

# Sauk River Watershed District

524 Fourth Street South

Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Phone: (320) 352-2231 Fax: (320) 352-6455

Website: [www.srwdmn.org](http://www.srwdmn.org)

Regular Meeting

Approved

April 19, 2005

Vice-President Kuseske called the meeting to order. Managers present: Cook, Hensley, Hunstiger, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Mostad, Schmidt and Rettig. Others present were Kurt Franke, Citizen Friends of the Sauk; Andren Nelson, Westwood P.S.; John Kolb, Attorney; Julie Klocker, Administrator; Starla Arceneau, Office Administrator; Lynn Nelson, Environmental Quality Technician.

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

The board reviewed the minutes of the April 5 meeting. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Rettig then made a motion to approve the treasurer's report comprised of checks 13894 through 13925. Manager Hunstiger seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Hensley recommended the Managers turn their claim sheets in monthly or in a timely manner.

Lynn Nelson, Environmental Quality Technician gave a presentation on the District's Data Analysis Program. The board thanked Nelson for an informative presentation.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the Lower Sauk Basic Water Management Project petition process. We have either received the petitions or have received acknowledgement of approval of the petition from Stearns County, Stearns SWCD and the following cities: St. Cloud, St. Joseph, Waite Park, Rockville and Cold Spring. Administrator Klocker recommended sending a letter to the Engineering Firms responding to the request for proposal for the TMDL Study and informing them that the study has been changed to a Diagnostic study and seeing which firms are still interested in being considered for the project. The engineer will be determined based on those that are still interested. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to have Administrator Klocker send the letter to the Engineering Firms and proceed as she stated. Manager Schmidt seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Kuseske reported that Todd County requested Manager Kuseske be a member of their ditch committee. Their first meeting will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to have Manager Kuseske sit on the committee but question who will pay for his time and mileage. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Kutter suggested that other members should get more involved in ditch issues. Manager Kral volunteered his time to learn more.

Manager Mostad reported that the work needed on the Weed Harvest truck has been completed and has been turned over to the crew chief.

Manager Mostad gave a report on the employee committee meeting held earlier on April 19, 2005. The committee members asked the staff that were present at the employee committee meeting not to discuss the proceedings until they get further into the proceedings. By mutual agreement the staff and the employee committee agreed to do so. The employee committee unanimously recommended to the

full Board that the monitoring staff be compensated for meals while they are out monitoring. Manager Mostad made a motion to allow \$8 a day meal allowance when in the field as long as it is covered by grants. Some staff members had reported to the employee committee that they had spoken to Jeff Hrubes and he approved it. Manager Mostad stated that even if it isn't covered by grants he would be in favor of the watershed covering this expense. Manager Rettig seconded the motion. There was discussion on whether the allowance would be covered by grants. If not, the decision should be brought back to the Board. Manager Hensley requested that we review other counties and watershed districts to determine if we are in line with other organizations. Attorney Kolb recommended that the Board develop a policy that outlines how this policy will be administered since reimbursement for meals is considered taxable income (compensation) and payroll will have to track such compensation. Administrator Klocker stated that the policy was reviewed in 2003. The Board instructed Klocker to provide the information reviewed previously to the employee committee. The Committee will review prior documentation regarding meal allowances. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Care for Your Waters workshop is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Melrose City Hall. Managers Cook and Kutter will be attending.

Administrator Klocker gave an update on the April 6<sup>th</sup> follow up meeting with the City of Osakis on the east side regional pond. Klocker has been working with Jeff Hrubes on the potential for grant funding and asked the Board for approval of the board to set aside between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in grant money for the regional pond, the exact amount will be determined after the request for bids come in. Administrator Klocker recommended the board approve paying the remaining \$3,266.66 grant dollars from the Settlement Agreement to the city for staff and council work completed on the development of the regional ponds. Manager Cook made a motion to pay the \$3,266.66 to the City of Osakis. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The City will need to reapply for a permit when the final plans are completed.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a permit application from the Todd County Public Works Department for resurfacing the Wobegon Trail in Todd County. Manager Hunstiger made a motion to have Administrator Klocker send a letter stating that a Watershed District is not required. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Administrator Klocker reviewed a request to write/review a stormwater plan for a resort on Lake Osakis in Todd County. It was suggested that Todd County may want to ask the SRWD to help write/review all the upcoming Todd County stormwater plans. Manager Rettig made a motion to have Administrator Klocker draft a letter for President Cook's review and approval and send a letter restricting the district's involvement in reviewing the stormwater plans. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Attorney Kolb reviewed the Finding and Order regarding the application of ARCON Development Company to modify discharges to Stearns County Ditch 17 related to Brentwood Hill Development. There was discussion of adding the cost of parcel splitting to the order. Manager Schmidt made a motion to approve the finding and order with corrections. Manager Kutter seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Attorney Kolb and Manager Kuseske met with landowners affected by the possibility of vacating roads on Judicial Ditch 1 in sections 11, 12 & 14. Manager Kuseske and Attorney Kolb will continue working with the landowners.

Kurt Franke introduced himself and gave a brief description of the Friends of the Sauk River Organization. Franke looks forward to working with the District to improve the Sauk River.

Manager Mostad discussed how to establish funds for a memorial fund. President Cook will put together a criteria schedule and send to the Managers for their review.

Manager Mostad stated to the board that he felt they should hire a chief Engineering Firm. Manager Mostad made a motion to hire Barr Engineering as the Chief Engineering Firm and Houston

Engineering as the Ditch Engineer. Manager Rettig seconded it. The board felt they should check into the cost of engineering firms before making a decision. Manager Mostad and Rettig withdrew their motion. The board directed Administrator Klocker to develop some alternative ideas on appointing an engineer and possible work tasks that could benefit from using a district engineer.

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

Secretary, Ed Hunstiger  
Recording Secretary, Starla Arceneau