



Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221st Ave
Cedar, MN 55011

APPROVED MINUTES

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Meeting was held in person at the East Bethel City Hall

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mundle called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present Absent

☒	☐	Karen Fleming, (Columbus)
☐	☒	Tim Melchior, Secretary (Columbus)
☒	☐	Brian Mundle, Chair (E Bethel)
☒	☐	Leon Mager (E Bethel)
☒	☐	Troy Wolens (Ham Lake)
☐	☒	Andrew Hallberg (Ham Lake)

Present Absent

☒	☐	John Olson (Linwood)
☐	☒	Kevin Kelly, Vice Chair (Linwood)
☐	☒	Ben Harker, Treasurer (Linwood Alt.)
☒	☐	Jamie Schurbon (Admin)
☒	☐	Other: Greg Johnson, Linwood Lake Improvement Assoc

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes for April 9, 2026

Mr. Wolens moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Fleming seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

5. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Schurbon presented the treasurer's report due to Mr. Harker's absence. He explained that the current balance is \$45,331.16, with all communities having paid their first- and second-half portions of the 2026 contributions, except for Linwood. Mr. Olson confirmed that Linwood is in the process of issuing a check for their second half contribution.

Mr. Wolens 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 updates. A \$1,500 contribution from the 2026 budget to the cost share grant fund for landowners is showing on the report. That same fund and the FY25 WBIF grant, along with landowner funds, are being used to fund a Linwood Lakeshore

restoration project this year. The Ditch 20 wetland restoration project table reflects a recent contractor payment.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Community Event Displays

Mr. Schurbon discussed the status of community event displays for East Bethel, Linwood, and Columbus, noting the need for booth leaders and volunteers.

Mr. Olson confirmed his availability for the Booster Day event on July 18 and offered to help with setup.

Mr. Mager and Ms. Fleming expressed their willingness to volunteer at the events and plan to coordinate closer to the event dates. They cannot yet guarantee their availability.

The discussion covered the logistics of setting up booths, including the use of photo album frames and power packs for electricity.

7. New Business

A. Consider Lower St. Croix Partnership (LSCP) Membership

Mr. Schurbon and Ms. Fleming discussed the benefits and risks of joining the Lower St. Croix Partnership. The primary benefit is to be able to request State grant funds through the Partnership. It was noted that the LSCP cannot charge dues nor dictate regulatory requirements to their members. Mr. Wolens expressed concerns about the legal structure and potential liability.

Discussion of liability and its potential impact on the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization ensued. The board believes their insurance covers the possible liability exposure, and that exposure is believed to be very small. The board recognized that in the unlikely event that insurance did not cover a liability expense, that cost is essentially borne by the SRWMO member communities which provide the SRMWO budget.

The board favorably discussed asking their member communities for any input on the question of whether the SRWMO should join the LSCP. Mr. Schurbon was directed to prepare a memo and send it to the board for a review opportunity. Thereafter, it should be sent to each community's administrator with any input due before the next SRWMO meeting.

The board discussed who could present this topic to the city councils and township boards. The SRWMO board members who are also city council members or town board supervisors will take this role. Mr. Schurbon can also answer questions, but will not plan to attend each council or town board meeting.

Mr. Wolens moved to send a letter to each member community explaining the Lower St. Croix Partnership and seeking their input on SRWMO membership. Mr. Olson seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

It was noted to follow up on this item at the September meeting.

8. Mail

Mr. Schurbon read a letter from the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers group, offering membership and legislative lobbying services. Discussion about the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers group started, leading to the decision not to pursue membership at this time.

9. Other

The board asked Greg Johnson from the Linwood Lake Improvement Association (LLIA), who was present, to describe that group's mission. Mr. Johnson discussed aquatic invasive species treatments and volunteer water monitoring. The board thanked Mr. Johnson and noted that the LLIA and SRWMO may have future opportunities to work toward mutual goals.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: 2026 – Sept 10, Nov 5. 2027 – Jan 7, Feb 4

10. Invoice(s) approval

A. Timesaver Offsite Secretarial \$178.00

B. Anoka Conservation District \$13,154.00

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

11. Adjourn

Mr. Olson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Wolens seconded this. The motion carried, and Mr. Mundle adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Submitted by:
Sue Osbeck