



SAND HILL RIVER

WATERSHED DISTRICT

PO BOX 584
FERTILE, MN 56540

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)[#] *PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING*

Date: August 16, 2017

Attendance: Present at the meeting were: Daniel Wilkens - Sand Hill River Watershed District Administrator, April Swenby - Sand Hill River Watershed District Administrative Assistant, Roger Hanson – Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager, Phillip Swenson - Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager, Jerry Jacobson – Polk County Commissioner and Jerry Bents – Houston Engineering.

Call to order: A Public Meeting was held by the Sand Hill River (SHRWD) at the Fertile Community Center to begin the Public Scoping process for the Sand Hill River subwatershed. It was called to order at 1:30 PM by the administrator of the Sand Hill Watershed District, Daniel Wilkens.

Agenda Items: The meeting was then turned over to Jerry Bents – acting engineer for the Sand Hill River Watershed District (Houston Engineering) He went over the objectives of the meeting and the agenda to clarify the process.

The purpose of this meeting was to inform the all interested and potentially affected parties of the intent of the Sand Hill River Watershed District to begin preparation of the Watershed Plan using funding from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) being provided through the Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS). Studies with funds obtained through the RCPP are required to conform to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements which will result in an Environmental Assessment. This public meeting was intended to serve as a scoping meeting to solicit public comment that will be used to help inform the scope of the study in accordance with the NEPA laws and regulations.

It was explained to the public that the SHRWD has elected to follow this process in order to leverage funds to help address the concerns within this watershed and also to make potential federal funding available for construction of possible solutions to the problems that may be identified during the watershed planning process.

Jerry Bents from Houston Engineering presented information on the RCPP Program, Planning Approach, and Watershed Setting/Resource Concerns. This included maps of the Upper Sandhill Watershed.

Jerry Bents followed up with the timeline of the next steps and will be completed as part of the watershed planning study. He also let people know that there will be staff and equipment out in the watershed gathering additional information.

Action Items: At the end of the presentation, a Public Informational Meeting Comment Form was provided to each person in attendance. It was explained that this form would serve as the means by which formal public comment would be collected. Each participant was encouraged to complete the form and return it to the SHRWD office (at the address included on the form). A copy of the form will also be posted to the SHRWD website for interested parties that were unable to attend the meeting.

Following this public scoping meeting, the public comment period will remain open until September 18, 2017. A copy of the presentation used during the meeting and a copy of the public comment form is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant