



# Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Cedar, MN 55011

## APPROVED MINUTES

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting  
Thursday, February 5, 2026  
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Fleming, (Columbus)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Olson (Linwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Melchior, Secretary (Columbus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Kelly, Vice Chair (Linwood)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Mundle, Chair (E Bethel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Harker, Treasurer (Linwood Alt.)
<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 Luthner, ACD
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Hallberg (Ham Lake)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

3. Approval of Agenda

**Mr. Melchior moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. Olson seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

4. Annual Meeting Items

A. Election of Officers

**Mr. Olson moved to keep the current officers, and Mr. Mager seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

B. Hear any recommendations on amendments to the JPA and watershed management plan

Mr. Mundle called for any recommended amendments to the JPA or watershed plan. None were heard.

C. Designate newspaper of record

**Mr. Olson moved to designate the Forest Lake Times as the newspaper of record, and Mr. Melchior seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

D. Set regular meeting dates through February 2027

Mr. Schurbon presented meeting dates for consideration. There was discussion of potential conflicts with meeting dates. The group supported moving the April and June 2026 meetings from the first Thursday to the second Thursday.

**Mr. Harker moved to set the regular meeting dates of April 9, June 11, September 10, & November 5 in 2026, and January 7 and February 4 in 2027. Mr. Mager seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

5. Approval of Minutes for Month January 8, 2026

Chair Mundle indicated on page 2 of 4, item 6, unfinished business, Watershed Plan Amendment the minutes state he opened the public hearing and Mr. Mager closed the public hearing. Chair Mundle requested the minutes be corrected to state that he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Melchior indicated that in Section 7c one place states “Ms. Rowley,” and another shows “Mr. Rowley.” It should be Ms. Rowley.

Mr. Harker indicated there was a typo on the bottom of page seven. It states “both projects are completed and farther established”, it should be further instead of further.

**Mr. Melchior moved to approve the minutes as amended, and Mr. Olson seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

6. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer’s report

Mr. Harker provided the treasurer’s report with January 31, 2026 bank balance of \$36,704.94. 2026 contributions have been received from East Bethel, Ham Lake, and Columbus.

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

B. Grants financial report

Mr. Schurbon provided an update on the Ditch 13 wetland restoration project grant recently secured and other active grants.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 2027 Budget

Mr. Schurbon described that he made edits to the 2027 draft budget as directed at the last meeting. No additional suggested changes were heard. Mr. Melchior noted that the budget has consistently remained within the same range over the last 10 years, which the board discussed as a point of pride. Increases anticipated in 2027-2029 are due to a required watershed plan update, and are partially offset by reductions to regular budget items. Mr. Schurbon was directed to separate the plan update expenses from other expenses in the budget graph that is presented to cities.

**Mr. Melchior moved to approve sending the 2027 draft budget of \$55,411 to the communities for ratification, and Mr. Harker seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

B. Lower St. Croix Partnership – Consider Membership

Mr. Schurbon recommended considering membership in the Lower St. Croix Partnership, noting the benefits of accessing a continuous funding source.

Discussion ensued on the potential costs and benefits of membership, with Ms. Luthner highlighting the informational value of the partnership meetings. The board felt from prior discussions that Mrs. Fleming may be willing to attend a meeting to learn and report back. Mr. Melchior stated that if she is not able, he would be willing to attend.

**Mr. Mundle moved to send a representative to the April meeting of the Lower St. Croix Partnership to observe, learn, and report back. Mr. Melchior seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

C. FY27 WBIF Grant Process

Mr. Schurbon discussed the feasibility study for alum treatment to treat in-lake (internal) nutrients in Martin Lake and possibly a second lake, with an estimated cost of \$35,000 per lake. He is obtaining additional information. The board supported this possible funding request.

Mr. Schurbon noted that at the last meeting Mrs. Fleming was designated as the SRWMO representative at the upcoming FY27 metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant convene meetings, but my have a conflict with the likely first meeting date. Mr. Melchior volunteered to serve as an alternate if needed, and the board agreed by consensus.

**Mr. Melchior moved to approve the preparation and presentation of a funding request for a lake internal loading analysis study, if supported by additional information that Mr. Schurbon gathers about the costs and feasibility. Mr. Harker seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

8. New Business

A. 2026 Contract with ACD

Mr. Schurbon presented the proposed 2026 contract with the Anoka Conservation District, noting that project funding would need to be reduced by \$440 so that total expenses equaled the budget for those same items. There were no objections.

**Mr. Melchior moved to approve the 2026 ACD contract for water monitoring and management services in the amount of \$39,462. Mr. Olson seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

B. Statutory Tort Limits

Mr. Schurbon presented the statutory sort limits to the Board.

**Mr. Harker moved not to waive statutory tort limits, and Mr. Melchior seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

C. FEMA Flood Study Update

Mr. Schurbon shared that he emailed the board members a notice about an upcoming FEMA flood study. He since received information that the study will take years to complete. The board discussed that the revised flood maps could result in flood insurance requirement changes for property owners.

9. Mail

None

10. Other

Mr. Schurbon provided an update on the Ditch 20 wetland restoration project, including before-and-after images and a video of excavation progress. Positive discussion ensued about the project's benefit to water quality and wildlife. Chair Mundle requested a copy of the images to share with city council.

11. Invoice(s) approval

A. Recording Secretary (\$200)

B. ECM Publishers – public hearing notice (\$112)

**Mr. Melchior moved to pay the invoices, and Mr. Wolens seconded this. The motion carried with all in favor.**

12. Adjourn

**Mr. Mager moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Harker seconded this. The motion carried, and Mr. Mundle adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.**

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 9 (2026), June 11 (2026)

Submitted by:

Sue Osbeck