



**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
 MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 19th, 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, Russell Miller, Scott Klatt, Kevin Lahr
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, Jacque Heinen, Jerry Rapp, Bob Floerke, Hal Undersander, Jerry Zabinski, Steve Notch, Tim Larson, Pete Sarberg
Manager’s Absent:	
Virtual Guests Present:	

Public Comments – Tim Larson presented a discussion about the plans for the City of Sauk Centre to extend a road in the Morning View area. He expressed his concerns for this project as it may cause problems with his property and he is concerned about property values as well. He had several pictures available to share with the board.

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:05 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 Hartmann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. 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. April 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Manager Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor. Administrator Roeschlein highlighted the cash balance report in the consent agenda in regard to the general operations cash balance. He attached an email from Abdo staff with an explanation for why the numbers were shown as they were.
4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*

a. Administration

- i. Administrator Report – Administrator Roeschlein presented his report. Roeschlein noted that the budget/personnel committee will meet in late May or early June. The adjusted salary schedule will be presented to that committee and ultimately to the board for approval when it's ready. There's a plan to have a calendar year 2027 budget document available for review by the budget committee at this meeting and the board can expect a review of that budget by the July meeting, possibly June if the committee is comfortable. There were no questions. The Watershed office will be closed on May 25th in observance of Memorial Day. Noah Jensen will be starting full time on June 1st as the seasonal technician.
- ii. Monitoring Department Report - The Monitoring Department written report was presented. There were no further questions.
- iii. Education & Pubic Outreach Department Updates – The Education and Outreach Department written monthly report was presented. There were no further questions.
- iv. Water Resources Manager Update- The Water Resources Department report was presented by Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager. Zeece reported that he is working on getting reimbursement requests in to the Outdoor Heritage Counsel. He also reported on the Crooked Lake Project and that staff is awaiting a response from the petition to partially abandon a branch of JD 2 from the Drainage Authority.
 1. Sward Easement and alfalfa die out – Zeece reported on the Sward easement held by the Sauk River Watershed District and the alfalfa die out that has been experienced. Zeece indicated that we've authorized Swards to seed a certain seed mix for hay forage purposes but will work with the landowner to hopefully plant this to a native seed.
- v. Permit Manager Report – Scott Wittkop, Permit Manager, presented his monthly permitting report and permit summary table. 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 he continues to work on the JD 2 Sed Pond Efficacy Study and Report and hopes to have something for the board in June or July.
- viii. Legal Counsel Report – John Kolb, Legal Counsel, indicated that he had a separate report for discussion in regard to the Yarke buffer situation in the drainage meeting and no other items to report on.

b. Projects

- i. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Updates – Engineer Pete Sarberg, with Widseth, was in attendance to present his preliminary engineers report on the Long (Higgins) Lake outlet project. Copies were handed out to board members. As he went through it, he entertained questions from board about how this project would work.

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- ii. JD 2 Sed Ponds – The monthly inspection report for the JD 2 sed ponds was provided to the board in their board packet.
 - c. Committees
 - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, McKigney, and Folkedahl will meet on May 27th, 2026
 - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen – The Rules Committee continues to make progress. They had a meeting prior to the board meeting and are hoping to have a board workshop discussion at the August meeting.
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Zerr, Miller, Hartmann – The Public Relations/Education Committee members Zerr and Miller met prior to the board meeting to review activities that the education department has been conducting the last quarter.
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board – CY 2027 Budget meeting to be scheduled in early June to go over the budget and salary schedule update.
 - 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, June 16th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - 2. Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - b. Other Meetings
 - 7. **Manager Hartmann made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. 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 6:46 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 McKigney. 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. Garrett Monson, engineer, indicated that they hope to have their SCD 17 report to the board in a more official manner in July.

