



Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221st Ave
Cedar, MN 55011

APPROVED MINUTES

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting
Thursday January 2, 2025
Meeting was held in person at the East Bethel City Hall

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mundle called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present	Absent		Present	Absent	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Hegland, Treasurer (Columbus)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Olson (Linwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Melchior, (Columbus)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Kelly (Linwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Mundle, Chair (E Bethel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Harker (Linwood Alternate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leon Mager (E Bethel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Schurbon (Admin)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Troy Wolens (Ham Lake)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Kate Luther (via Zoom)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Kirkham (Ham Lake)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Cameron Blake (via Zoom)

3. Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Schurbon requested to add item 10a. 2025 Insurance Payment

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the agenda as amended and Mr. Mager seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes for November 7, 2024

Ms. Hegland moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Melchior seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

5. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer’s report

Ms. Hegland stated the bank balance as of December 31, 2024 was \$20,848.16. She noted at that of this amount, \$20,222.39 is undesignated reserve and the remaining \$625.77 of 2024 funds will be moved to undesignated reserve. For 2025, East Bethel’s contribution has been received and the other communities have been invoiced.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented and Mr. Melchior seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

B. Grants financial report

Mr. Schurbon explained there were no changes to the cost share portion of the report. There were some 2024 staff time expenditures for the Phase II Shoreline Grant which will be reflected in the report soon. For the FY25 SRWMO WBIF grant the East Front Boulevard

raingarden construction expense was noted. There is a new grant added to the report for the Ditch 20 Wetland Restoration which is about \$221,375. Lastly he noted there are about \$3,000 in carp management funds from prior years to be used this summer on Martin Lake.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. New Business

A. Clean Water Fund Grant Award – Ditch 20 Wetland Restoration to Benefit Typo & Martin Lakes

Mr. Schurbon explained that this grant is being awarded, and was the top scoring application state-wide. The project will restore a wetland along Ditch 20 which will benefit Typo and Martin Lake water quality. Survey and design will begin in 2025 with a goal of project construction in 2026. The landowner is prepared to provide the required match as either cash and/or excavated soil disposal.

B. Linwood Lake Tributaries Monitoring Report

Mr. Schurbon reminded the board that they funded targeted monitoring this year to investigate potential phosphorus loading to Linwood Lake and to identify potential water quality projects. Mr. Mager asked if the lake was considered impaired based on the shallow or deep lake state standard, to which Mr. Schurbon said the deep lake standard applies. Of the locations monitored, the flow coming from a wetland complex in a state Aquatic Management Area (AMA) had the poorest water quality with high phosphorus and low oxygen. He noted the volume of flow was not necessarily high but the pollutant concentration was. The board discussed why this area could be acting as a source of phosphorus. Mr. Schurbon explained wetlands can act as sources or sinks of phosphorus.

Mr. Schurbon recommended exploring why the pond in the AMA was not removing phosphorus as anticipated. If it is shallow, excavation or other modifications might offer improvement. Another option to explore could be aeration which might address both low oxygen and sediment release of phosphorus.

Mr. Schurbon noted the board might consider beginning to budget for the additional investigative work leading to a project concept. A Watershed Based Implementation Fund grant is possible. However, such work is only eligible for the state grants if it is in the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan. If the board wishes to consider this project for grant funding they would need to complete a minor plan amendment which would take a few hours of administrative time under the current ACD agreement.

Mr. Hegland moved to direct Mr. Schurbon to begin the process of amending the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan to include the Linwood Lake Tributaries Water Quality Analysis as a guidance document. Mr. Kelly seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

C. 2026 budget

Mr. Schurbon presented two draft budgets for the board to consider. The first follows the watershed plan with the exception of removing completed items and items the board has cut in previous years. This “base” budget is \$58,019. The other option totaled \$50,643 which would be more in line with previous year’s budgets. That “modified” budget had reductions to lakeshore photo inventories, demonstration projects, and the carry over funds line item. The board supported the modified option.

Mr. Schurbon explained that there are upcoming planned increases in budget to \$60,000 in 2027-2029 due to an increase in monitoring in 2027, and the watershed plan update in 2028 and 2029. The watershed plan update will cost approximately \$54,000 and there is no alternative funding source.

Ms. Hegland asked for discussion on several additional possible 2026 budget reductions. First, was discussion about what benefit the SRWMO has had from the ACD Co Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Schurbon was directed to evaluate this and recommend a possible reduction at the next meeting. Second, the board broadly supported cutting the elected officials tour from \$1,640 to \$0 because benefit was not large. Third, the board discussed reducing the cost share grant fund from \$4,500 to \$1,500 because there is adequate carry forward balance.

The board discussed the cost of the Watershed Management Plan update in 2028 and 2029. There was concern about high budgets in those years. There was supportive discussion for beginning to budget for this expense in 2026 in order to spread it out over several years. The board requested that an amount equal to the three reductions earlier be added in a new line item for the plan update. This will result in a 2026 budget amount of \$50,643 as originally presented in the modified plan. Mr. Schurbon will make these changes to the draft budget and bring it back for the board to consider at their next meeting.

8. Mail

The SRWMO received an award from the insurance company for not filing any claims.

9. Other

A. Anticipated board member changes and orientation

Mr. Schurbon asked for board members to keep him updated for any potential changes. Managers said they will know more as city council and township board meetings occur this month.

10. Invoice(s) approval

A. Insurance Policy Renewal (\$1,925)

Mr. Melchior moved to and Mr. Kelly seconded to pay this invoice. The motion carried with all in favor.

11. Adjourn

Prior to adjourning the board discussed their availability for the February 4 meeting date.

After discussion Chair Mundle directed that the meeting be changed to February 20th. Mr.

Schurbon reminded board members complete and submit their campaign finance forms when they receive them.

Ms. Hegland moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Melchior seconded. The motion carried and Mr. Mundle adjourned the meeting at 7:46PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Feb 20 (2025)

Submitted by:

Cameron Blake