

# Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee Meeting



## MEETING INFORMATION

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**Date** Thursday, February 19, 2026

**Location:** Sauk River Watershed District Office  
642 Lincoln Rd  
Sauk Centre MN 56378

**Time:** 1 to 3pm

**Invitees / Attendees:** **Policy Committee:** Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD), Randy Neumann (Todd County), Bill Becker (Sauk River WD), Tom Williamson (Todd SWCD), Justine Meyer (Stearns CD), Paul Wildman (Pope County), Gary Reents (Pope SWCD), Steve Notch (Stearns County), Jerry Rapp (Douglas County)

**Policy Committee Alternates:** Billy Dropik (Douglas SWCD), Bob Byers (Todd County), David Zerr (Sauk River WD), Lee Buchholz (Todd SWCD), Tom Gregory (Stearns CD), Paul Gerde (Pope County), Randy Pederson (Pope SWCD), Jeff Bertram (Stearns County), Tim Kalina (Douglas County)

**Implementation Team:** Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Dave Rush (Douglas County), Deja Anton (Todd County & SWCD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Jon Roeschlein (Sauk River WD), Kyle Weimann (Stearns CD), Ralph Hanson (Pope County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Steve Zeece III (Sauk River WD)

**Implementation Team CC:** Jason Weinerman (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Noah Czech (City of St Cloud), Garrett Munson (Moore Engineering), Jerome Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Drew Kessler (Houston Engineering), Annie Felix (MDH), John Maile (Stearns CD)

**Education & Outreach Committee:** Kory Klebe (SRWD), Katie Disrud (Pope SWCD), Jessica Albertsen (Douglas SWCD), Sarah Katterhagen (Todd SWCD), Alyssa Scheve (Todd SWCD), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Abbie Meyer (Stearns CD), Jason Weinerman (BWSR)

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# MINUTES

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## 1. Call to Order, Introductions, Annual Election of Officers

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

Introductions were given by those in attendance, including John Maile, the Stearns Conservation District's new Administrator.

### Chair

Wildman nominated, seconded by Rapp to elect Steve Notch as 2026 Policy Committee Chair. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Vice Chair

Rapp nominated, seconded by Rutten to elect Randy Neumann as 2026 Vice Chair. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Secretary

Rapp nominated, seconded by Gregory to elect Bill Becker as 2026 Secretary. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Implementation Team Ex-Officio

Becker nominated, seconded by Williamson to elect Jerry Rapp as 2026 Implementation Team Ex-Officio. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda Additions

Becker made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Williamson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wildman made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from November 2025 as presented, seconded by Williamson. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 3. Fiscal Agent Report

### a. Grants Update

- i. Emily Forbord, Stearns County, presented the Fiscal Agent report on behalf of the SRWC. Forbord highlighted that FY22 WBIF is at 51.67% spent and we have received the next 40% of the grant funds, and the FY24 CRP Incentive grant has been spent down with only \$2.00 unused but we still have FY25 CRP Incentive grant funds available in 2026.

### b. Fiscal Agent Change

- i. Emily Forbord and Becky Schlorf, Stearns County, informed the Policy Committee that Stearns County is considering vacating the Fiscal Agent role.
- ii. Stearns Conservation District is considering becoming the Fiscal Agent for SRWC.
- iii. Third parties (contractors) are an option as well.

### c. FY24 WBIF Objective 1 Reallocation

- i. Forbord and Schlorf, Stearns County, informed that Policy Committee that funds for objective 1 – administration and coordination were underbudgeted for the Fiscal Agent duties, and the Implementation Team will be working to identify reallocating funds to support the Fiscal Agent duties.

**d. FY27 WBIF wish list for funding request and grant work plan**

- i. Steve Zeece III and Jon Roeschlein. SRWD, informed the Policy Committee that SRWC members are starting the development of the FY27 WBIF funding request and grant work plan through a wish list spreadsheet. This information will also be used to develop the SRWC biennial work plan.
- ii. The WBIF grant funding request can be submitted between July 2026 and March 2027.

#### **4. FY24 WBIF Grant Work Plan Revision Update:**

The Fiscal Agent is waiting to receive approval from BWSR to enter the work plan revisions into eLINK. Funding must not be spent until approval is received.

Stearns CD has become the lead collaborative member with the City of Rockville on the Lake Road stormwater project along Pleasant Lake.

#### **5. CWMP Minor Amendment – Cold Spring Dam Feasibility Study**

The state requires a feasibility study due to the regional granite-dominant bedrock geology. WBIF funding for the feasibility study is not explicitly supported by the comprehensive 10-year plan, specifically in the implementation tables at the end of the Chain of Lakes Management unit section in Chapter 5. The City of Cold Spring is supportive and interested in seeing this project implemented. The feasibility study is estimated to cost \$112,000.00. The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association are supportive and have reportedly made a formal motion in a recent meeting to fund \$5,000-10,000 of the feasibility study. Stearns CD additionally reported the DNR group whom they're partnering have funding for feasibility studies in the range of \$60,000-80,000, in addition to the DNR group's design & construction funding. The Implementation team will cover the remaining feasibility study costs through our WBIF or other means.

Becker made motion with second from Wildman to recommend approval from each collaborative member's boards for a minor amendment of the 10-year Sauk River Comprehensive Management Plan by adding a Feasibility Study on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Cold Spring Dam Rock Arched Rapids Modification on the implementation table and follow the minor plan amendment procedure as outlined in BWSR One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Plan Coordinator & Implementation Team will draft and circulate a resolution and attachment to collaborative staff members.

#### **6. Education and Outreach Update**

Kory Klebe provided an update on the activities of the EO Committee. Currently, focus groups are underway in partnership with the UofM's Sarah Roth to understand drivers and barriers behind the adoption of agricultural soil health practices in this region. Prospective participant contact information of over 100 producers was provided by EO committee members. The names of the producers who were selected by the UofM for the focus group are kept anonymous to stimulate open discussion.

#### **7. Project Highlight – Bosl Erosion Control (Stearns CD)**

Hatzenbihler and Maile, Stearns CD, presented on the Bosl Erosion Control Project which installed water and sediment control basins in a farm field near Sauk Centre to address erosion concerns. This project was funded through FY22 WBIF through the SRWC.

## **8. Plan Tracking Tool Updates**

The Collaborative has begun using a new pollution reduction modeling calculator from the MPCA known as BEET (BMP Effects Estimator Tool). This model is built upon the same model that was used in the original 10-year planning effort- HSPF SAM (Hydrologic Simulation Program Fortran Scenario Application Manager).

## **9. Next Meeting Date & Open Discussion**

By consensus the Policy Committee opted to continue the 2026 meeting schedule pattern of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday quarterly, from 1-3 pm.

The next meeting dates in 2026: May 21<sup>st</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, & November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chair, Steve Notch adjourned the meeting at 2:26 pm.