



Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting

MINUTES

July 21, 2026

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

Position types	Names
Managers Present:	Bill Becker, Scott Klatt, David Zerr, Kevin Lahr, Eugene Mensen, Jon Folkedahl Russell Miller, Donavon McKigney
Staff Present:	Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; John Kolb, Legal Counsel; Scott Wittkop, Ditch and Permit Manager; Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager; Garrett Monson, District Engineer
Guests Present:	Randy Neumann, Paul Wildman, Dennis and Jacque Heinen, Jerry Rapp, Bob Floerke, Hal Undersander, Jerry Zabinski
Manager's Absent:	Paul Hartmann

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 correction or additions to the agenda. **Manager McKigney made a motion to approve the agenda with two date corrections. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.**
- 3. Annual Board Reorganization** – Nominations for president were made for Scott Klatt and Bill Becker. When a show of hands was called for, Scott Klatt received 2 votes and Bill Becker received 4. Bill Becker will remain as president. Nominations for Vice-President were made for Paul Hartmann. There were no other nominations and the secretary was called to cast a unanimous ballot for Vice-President Paul Hartmann. Nominations for Secretary were made for Scott Klatt and David Zerr. When a show of hands was called for, Scott Klatt received 3 votes and David Zerr received 5 votes. David Zerr will serve as secretary for the coming year. Nominations for Treasurer were made for Kevin Lahr. There were no other nominations and the secretary was called to case a unanimous ballot for Treasurer Kevin Lahr. President Becker appointed the following members to committees: Water Quality and Projects Committee- Becker, Folkedahl, McKigney; Rules and Regulations Committee-Scott Klatt, Kevin Lahr, Gene Mensen; Public Relations and Education-Paul Hartmann, David Zerr, Russell Miller; Budget Committee-Executive Board; Personnel Committee-Executive Board; Citizen Advisory Committee-JD 2 Project Team and the Getchell Creek Project Team. All duties will commence on August 1st, 2026.
- 4. Treasurer Report** – Manager Lahr presented the treasurers report in the board packet. **Manager Miller made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**

-
5. **June 16th, 2026 Minutes - Manager McKigney made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16th, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor**
6. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates –**
- a. Administration
 - i. Administrator Report – Roeschlein reported that the next KASM radio visit was scheduled for July 23rd. He also noted that ditch assessment discussions will take place at the August 18th Drainage Authority Meeting. A spreadsheet with current accounting information will be provided. The Stearns County Fair is July 29 - August 2. Roeschlein encouraged board members to stop by the booth and spend some time there meeting with the public. Roeschlein also noted that the Sauk River Watershed District 40th Anniversary is July 22, 2026.
 - 1. **CY 2026 Budget Amendment #2 – Budget Amendment #2 was presented to the board. Manager Mensen made a motion to approve Amendment #2 to the 2026 General Administration budget, specifically to account #101-6000-43030 Engineering Services to increase by \$37,900 for a total of \$100,900, account #101-6000-43040 Legal Fees to increase by \$11,880 for a total of \$12,380, account #101-6000-41010 Staff to increase by \$5,000 for a total of \$38,936.93, account 101-6000-44390 Miscellaneous (contingency) to increase by \$2,811 for a total of \$2,811, and account #101-1000-41030 Managers to increase by \$1,440 for a total of \$11,940. The change in revenues results in an increase of \$59,031 to be taken from SRWD reserves, for a total of \$386,573.86. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - 2. **2026 Salary Schedule – Administrator Roeschlein presented the 2026 Salary Schedule update. After some discussion, the board decided to wait to act on this until further work can be done on it. There was some concern that the salary schedule showed above market minimums for each position.**
 - 3. **CY 27 Preliminary Budget – The Preliminary CY 2027 Budget was presented to the board for review after the committee reviewed and recommended it. The board memo shows the 2026 approved budget in December 2025 and then it has additional amendment's that were added to the budget to show what that did to the 2026 budget and then the proposed budget for 2027. Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the preliminary CY 2027 Budget in the amount of \$1,360,586.19 and to order the budget hearing to be scheduled for August 18, 2026 board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office Board Room. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - ii. **Monitoring Department Updates – the Environmental Monitoring Department monthly report was presented. There were no questions.**

-
- iii. Education & Public Outreach Department Updates – The Education and Public Outreach Department monthly report was presented. There were no questions.
 - iv. Water Resources Manager Update- Steve Zeece III, Water Resources Manager, presented the Water Resources Department monthly report. There was minor discussion.
 - v. Permit Manager Report – Scott Wittkop, Permit Manager, presented the Permit Department monthly report. There were no further questions.
 - 1. Permit Summary Table – The Permit Summary Table was reviewed by the board. There were no questions.
 - vi. Environmental Technician Report – the Environmental Technician monthly report was presented. There were no questions.
 - vii. Engineer Report – None
 - viii. Legal Counsel Report – None
- b. Projects
- i. Long(Higgins) Lake Outlet Project – Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, provided the Long (Higgins) Lake project update. The final engineers report is complete. The water quality monitoring plan is in development. The Operations and Maintenance Plan is in development and both will be included in the appendices of the report. Engineering Staff are working through the development of the permitting documents of that project for the DNR and the township. Widseth Land Surveying is preparing the necessary legal descriptions for the easements and staff will be working with legal counsel to get those drafted. The language amendment was approved at the legislature to allow for expenditure of these funds on this style of project. Roeschlein reported that he met with landowners the evening of June 22nd, 2026, to give them an in-person update on the project which was very well received. Roeschlein also reported that Ron Ringquist will assist in developing the assessment area for the project. He shared the authorization to proceed.
 - ii. JD #2 Sed Ponds- Inspection and Efficacy Report – The JD 2 sediment ponds inspection report was presented to the board. Garrett Monson, Engineer, presented the Judicial Ditch 2 Sediment Ponds Efficacy Review. Summary of the review indicated that the Sediment Ponds are both effective in removing sediment and phosphorus from entering into Osakis Lake, as well as, being cost effective to continue operating and maintaining. A copy of the full report is available upon request. Recommendations include continue to operate the ponds and monitor them as aligned in the operations and maintenance plan. An additional recommendation would be to explore the potential for an alum treatment of the ponds.
- c. Committees
- i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Becker, McKigney, and Folkedahl – Will meet on July 28, 2026.
 - ii. Rules – Managers Klatt, Lahr, Mensen – Will meet on July 28th, 2026.
 - iii. Public Relations/Education – Managers Zerr, Miller, Hartmann
 - iv. Budget Committee – Executive Board – CY 2027 Budget Meeting held June 24th, 2026 and July 15th, 2026.



-
- v. Personnel Committee – Executive Board – Will meet again to discuss the salary schedule information and bring it back to the board when it's ready.
- 7. Items for Upcoming Meetings or of Interest**
- 8. Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
 - i. Tuesday, August 18th 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - ii. Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, location to be determined.
 - b. Other Meetings
- 9. Manager Lahr made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. 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 7:18 p.m.**
- 2. Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. **Manager Zerr made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with 2 date corrections. The motion was seconded by Manager Lahr. The motion**
- 3. Drainage Specific Public Comment Period** – Jerry Zabinski spoke in regards to Stearns CD 17 and stated he would hold his comments and statements until after the report was provided by Garrett Monson, the engineer.
- 4. Reports**
 - a. Ditch & Permit Manager – The Ditch Manager's report was reviewed with the board. There were no further questions and minimal discussion.
 - b. CD #17-Repair Report -Engineer Monson provided a summary on the CD #17 repair report indicating that there are repairs needed. The ditch system is out of repair and he offered a functional repair option rather than a full repair option and recommended a functional repair instead. He indicated a total cost of the recommended repair ranges between \$521,000 to \$606,000 depending on which repair options were selected. **Manager Lahr made a motion to approve the repair report and directed staff to schedule a public hearing on this repair on August 18th, 2026 to begin at 7:00 p.m. or thereafter as the agenda allows. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with the majority in favor, President Becker abstaining.**

-
- c. CD #17-Cost Apportionment- Engineer Monson presented the cost apportionment report for Stearns CD #17. After some discussion from the board, **Manager Miller made a motion to approve the Cost Apportionment Report and directed staff to schedule this report for hearing on August 18th, 2026 to follow the Repair Report Hearing. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with the majority in favor, President Becker abstaining.** Administrator Roeschlein indicated that he would like to hold an informational meeting for the landowners prior to the hearings in order to provide an informal atmosphere for discussion regarding both of these reports. It was also suggested that this be set up as a special meeting of the Sauk River Watershed District and that it be noticed appropriately so any and all board members could attend.
 - d. CD #19
 - i. Request for repair – Kenneth Miller – Scott Wittkop, Ditch Manager, presented the Stearns CD #19 request to begin process to repair. Wittkop estimates tree removal to be up to \$45,000. **Manager Lahr made a motion to authorize Wittkop to proceed with soliciting quotes and getting trees removed from the areas noted in his memo. If any estimates come in over \$45,000, the board would like to review those estimates before a contractor is awarded the work. The motion was seconded by Manager Zerr. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - ii. Private Crossing Requests – Ditch Manager Wittkop presented crossing requests. In discussion, it was determined that the crossing for Steve Alvord (CD #19) would just likely need to be repair. **Manager Lahr made a motion to authorize the engineer to investigate and develop a report for crossings for Lloyd Linz (CD #19) and Don Schmidt (CD #26). The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - 1. CD #19-Steve Alvord –
 - 2. CD #19 Lloyd Linz
 - 3. CD #26 Don Schmidt
 - e. Drone spray – Estimates for 2026 contract work – Drone spraying quotes were provided to the board for their review. Ditch Manager Wittkop is recommending the district does some drone spraying on areas unreachable by ground due to ground conditions being too wet. **Manager Zerr made a motion to authorize staff to execute the drone spraying contract for \$4,880 to Natural North LLC out of Alexandria. The motion was seconded by Manager Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - f. CD #9 Buffer Violation-Attorney review and update on status – Legal Counsel John Kolb, Rinke-Noonan, provided an update on the Stearns CD 9 Yarke buffer strip issue. He noted that the paperwork has been filed in District Court and they are waiting for assignment of a judge and court dates.

5. Items for Upcoming Meetings or Information of Interest –

6. Upcoming meetings to be announced

- a. Regular Drainage Meetings
 - i. Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, SRWD Office
 - ii. Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, location TBD



SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS
642 Lincoln Road
Phone: (320) 352-2231
Fax: (320) 352-6455
Visit us online at: www.srwdmn.org

-
7. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting** – Manager Zerr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.