

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting
Eden Valley City Hall
Approved
April 5, 2005

President Cook called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Hunstiger, Kral, Kuseske, Mostad, Schmidt and Rettig. Manager Absent: Kutter. Others present were Officials and residents of Eden Valley; John Kolb, Attorney; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator; Amy Trisko and Melissa Bromenshenkel, Environmental Quality Technicians.

The proposed agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Manager Schmidt to approve the agenda. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the minutes of the March 15 meeting. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Kuseske then made a motion to approve the treasurer's report comprised of checks 13852 through 13893. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Amy Trisko and Melissa Bromenshenkel gave a presentation on the District's Monitoring Program. The board thanked Trisko and Bromenshenkel for an informative presentation.

Eden Valley's Mayor Dan Thielen and Planning and Zoning Director Harold Bethel gave a report on the steps the City of Eden Valley had taken before proceeding to petition the Watershed District to complete the Eden Valley Stormwater Study Project. There was discussion on the next steps to proceed with the petition process. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve the Eden Valley Committee's recommendation and appoint Houston Engineering to complete the study. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The board directed Administrator Klocker to contact Houston Engineering and work with them on completing the study.

Attorney Kolb reviewed Resolution 05-02 in regards to transfer the old Sauk Lake Project funds to the new Big Sauk Lake Aquatic Plant Harvesting Project. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to approve Resolution 05-02. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Lower Sauk Basic Water Management Project petition process. We received petitions from Stearns County and Stearns SWCD. The City of St. Cloud approved signing the petition at their City Council Monday night meeting and is on its way to us. St. Joseph approved signing the petition once more than 50% of the potential petitioners have signed it. Manager Mostad made a motion to accept the petitions and establish Project #05-02 with the project referred to as the Lower Sauk Region Basic Watershed Management Project. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Attorney John Kolb informed the Board that as a Basic Water Management Project we must follow 103D.605 which requires the preparation of a project plan to be reviewed by BWSR and the DNR. The agencies will prepare a report on the project plan to the Board. Then the board must set a time and location for a hearing on the proposed project. The Board directed staff to proceed with preparing a plan and to begin the diagnostic study which will be funded

from the Survey and Data Acquisition Fund until the permanent funding is established. Administrator Klocker is still working with Jeff Hrubes from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on a plan that allows the MPCA to contribute up to \$55,000 to the study without having to complete the TMDL process.

The board reviewed the proposed support letter for the Clean Water Legacy. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to submit the letter as written. Manager Rettig seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. Kral-no, Hensley-no, Hunstiger-aye, Mostad-no, Kuseske-no, Schmidt-aye and Rettig-no. The motion failed. The board discussed that they are in favor of the project but are not in favor of charging a distribution fee and how this fee will be collected. Manager Hunstiger then made a motion to submit the support letter with a paragraph that reads we do not support the proposed source of the fees and the mechanism for collecting the fees. The board believes that this effort should have dedicated funding through the general fund. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker reviewed options to establish funds for a memorial fund. The board would like time to review their options and tabled the discussion until a later meeting.

Manager Mostad gave a report on the personnel committee meeting. The committee discussed the current status of the employees wages based on the Stearns County SWCD's and the committee recommended that Administrator Klocker come up with a new schedule and bring it to the next committee meeting.

The Care for Your Waters workshop is scheduled for April 23rd at the Melrose City Hall. Managers are encouraged to attend to support the volunteers that work on our behalf.

Administrator Klocker reviewed the schedule for upcoming Lake Association meetings.

Administrator Klocker met with Chris Meehan on March 17 to review his recommendations to update the Corps of Engineers Alternative Study for Big Sauk Lake. Manager Kuseske made a motion to have the staff move forward with the 5 alternatives. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Administrator Klocker recommended inviting representatives from BWSR, DNR, and MPCA and lake association members to the May 2nd meeting review the alternative recommendations. Manager Rettig made a motion to move the May 3rd meeting to the Sauk Centre City Hall to accommodate the extra people. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker requested that Amy Trisko and Administrator Klocker attend the Stream Health and Restoration Workshop in Redwood Falls on July 22-26. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve Trisko and Klocker to attend the workshop. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker gave a report on Houston Engineering analysis of Stearns County Ditch 17. Houston Engineering has some questions in regards to the hydraulic analysis that Westwood Professional Services submitted. Administrator Klocker faxed a request of information to Westwood Professional Services. Administrator Klocker will keep the board updated when more information is submitted.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application for Stearns Highway Department to rebuild the road and replace a bridge on County Road 17. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve permit 05-04. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application for Geneva Estates East to construct eighty-seven lots with sanitary sewer system, storm sewer collection system, sediment basins and street construction. Manager Mostad made a motion to approve permit 05-03. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application for Buettner's Ridgewood Estates to construct eight twin homes and an infiltration basin. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve permit 05-02. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker, Jeff Hrubes and Lynn Nelson will be meeting with the City of Osakis on April 6th to follow up on the east side regional ponds.

Administrator Klocker read a thank you card from Senator Dallas Sams.

Attorney Kolb gave an Attorney's Report. Kolb reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of drainage transfer of County Ditch 17. Kolb is looking into the adjustment of Watershed Districts boundaries.

Manager Kuseske and Attorney Kolb reviewed an article in the Pope County Tribune in regards to vacating roads on Judicial Ditch 1 in sections 11, 12 & 14. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to have Manager Kuseske work with Attorney Kolb on this process. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Secretary, Ed Hunstiger
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau