Kolb provided a memo in regards to the petition from Chad Atkinson to remove lands from CD 26. There was some discussion about the actual starting point of CD 26. Staff said they would research the records to determine that specifically. Mr. Atkinson said that the district’s map was incorrect and it stopped at the property line on the west site, and not the north side of his parcel. Further research into Mr. Atkinson’s request will be done and additional discussion will be held in the future.
  - d. CD 9 Buffer Violation – Attorney Kolb has been in contact with Mr. Yarke’s attorney and is continuing discussions with him to avoid filing the case with the court. He had suggested that Mr. Yarke enter into an agreement to dismiss the enforcement action provided he as the buffer area planted into perennial grasses by June 1, 2026. Consistent with board policy, he offered technical assistance in recommending a seed mix for the planting. Attorney Kolb is expecting a response from Mr. Yarke’s attorney within the next week.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or Information of Interest –**
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
  - a. Regular Drainage Meetings
    - i. Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
    - ii. Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – **Manager Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**