

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

August 2, 2005

President Hensley called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Hermanutz, Kral, Kuseske, Mostad, Rettig and Robinson. Manager Absent: Kutter. Others present were John Kolb, Attorney; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the July 19th meeting. Manager Robinson made a motion to approve the July 19th minutes. Manager Hermanutz seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Kral made a motion to approve the treasurer's report comprised of checks 14291 – 14345. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

President Hensley reviewed an itemized invoice for Attorney Hansen's consultation time. Manager Rettig made a motion to pay the \$3,500 invoice. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board discussed the Professional Services Committee recommendation to acquire proposals for professional legal, engineering and auditing services for two years starting July 2006. The committee also recommended that the District hire an engineering firm on an as needed basis thru June 2006. Manager Kuseske made a motion to direct the Administrator obtain engineering proposals, have the Professional Service Committee review the proposals and have the top two firms give a presentation to the full board. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Managers Mostad and Kuseske gave a report on the MAWD Summer Tour Committee meeting they attended. President Hensley recommended forming a committee of four Managers to work on the preparations for next year's tour. President Hensley appointed Managers Cook, Hermanutz, Kuseske and Mostad. There was discussion on where to hold next year's tour. Managers Hensley and Mostad checked with the Holiday Inn in Alexandria on availability and Manager Cook will check with St. Cloud Holiday Inn. Manager Kuseske made a motion to give the committee authorization to choose the location of the tour. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Hermanutz questioned if committee meetings are always before board meetings. President Hensley responded no, if a committee meeting is scheduled before the meeting the board has made a policy that a meal would be provided. The chair person usually communicates with the staff to check the office schedule.

The board discussed changing the Manager's extra per diem rate but leaving the Manager's regular per diem the same. The Board tabled changing the rate until the August 16th meeting.

The board discussed changing the language in the District's By-Laws. Attorney Kolb will work with the Rules Committee on updating the By-Laws.

Administrator Klocker reviewed the proposed 2006-2007 fiscal year budget. Administrator Klocker will send the proposed budget to the Managers for their review. The Public Hearing is tentatively set for September 6th. Manager Robinson mentioned that the Personnel Committee is still in the process of determining staff wages that will change the proposed budget. Manager Hermanutz asked if the office could be expanded to add a water sampling lab. Administrator Klocker responded that the District office has no room for a lab and that more staff would have to be hired and the District would have to obtain a lab certification from the Department of Health and right now it would not be feasible. Administrator Klocker also suggested having Manager Hermanutz attend the annual monitoring meeting with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, DNR and USGS to determine what future monitoring needs are to be addressed.

Manager Kutter asked President Hensley to let the board know that the personnel committee has met with the staff and has resolved the personnel issues. Manager Cook asked if there will be any changes in the procedures due to the outcome. President Hensley commented that for now Sharen Kutter will be the contact person.

Manager Kuseske gave a report on ditches that need to be sprayed for several cottonwoods that were not killed the first time. Manager Kuseske mentioned that a gentleman from Albany may be interested in the cottonwoods for lumber.

Manager Kral gave an update on the Ditch meeting he attended. On August 17th the Todd County committee's will discuss hiring a ditch inspector.

The board discussed a tree down near the Osakis outlet. President Hensley asked if the District's or the Ditch Authority's responsibility to remove the tree. Attorney Kolb responded that if the tree is down ¼ mile downstream from the outlet of Lake Osakis it would be the Ditch Authority's responsibility. Administrator Klocker will contact Tom Anderson from the Ditch Authority. Manager Hensley also suggested that thistles may need to be sprayed next year on the Judicial Ditch 2 Sediment Ponds.

The August 16th regular meeting has been moved to the Cold Spring City Hall so Managers can attend the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Open House for their Lake Management Plan to be held at the River City Grill in Richmond from 4-8 p.m. The staff will include a map in the next board's packet.

Administrator Klocker informed the board that she has been called for Jury Duty the end of August through the first week of September.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application for Hailey's Spring Development. Manager Cook made a motion to approve a permit for the Hailey's Spring Development. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The MNDOT has requested a permit amendment to include a driveway access that was not included in the Osakis/MNDOT permit application. Manager Cook made a motion to ratify the permit. Manager Kuseske seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker handed out a list of priorities that the Board has discussed and then been tabled and asked the board which issues they would like to address. The Board discussed several issues that need to do be addressed on County Ditch 17.

President Hensley mentioned that the board will address meal reimbursement at the August 16th meeting. Administrator Klocker will send the meal reimbursement information to the new Managers before the next meeting

Administrator Klocker informed the board that a landowner on the north end of Sauk Lake has requested his weeds be removed. The Weed Harvesting permit has expired and the District would have to request an extension from The Department of Natural Resources. There were considerable discussions on the cost and time to haul the equipment to the North end for one landowner. Manager Cook made a motion to have Administrator Klocker write a letter to the landowner explaining Board's decision declining his request due to cost of transportation. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker also informed the board that one of the weed harvest crew has given notice that he will not return for next year's season. The crew chief has requested permission to contact a potential candidate to fill out the remainder of the year's work. Manager Cook made a motion to have the Crew Chief contact the candidate. Manager Hermanutz seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker mentioned that she has been received complaints from landowners near Pleasant Lake that the lake water is too cold to swim in and that the water level had increased due to dewatering for a well for the City of Rockville. Administrator Klocker is working with Dan Lais on the issue.

Administrator Klocker mentioned that since the recording secretaries will be at a workshop for the next board the board needed to determine who would record the minutes. Manager Cook volunteered to take the August 16th minutes.

Manager Kral mentioned that the staff has requested that they could use any duck and/or goose calls the board would like to donate for the educational treasure chests. President Hensley has volunteered to purchase a coyote hide from a fur trader at the Stearns County Fair for the treasure chests.

Manager Hermanutz will be attending the Ag Drainage Field Day. Manager Cook made a motion to reimburse Manager Hermanutz for expenses accrued. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

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

Secretary, Virgil Rettig
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau