



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting  
 MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 17<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, Kevin Lahr, Paul Hartmann, Eugene Mensen, Jon Folkedahl, Russell Miller, Donavon McKigney
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager; John Kolb, Legal Counsel; Scott Wittkop, Ditch and Permit Manager; Garrett Monson, District Engineer; Allison Schugel, Environmental Technician.
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Randy Neumann, Paul Wildman, Dennis & Jacque Heinen, Jerry Rapp, Bob Floerke
<b>Manager’s Absent:</b>	David Zerr

**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. Administrator Roeschlein noted that the board meeting was being broadcast online and went through virtual meeting etiquette for the public and the board.
  
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda** – President Becker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. There was one item added to the agenda **Manager McKigney made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. 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 January
    2. Receipt Book
    3. Revenue Guideline
    4. Cash Balances
    5. Expenditure Report
    6. January 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
    7. Summary Financial report

**Manager Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Mensen. The motion passed with all in favor.** Manage Lahr presented the draft of the summary report format for the finances to the board for discussion. There was little discussion. Administrator Roeschlein noted that the items would need to be hand entered into this spreadsheet and he would do his best to have correct information for the board to review at the March meeting.
  
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 the salary schedule report was underway with David Drown and Associates, the district’s HR consultants. He also reported that the district has received 7 applicants for the seasonal technician position and interviews of the top applicants will happen towards the end of February or first part of March.
  1. LMC Liability Coverage Waiver – Roeschlein reported to the board that annually the board decides to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability as established by Minnesota statutes. He noted in the past, the district has waived those limits as the League of Minnesota Cities provides higher coverage amounts for any claimants. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to waive the tort liability limits for the League of Minnesota Cities coverage. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  2. Rules Revision – Process and Budget Discussion – Administrator Roeschlein reported that the Rules Committee participated in a rules revision scoping meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed the process and cost estimate to complete the rules revision, which was outlined in a task order provided by Moore Engineering Inc. Roeschlein estimated the total cost for doing the revision to be \$59,031. The Rules Committee recommended to proceed with the process, approve Task Order No. 8, and approve using SRWD reserves to cover the cost. Discussion followed the recommendation. **Manager Miller made a motion to proceed with the process, approve Task Order No. 8, and approve using reserve funds. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with majority in favor, 2 managers against.**
- ii. Monitoring Department Updates – The Monitoring Department Update was presented in writing. There were no questions.
- iii. Education & Pubic Outreach Department Updates – The Education and Outreach Department written report was presented. There was discussion on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the district’s webpage needing to be ADA compliant. After brief discussion, it was determined that Kory, Education and Outreach Coordinator, will need to talk to John Kolb about meeting this requirement. He may have some advice that would make it easy and simple.
- iv. Water Resources Manager Update- The Water Resources Department report was presented.
  1. CWMP Collaborative Policy Committee Appointment 2026  
It was noted that Managers needed to be appointed to the Comprehensive Water Management Plan Collaborative Policy Committee. **Manager Klatt made a motion to appoint President Becker and Manager Hartmann to the Policy Committee as a collaborative member and alternate respectively. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with majority in favor, President Becker and Manager Hartmann abstaining.**
- v. Permit Manager Report – Scott Wittkop, Permit Manager, presented his monthly permitting report and permit summary table. There were no questions.

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1. Permit Summary Table was presented.
    - vi. Environmental Technician Report – The Environmental Technician written report was reviewed. There were no further questions.
    - vii. Engineer Report – Garrett Monson, District Engineer – No additional report.
    - viii. Legal Counsel Report – John Kolb, Legal Counsel - No additional report.
  - b. Projects
    - i. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Updates – Administrator Roeschlein reported on the Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet project. Pre-project ground/lake water sample collection will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in 4 test wells within the project footprint, as well as, on Long (Higgins)Lake and 3 permanent wells in the neighborhood that are scheduled to tested. The estimate for this round of testing will be around \$15,000. Total expenditures on the project since inception through the end of January is \$60,499.81. It has been confirmed the Representative Mike Wiener has received the request of appropriation language change regarding the state funding appropriation for this project. The schedule going forward on the development of the preliminary project design and engineers report, will be to have those items available for the board meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> if possible and, if all goes well, maybe sooner. It’s all dependent on the time it takes to get the results back from the laboratory and what those results show. The next steps after receiving the engineers report would be to decide if the project is still feasible, and then proceed into the permitting phase, work to establish the assessment area, and work to secure the grant agreement with the State of Minnesota.
    - ii. JD 2 Sed Ponds – See Permit and Projects Report.
  - c. Committees
    - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, McKigney, and Folkedahl – Roeschlein reviewed with the board the Water Quality/Projects committee meeting summary from February 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen
    - 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**
- 6. Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
    1. Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
    2. Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
  - b. Other Meetings
- 7. Manager Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Regular Drainage Authority Meeting  
MINUTES**

1. **The Drainage Authority meeting was called to order by President Becker at 7:18 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 Klatt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – None
4. **Reports**
  - a. Ditch & Permit Manager – Scott Wittkop, the Ditch Manager, provided his monthly report. There were no further questions. Wittkop reported that he did research the upper terminus of Ditch 26 and discovered that it begins on the west side of the Chad Atkinson property rather than the previously believed north side of the property.
  - b. CD 9-Eric Dehmer Tree Damage – The board reviewed a memo from Roeschlein regarding the Eric Dehmer tree damage on Stearns CD 9. **President Becker made a motion to authorize staff to replace the red cedar trees that Mr. Dehmer had requested at an estimated cost of \$584.64. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with majority in favor, 3 against.**
  - c. CD 51-Parcel #27.16642.0000, Ladwig – Administrator Roeschlein reported that landowner Larry Ladwig on Stearns CD 51 noted that his property PID #27.16642.0000 had been removed from the CD 51 benefit rolls in August of 2016. Roeschlein reported that he has since removed the 2026 assessment certified for this parcel. He also recommends that the drainage authority refund Mr. Ladwig the assessment he paid in 2025 of \$20.46 out of the ditch fund. **Manager Klatt made a motion to authorize staff to refund Mr. Ladwig \$20.46 for the 2025 assessment on CD 51 that he paid for PID #27.16642.0000. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  - d. CD 9 Buffer Violation – Attorney Kolb reported that there has been no change in the status of this buffer issue. He is still waiting for a response from Mr. Yarke or his attorney.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or Information of Interest** –
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
  - a. Regular Drainage Meetings
    - i. Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
    - ii. Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office



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7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Lahr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**