

**Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

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

Managers Present:	Bill Becker, , Jon Folkedahl, Donavon McKigney, David Zerr, 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 & Dennis Heinen, Bob Floerke, Hal Undersander, Jerry Zabinski, Steve Notch, Noah Jensen
Manager's Absent:	Paul Hartmann, Eugene Mensen, Russell Miller
Virtual Guests Present:	

Public Comments –

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 Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as modified with the addition of the 2024 Audit Report given by Michael Peterson. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. 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. May 19th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.
4. **2024 Audit Report – Michael Peterson** – Michael Peterson, Peterson Company LTD, was online and presented the 2024 Audit Report. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the 2024 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
5. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Roeschlein and staff*
 - a. Administration

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- i. Administrator Report – Administrator Roeschlein presented his report. The next KASM radio show is scheduled for June 25th. The Budget committee was scheduled to meet on June 8th to review the first draft of the budget but a power surge took out the network, including the internet and the server, the budget meeting was postponed. It was noted that the SRWD office will be closed on Friday, June 19th and July 3rd to observe Juneteenth and the 4th of July holidays. He reported that he would be presenting the Sauk River Watershed District 2025 Annual Report to the Stearns County Commissioners on June 23rd.
 1. SRWD Financial Oversight – Roeschlein presented a memo on the Sauk River Watershed District financial oversight that's been taking place. Discussion followed. The executive committee will address this issue at the next meeting.
 - ii. Monitoring Department Report - The Monitoring Department written report was reviewed. 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. There was no discussion.
 1. SRCWMP Fiscal Agent Agreement – This agreement is being amended to transfer the fiscal agent responsibility to the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District from the Stearns County Environmental Services. **Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the fiscal agent transfer agreement amendment to transfer fiscal agent responsibilities from Stearns County Environmental Services to the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - 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 the JD 2 efficacy analysis study is expected to be presented at the July meeting. They are waiting on a review of the US Army Corps of Engineers Alternatives Analysis Report as they would like to incorporate any information that it may provide to their study. The rest of his report information is to be presented during the Drainage Authority meeting.
 - viii. Legal Counsel Report – John Kolb, Legal Counsel, gave a brief report talking about Long (Higgins) Lake Project and the next steps required in order to proceed with establishing this project. Kolb will be guiding this process and working with district staff to keep things moving.

b. Projects

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- i. Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project Updates – The Long (Higgins) Lake Outlet Project report was presented. Staff indicated that a virtual meeting had been conducted with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hydrologist Mark Anderson. Post project monitoring will be continued, the operations and maintenance plan will be developed and budgets for both will be provided.
 - 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 met on May 27th, 2026 to review a potential stormwater stewardship program and asked staff to make more edits and come back for further discussion at another committee meeting.
 - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen – The Rules Committee met May 19th, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for July.
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Zerr, Miller, Hartmann – The Public Relations/Education Committee members Zerr and Miller met on May 19th, 2026. They reviewed all of the education work taking place in the Education and Outreach department.
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board – CY 2027 Budget meeting is scheduled for June 8th, 2026.
 - v. Personnel Committee – Executive Board will meet with the Budget Committee
6. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
7. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
 - 1. Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - 2. Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - b. Other Meetings
8. **Manager Klatt made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. 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 7:25 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 Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. 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 was no further discussion.
- b. SCD #19 Ditch Investigation Findings - Garrett Monson, District Engineer, presented his report on SCD #19. He indicated that there was no repair recommended. **Manager Lahr made a motion to accept the engineer's report and have taken his recommendation to continue with just normal management of the ditch system. No extensive repair is needed at this time. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- c. SCD #19 -Linz Crossing- Monson, District Engineer, presented discussion on the Linz crossing request. He estimated the cost to repair that crossing to be \$16,560. **Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the crossing request and authorize staff to proceed with the repair. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- d. SCD #9 Buffer Violation – Attorney review and update on status – John Kolb, the district Attorney, gave a brief update on the SCD #9 Yarke buffer violation. He indicated that Mr. Yarke had not seeded that buffer strip into permanent vegetation as of June 2, 2026. Ditch Manager Wittkop will again inspect the buffer strip on July 2nd, 2026 and if no action has been taken, legal counsel is advised to proceed with filing the court papers in District Court.

5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings or Information of Interest –**

6. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**

- a. Regular Drainage Meetings
 - i. Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - ii. Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office

7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – Manager Lahr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**