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Please circulate to those who may be interested in attending.

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Sauk River Watershed to Hold Hearing on Proposed New Rules

The SRWD was established under the authority of the Minnesota Statute Chapter 103D, the Watershed Act, on July 22, 1986. The District's primary purpose is conservation of the quality and quantity of water within the watershed.

As required by Minnesota Chapter 103D, the District has adopted a watershed management plan. In its plan, the District has established goals for protecting and improving surface water quality; protecting groundwater quality; maintaining adequate surface and groundwater supplies for all users; protecting and restoring critical areas; promoting wise land use management; expanding knowledge and understanding of the watershed; engaging residents in water resource management; and providing effective and efficient administration of the District. The District's watershed management plan identifies objectives and initiatives necessary to address these issues, including the adoption of rules and a permitting program.

The Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) is currently in process to update the Rules for the permitting program of the organization. These rules establish the baseline for when a permit is required on a project and when they are not. The District's watershed management plan identifies several areas where District Rules are necessary to effectuate the District's statutory purposes. The District's Rules are intended to fill gaps in existing federal, state, and local regulations. The District's Rules are not intended to duplicate existing regulation. These Rules will help further the goal to clean up our impaired waters.

The current Rules were drafted and adopted in 1987. The SRWD has undertaken a process to review and update the Rules a few years ago. The process has included meeting with local agencies, citizens, stakeholder meetings, one-on-one meetings, and much more. The SRWD wanted to establish a set of rules that would align well with other agencies and to further address issues that currently fall through the cracks.

The four provisions in the rules are: Stormwater, Erosion Control, Drainage, and Water Uses. A complete copy of the rules is available on the SRWD website at www.srwdmn.org. It is also recommended to read the SONAR document along with the rules.

The Sauk River Watershed will hold a public hearing that is open to all persons within the Sauk River Watershed on January 26th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at Melrose City Center, in Melrose, MN. The purpose of the hearing is to take comment on the proposed rules revision for the SRWD per Minnesota Statute 103D.341.

After the hearing and incorporation of any modifications to the rules from the public comments, the Sauk River Watershed will proceed to adopt these new Rules.

For more information about the Sauk River Watershed District programs visit our website at www.srwdmn.org or call (320) 352-2231

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