



642 Lincoln Road
Sauk Centre MN 56378
Phone: (320)-352-2231
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Web: www.srwdmn.org

JD2 AND MILLER BAY PROJECT TEAM MEETING NOTES

03/16/2026 | 9:00 to noon

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), , Janice Hauri (OLA Rep. & Landowner), Abigail Parker (SRWD)

Online: Bret Zimmerman (Houston Engineering), Susan Capitola (Landowner), Garret Munson (Moore Engineering)

Attendees

In Person: Steve Zeece III (SRWD Staff), Allison Schugel (SRWD Staff), Abby Borgerding (SRWD Staff), Randy Neumann (Todd County Commissioner), Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD Supervisor), Dave Zerr (SRWD Board Manager), Susan Capitola (Landowner), Bruce Magnus (OLA President)

Online: Bret Zimmerman (Houston Engineering), Garrett Munson (Moore Engineering), Drew Kessler (Houston Engineering), Jim Noren (USACE), Natalie McGlinch (USACE), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD Administrator),

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STAFF

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

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Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The November meeting minutes were reviewed.
 - No changes were suggested; minutes accepted as presented.
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SRWD JD2 Sed Ponds Efficacy Analysis

- Garrett Munson (Moore Engineering) provided an update on the SRWD JD2 sediment pond efficacy analysis.
- Sediment core samples were collected in early February and are currently being analyzed for phosphorus content and flux.
- Survey data from the previous year contained an error related to instrument height, which has now been corrected.
- Updated analysis indicates **less sediment accumulation than previously estimated**, likely below cleanout thresholds.
- Additional data collection methods (including drone-based sonar surveys) are being explored.
- A full memo will contextualize phosphorus loading, removal efficiency, and overall system effectiveness.

Discussion:

- Questions raised regarding phosphorus sources, peat soils, and whether ponds may become nutrient sources if full.
 - Recommendation to wait for final engineering analysis before making management decisions.
 - Potential future discussion on maintenance, cleanout, or operational changes pending results.
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USACE Alternatives Analysis Updates

- Natalie McGlinch (USACE) reported progress on the Lake Osakis Comprehensive Plan.
- Draft report timeline:
 - **Draft due:** April 17, 2026
 - **Final due:** July 17, 2026
- Report includes measures evaluation, modeling, and alternatives analysis based on previously identified watershed issues.
- Jim Noren (USACE) presented preliminary modeling results:
 - Proposed outlet modifications reduce lake level variability (~7-inch reduction in range over long-term simulation).
 - Higher average water levels but reduced peak elevations.
 - Results align with expected design outcomes.

Discussion:



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- Group acknowledged modeling limitations relative to precipitation variability.
- General agreement that outlet modifications will improve water level management, though not a complete solution.

Osakis Outlet Rock Arch Rapids Modification Updates

- Bret Zimmerman (Houston Engineering) provided an update:
 - CPL grant has been **awarded** (~90% state funding).
 - Lake Association contributing toward 10% local match.
 - Grant execution paperwork is underway.

Next Steps:

- Execute grant agreement
- Conduct additional survey work
- Hold stakeholder kickoff meeting
- Advance design and permitting coordination

Timeline:

- Potential construction as early as Fall 2026. The grant is available for 3 years.

Discussion:

- Landowner concerns identified near project area; primarily related to perceived property impacts.
- Project team anticipates working within drainage authority right-of-way where possible.
- Additional outreach and education with landowners will be needed.

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Osakis Wastewater Scoping Study

- Bret Zimmerman summarized findings of the completed scoping study:
 - Evaluated centralized and decentralized wastewater collection/treatment options
 - Reviewed collection methods, treatment alternatives, and governance structures
 - Provided conceptual cost considerations and system configurations

Discussion:

- Aging septic systems identified as a potential contributor to water quality concerns.
- Concerns raised regarding:
 - Septic compliance and enforcement
 - Seasonal property usage and cost burden
 - Unauthorized or improper waste disposal practices
- Emphasis placed on:
 - Public education regarding septic maintenance
 - Potential need for ordinances or regulatory enforcement
 - Consideration of a future feasibility study

Next Steps:

