



524 4th St South, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
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MINUTES

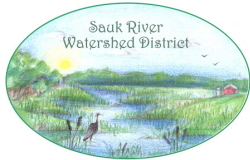
Sauk River Watershed District Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2011 7:00 PM – Special Meeting-SRWD Office

Managers Present:	Jim Kral, Dan Coughlin, Jason Scherping, Larry Kuseske, Bob Mostad, Todd Foster, Virgil Rettig, Vernon Vangness
Staff Present:	Holly Kovarik, Administrator; Sarah Jo Schmitz, Intern
Guests Present:	John Harren, Landowner; Duane Pung, Landowner; Chris Meehan, Wenck; John Kolb, Rinke-Noonan
Manager's Absent:	Jim Rothstein

1. **The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Kral at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
2. Per special meeting requirements, no corrections or changes were made to the agenda. **Manager Coughlin moved to approve the agenda. Manager Foster seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**
 - a. Manager Mostad arrived at 7:05 p.m.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Cold Spring Stormwater Project (brief update on current project status).** Engineer Meehan gave a brief update on the Cold Spring Rain Garden project. The project started with 72 interested Cold Spring landowners, of which approximately 30 were determined to be favorable sites for rain gardens. Plants selected by conditions of the rain garden (ie – sunny, shady, etc). Homeowners will be given the option install their plants and mulch as “in-kind” towards their project. Pretreatment forebays for the project are being constructed by the weed harvester crew for 20% of the cost the District was quoted. Bids for the construction of the rain gardens are due next week to continue on the current time line which states that as of June 27th rain garden construction will begin. Projects will be staggered, working on five rain gardens at a time. Bids are estimated to be around \$93,148. **Manager Coughlin moved to put the project out for bids. Manager Vangness seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - b. **County Ditch 9 Bids.** CD9 received two very similar bids, one from Geise and one from MBC. Manager Scherping explained that he knew both contractors and that both were good companies to work with, however, that MBC would be more familiar with this particular type of project. **Manager Foster made a motion to hire MBC. Manager Coughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - a. **Continuation of Hearing on County Ditch 15 & 26.** Attorney Kolb gave a summary of the two changes and additions made to the report. The first was the addition of a paragraph in between paragraphs 22 and 23, thus creating a new paragraph 23, which acknowledges the existence of the record of

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proceedings along with all orders, notices, affidavits, oaths and other reports.

b.

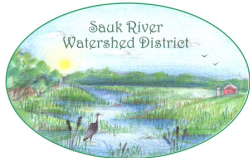
1. Landowner John Harren stated that while he does not disagree with the statute, he will not receive a benefit from the ditch this year due to high water levels and does not see future benefits as being any better. He also pointed out that the benefits were not determined according to the current status of the ditch, they were determined years ago. His final point was that the ditch is not doing what it is supposed to since the culverts are too high and should be lowered.
2. Landowner Duane Pung questioned his high assessment, stating that the benefits were determined based on a clean ditch and perfect culverts and that is not the current condition of the ditch, therefore he should not be charged for a non-existent condition.
3. Manager Mostad commented that the road authority is required to follow statutes and that we, as the SRWD, can keep them in check. Manager Mostad stated that the culverts should get lowered. He stated that there are two main focus points as we proceed with County Ditch 15 & 26 and those main points are: 1. Get the redetermination of benefits settled, and 2. Clean the ditch, address any additional problems as they arise.
4. Engineer Meehan stated that the culverts under 94 are 3x bigger than the others and that the road authority is willing to work with us to make improvements such as lowering the culverts. He also mentioned that to avoid drainage, Freeport Lake will be restored to its original grade.
5. Attorney Kolb stated that in regards to the benefits determined regarding the ditch, if there is a possible future benefit we must continue to use the distribution by the viewers and that the landowners are asking for the benefits to be changed based on something that may or may not happen and that benefits cannot be determined based on a hypothetical situation. He also stated that MN Dot is willing to work with us to adjust the culverts as necessary.
6. Attorney Kolb has the motion prewritten with the additions mentioned previously. **Manager Coughlin made a motion to close the hearing. Manager Foster seconded the motion. Manager Foster made a motion to adopt the prewritten motion with the previously discussed changes. Manager Coughlin seconded the motion.**
7. **Attorney Kolb noted that the 30 day appeal period would begin as soon as the order was signed and returned to Administrator Kovarik. Because he abstained from the vote, Secretary Scherping asked that Manager Coughlin be designated the acting secretary for the purpose of executing the order. President Rothstein designated Manager Coughlin as acting secretary and directed him to sign the order.**

5. New Business

- a. **Potential Government Shutdown.** Administrator Kovarik gave a brief

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summary of the current status SRWD funding given a potential government shutdown occurred. Administrator Kovarik stated that at this time, the funding the SRWD has received upfront will not be affected by a potential government shutdown. The two projects that are known to be affected are TODD SWAG and one of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes projects. Monitoring costs during a government shutdown could be covered with dollars from the survey and data acquisition fund. Administrator Kovarik asked that the board of managers give authorization to collect data during a potential government shutdown to avoid invalidating the entire season of monitoring and to pay for intern time.

Manager Coughlin made a motion to grant Administrator Kovarik the authorization to make decisions to allocate funds as necessary during government shutdown. Manager Rettig seconded the motion. Manager Coughlin made the followed amendment to the previous motion: Administrator Kovarik has the authority to make the previously stated decisions with the approval of the chair to provide a second set of eyes. Manager Rettig agreed to the amendment. The motion passed with all in favor. The Administrator stated that a status update would be given at the next meeting of the organization and that at no time would this be considered an open ended authorization.

6. **Open Discussion for the Public** There was no discussion from the Public.
7. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** There were no items to add to the next meeting agenda.
8. **Adjourn** Manager Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Manager Coughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting– June 21, 2011 (Tuesday)- Sauk River Watershed District Office Sauk Centre MN

James Rothstein

Date

Jim Kral

Date

Dan Coughlin

Date

Jason Scherping

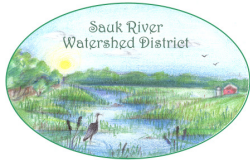
Date

Vern Vangsness

Date

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Virgil Rettig

Date

Larry Kuseske

Date

Todd Foster

Date

Bob Mostad

Date

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