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## JD2 AND MILLER BAY PROJECT TEAM MEETING NOTES

11/17/2025 | 9:00 to noon

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**SRWD Office 642 Lincoln Rd Sauk Centre Mn 56378**

### Attendees

In person: Steve Zeece III (SRWD Staff), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD Staff), Randy Neumann (Todd County Commissioner), Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD Supervisor), Bruce Magnus (OLA President), Dave Zerr (SRWD Board Manager), Allison Schugel, (SRWD Staff), Susan Capitola (Landowner), Garret Munson (Moore Engineering), Janice Hauri (Landowner)

Online: Bret Zimmerman (Houston Engineering)

### **USACE Alternatives Analysis Updates**

- Federal employees are currently furloughed and there are minimal updates to report at this meeting.
- SRWD via Houston Engineering are on track to achieve their deliverables.
- OLA President Bruce Magnus informed that the St. Croix Watershed Research Station's Director, Adam Heathcote reported the bottom sediments in Lake Osakis have indications of septic system wastewater/sewage . Heathcote cautioned this sedimentation study is not detailed enough to determine exactly the degree/proportion of sediments originating from human septic/wastewater systems.
  - The Osakis Lake Association has engaged Houston Engineering to conduct a sanitary sewer scoping study, which is currently underway and expected to be completed by year-end or in early 2026. The resulting report will outline various options for the potential implementation of a sanitary sewer system around Lake Osakis.

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS

Bill Becker, David Zerr,, Paul Hartmann, Kevin Lahr, Donovan McKigney, Scott Klatt, Eugene Mensen, and Russel Miller

#### STAFF

Melissa Roelike, Jon Roeschlein, , Scott Wittkop, Kory Klebe, Steve Zeece III, Abigail Parker Allison Schugel

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- This report will cover different collection and treatment methods, presenting a range of alternatives, including a comprehensive system that collects wastewater from all properties to a centralized treatment area. Additionally, the study will explore the feasibility of cluster systems based on a desktop analysis of soil and subsurface conditions.
- The report will aim to provide an overview of available options and will include significant information on the future implementation of a sanitary sewer district in accordance with state statutes. Furthermore, it will offer preliminary cost estimates associated with these options..
- SRWD Staff recommend investigating possibility for Osakis lake sewer collection system wastewater to be to Alexandria Lakes Area Sewer District (ALASD). The City of Nelsons wastewater is treated by the ALASD.
- Zerr recommends OLA & HEI to connect with Angela from the City of Osakis to begin discussions on connection to the Osakis municipal wastewater treatment plant. Comments from the group that Osakis plant likely does not have volume capacity to effectively treat wastewater collected from the entirety of property around the lake, and thus should be prepared to discuss plant upgrades. The MPCA has grant programs that could fund these wastewater treatment projects.

### **Osakis Outlet Updates:**

The JD2 Drainage Authority, with assistance from Houston Engineering, have submitted an application to the MNDNR's Conservation Partners legacy program. This is the same program that funded the SRWD's Little Birch Lake Rock Arched Rapids Project, and numerous other rapids-designed lake outlets around the state.

The total cost estimate is \$433,500 and the Osakis Lake Association has committed \$30,000 to assist with the 10% match requirement, leaving \$13,350 to meet the match requirement and fully fund the project.

Bret Zimmerman of Houston engineering has additionally coordinated around the grant and project with the new JD2 drainage inspector, Shane F.

Award announcements from the CPL program occurs on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Crooked Lake Project update:**

Bret Zimmerman of Houston Engineering provided a status summary of SRWD's Outdoor Heritage-funded wetland project. Project plans are 90% complete.

Key Design Features

- Construction of a berm on the Guyette property.



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- Installation of an outlet structure consisting of:
  - A concrete manhole with a 24-inch pipe.
  - A stop log bay to manage water levels.
  - Water-level management is required to hold water during spring and fall waterfowl migration and nesting periods for funding eligibility.
- A secondary overflow spillway lined with Insta-Turf (a geo-textile that promotes vegetation growth).
  - This material has been successfully used in recent SRWD ditch repairs.

#### Permitting Requirements

- Permits needed from:
  - Sauk River Watershed District
  - Wetland Conservation Act
- Not required:
  - Army Corps permit
  - DNR dam safety permit
  - (Exemption applies because the berm height is less than 6 ft.)

#### Drainage Authority Coordination:

- Petition in progress for partial abandonment of a branch of Joint County Ditch 2.
- Coordinated with John Kolb, attorney for both SRWD and Judicial Ditch 2.
- At the upcoming SRWD Board meeting, Rinke Noonan will address conflict-of-interest waiver procedures for dual representation.
- Upon agreement by all parties, Rinke Noonan will draft the petition.
- Goal: Submit the petition to the County Drainage Authority Board at their likely mid- to late-December meeting.

#### Timeline:

- By February: All permit materials prepared; begin soliciting contractor bids.
- Mid-April: Award construction contract.
- August 1: Target project completion date.

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- Allows adequate time for vegetation establishment before fall.

### **SRWD Sed Ponds Efficacy Analysis:**

Garrett Munson of Moore Engineering (SRWD's contracted firm) informed the project team the SRWD has contracted with Moore Engineering to complete an efficacy analysis of the SRWD's JD2 sed ponds prior to moving forth with any maintenance or cleanout activities. More detailed information on this analysis will occur at the upcoming project team meetings. This analysis will be used to inform management decision of the SRWD Board of Managers.

### **Open Discussion:**

Discussion occurred around the clean out of JD2 in section 29, north of Smith Lake.

Additional Discussion occurred around that status of the City of Osakis' stormwater treatment basins. Samples taken by the SRWD and Lake Association indicate anoxic conditions with minimal capacity remaining. SRWD have been working with the city to clean out these basins. It was alleged the city collected tax levied funding directly for basin maintenance, but it may have been appropriated elsewhere.

A team member additionally inquired about the structural-functionality/status of the culvert immediately west of the City, which drained the adjacent row-crop fields. The group reviewed aerial photos from the UofM online library from 1939 and 1960 to determine the age of this culvert.

### **Closeout and Next Meeting Dates:**

The next meetings into 2026 are tentatively scheduled for 12/15/2025, 1/19/2026, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20.