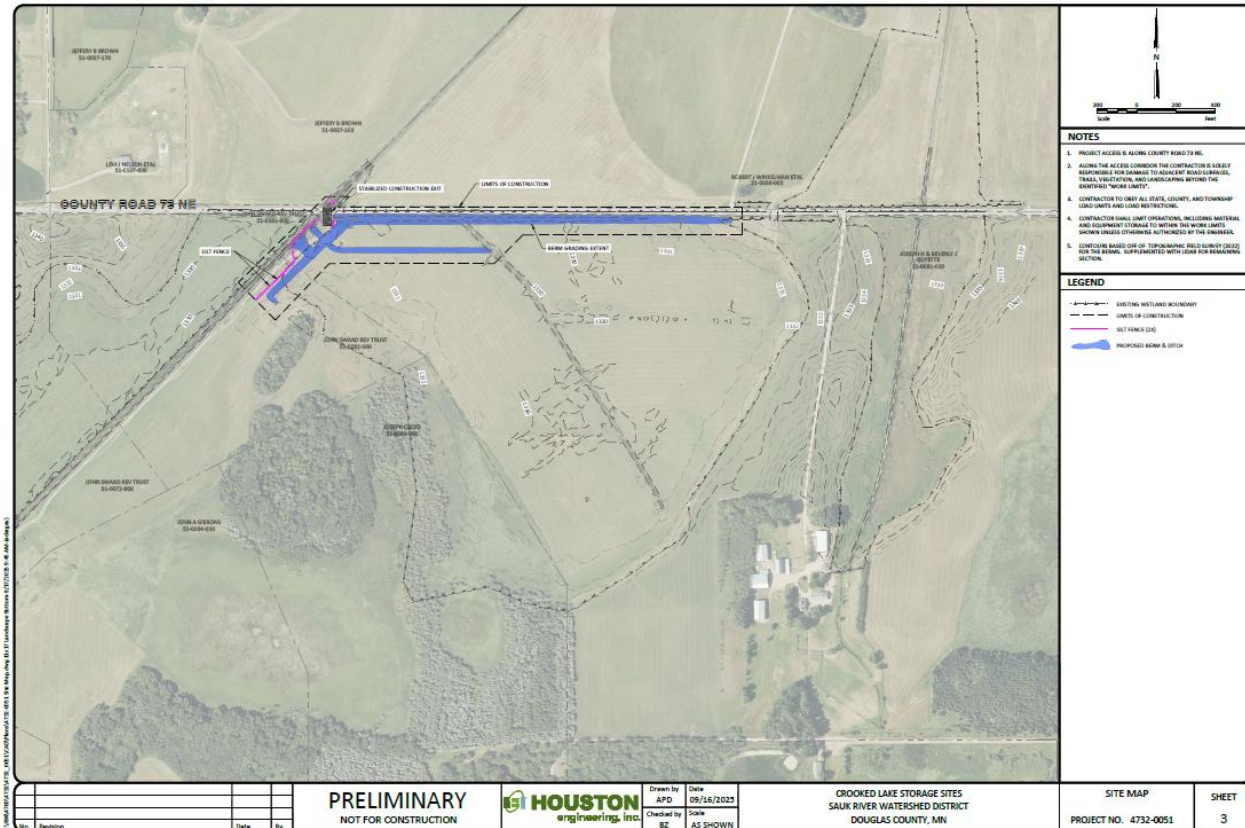
- Distribute final scoping study (remove draft designation)
 - Continue discussion with Lake Association and stakeholders
 - Explore feasibility study funding opportunities (potentially WBIF)
 - Consider increased water quality monitoring
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Crooked Lake Project Updates

- Bret Zimmerman reported:
 - All major permits obtained (USACE, WCA, SRWD)
 - Remaining item: petition to JD2 Drainage Authority
- Legal counsel is working through conflict-of-interest waivers prior to petition submittal

Timeline:

- Upon petition approval → project ready for bidding
- Target construction: Summer 2026
- Completion goal: Late summer (Aug–Sept)



Open Discussion

- Continued discussion on:
 - Water quality monitoring and potential expansion of sampling efforts
 - Public beach monitoring considerations
 - Funding strategies for watershed projects and match requirements
 - Coordination with municipalities (City of Osakis stormwater systems and infrastructure)
- General consensus on the importance of:
 - Data-driven decision-making

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- Public communication and education
 - Demonstrating project success to build stakeholder support
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Closeout and Next Meeting Dates

Next scheduled meetings:

- May 18, 2026
- June 15, 2026
- July 20, 2026
- August 17, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am