



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026

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

Managers Present:	Bill Becker, Paul Hartmann, Eugene Mensen, Jon Folkedahl, Donavon McKigney, David Zerr
Staff Present:	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.
Guests Present:	Randy Neumann, Paul Wildman, Dennis Heinen, Jerry Rapp, Bob Floerke, Hal Undersander, Jerry Zabinski, Matt Symalla
Manager’s Absent:	Russell Miller, Scott Klatt, Kevin Lahr
Virtual Guests Present:	

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. Monthly Financial Summary
 2. Fund Summary Report
 3. Checks for February
 4. Receipt Book
 5. Revenue Guideline
 6. Cash Balances
 7. Expenditure Report
 8. March 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Manager Mensen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. 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 report. There were no questions.
 - ii. Monitoring Department Report - The Monitoring Department written report was presented. There were no further questions.

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- iii. Education & Pubic Outreach Department Updates – The Education and Outreach Department written monthly report was presented. There were no further questions.
 - 1. 2025 SRWD Annual Report w/additions – Administrator Roeschlein presented the 2025 Annual Report. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the 2025 Sauk River Watershed District Annual Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - iv. Water Resources Manager Update- The Water Resources Department report was presented by Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager. There were no further questions.
 - v. Permit Manager Report – Scott Wittkop, Permit Manager, presented his monthly permitting report and permit summary table. Minimal discussion took place. There were no further questions.
 - 1. Permit Summary Table was presented.
 - vi. Environmental Technician Report – The Environmental Technician written report was presented. There were no further questions.
 - vii. Engineer Report – Garrett Monson, District Engineer, reported that there are some delays in the invoicing due to changeover to new rates in their accounting program. The first invoice for the master agreement CY 2026 will be forthcoming as soon as possible. He also reported that the results of the sediment sampling done in the Sediment Ponds last winter are back and are being reviewed. There is a plan to meet prior to the next board meeting on May 19th to further discuss SRWD rule revisions.
 - viii. Legal Counsel Report – John Kolb, Legal Counsel, presented the conflict-of-interest waiver in regard to the partial abandonment of a portion of judicial 2 petition. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the conflict-of-interest waiver . The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.** The petition for partial abandonment was then presented to the board. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the petition for partial abandonment on Judicial Ditch #2 and authorize President Becker to sign with Administrator Roeschlein. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- b. Projects
- i. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Updates – Administrator Roeschlein presented a report on the Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet project. Monitoring results were received. The three deeper wells in the neighborhood will be sampled soon. He provided a copy of the monitoring results. The engineer is drafting the preliminary construction plan and report and a draft operations and maintenance plan. He plans to present this information to the board at the May 2026 meeting.
 - ii. JD 2 Sed Ponds – The monthly inspection report for the JD 2 sed ponds was presented with no further discussions.
- c. Committees
- i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, McKigney, and Folkedahl

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- ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen – Met April 8th, 2026; next meeting tentatively set for May 19th, 2026 1-4 p.m.
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Zerr, Miller, Hartmann-Met April 21st, 2026
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board – CY 2027 Budget meeting to be scheduled in late May-early June.
 - 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, May 19th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - 2. Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - b. Other Meetings
7. **Manager McKigney made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. 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 6:53 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 Hartmann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. 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 with minimal discussion and no questions.
 - b. CD 26 – Chad Atkinson Assessment – Parcel #22.1312.0000 – Administrator Roeschlein reported that he tracked down issue in regards to Chad Atkinson’s claim that his property receives no benefit. After many hours of researching records, Roeschlein was able to verify Mr. Atkinson’s claim was correct. Roeschlein recommended to correct this error and to reimburse Mr. Atkinson \$105.91 for the 2025 assessment. He also reported that the 2026 assessment had been abated and Mr. Atkinson will receive a new tax statement with the assessment removed. He also noted that the assessment calculator has been corrected for all future assessments on ditch 26. Roeschlein thanked Mr. Atkinson for his patience on this matter and for bringing it to the district’s attention. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to authorize Administrator Roeschlein to reimburse Chad Atkinson for \$105.91 for the 2025 assessment on Stearns County ditch**

#26. The motion was seconded by President Becker. The motion passed with majority in favor, one opposed.

- c. CD #9 Buffer Violation – Attorney review and update on status – John Kolb, the district Attorney, gave a brief update on the ditch 9 buffer violation. Mainly, this was to state that nothing has changed and the buffer is to be reseeded by June 1, 2026. There will be an inspection at that time.
 - d. CD #17 Tree Removal Report-Drone Video – Engineer Monson reported that Stearns County Ditch #17 and Stearns County Ditch #19 surveys have been completed, and they are currently working on the reports of those surveys. Scott Wittkop, Ditch Manager, showed a video of Stearns County Ditch #17 after the tree removal project was completed.
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or Information of Interest –**
6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
- a. Regular Drainage Meetings
 - i. Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - ii. Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Zerr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**