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JD2 and Miller Bay Project Team Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2026 | 9:00a- noon

Sauk River Watershed District Office, 642 Lincoln Road, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Attendees: Steve Zeece III, Allison Pfingsten, Abi Borgerding, Susan Capitola, Bruce Magnus, Garrett Monson, Shane Finck, Emily Siira, and Troy Bednarz.

Call to Order and Prior Meeting Notes

- Steve Zeece III called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 a.m. Introductions were completed; no agenda changes were requested.

Osakis Outlet Modification

- Construction remains planned for 2027; permitting is ongoing.

Crooked Lake Wetland Restoration and Branch 3 MS103E Petition

- The September 28 public hearing was recessed. It resumes December 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Douglas County Public Works Building. Rinke Noonan will provide SRWD legal representation.
- The project primarily provides temporary water storage and flood reduction, with habitat and water-quality benefits. It is not designed as a sedimentation pond.
- Discussed a preliminary $5,000 annual budget for staff time and outlet operation. The proposed plan is for the landowner to maintain the basin & vegetation; while SRWD inspects and maintains project infrastructure. The O&M plan has yet to be finalized.
- The grant is reimbursement-based, with an original expiration of June 30, 2027. An extension may be possible.

SRWD Sediment Ponds Water Quality (TSS &Turbidity) Monitoring Methodology

- Discussion around previous and current SRWD monitoring methodology of JD2 including the County Road 3 monitoring station, JD2 pond surveys, and sediment-removal records.
- Additionally discussed were inconsistent flows, lake tailwater, and groundwater inputs complicating monitoring and downstream sediment daily and annual loading calculations/estimates.
- SRWD staff and engineer will consider practical monitoring methods.
- Douglas SWCD's Supervisor Rutten volunteered to grab turbidity tubes samples above and below the Sed ponds. No formal plan was achieved. Further discussion on this item should occur in November.

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Lake Osakis Alternatives Ranking Exercise

- As of this meeting eight participants submitted responses. Additional responses were encouraged between the October and November meetings.
- Preliminary priorities: Septic compliance and monitoring ranked highest; shoreland ownership education was one point behind.
- Channel stabilization, public engagement, and outlet modification also ranked highly. JD2 pond expansion and stabilization ranked lowest.
- Osakis Lake Association septic-screening results were pending. Discussed county parcel and septic-system information, shoreland practices, and the Lake Stewardship Program as an education partner.
- Potential channel work includes the reach between Otter Tail Trail and County Road 85 and the steep reach toward the ponds. Drainage capacity and drainage-authority approvals remain important. Stabilization work was supported, with strong concerns around construction expressed.
- Funding and long-term maintenance costs remain unresolved. Stormwater stewardship, focused dredging, and wetland restoration remain under discussion.
- No formal actions were taken. The Committee advised to request and acquire more responses before moving into the next implementation actions.

Follow Up Items

- Steve/SRWD- Request additional ranking responses and update the tally for a future Project Team discussion and implementation actions
- SRWD Monitoring Staff and Moore engineering: Continue evaluating practical monitoring options for JD2 and SRWD Sediment Collection Basin.
- Project Team: Continue alternatives and feasibility discussions in November. Adjournment
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.