

Sand Hill River Watershed District

219 North Mill Street, PO Box 584 Fertile, MN 56540
Phone: (218) 945-3204 Fax: (218) 945-3213 E-mail: shrwd@gvtel.com

Board of Managers

Bill Brekke, Jr.-Nielsville Stuart Christian-Erskine Roger Hanson-Beltrami Scott Balstad-Fosston Phillip Swenson-Fertile
Daniel Wilkens-Administrator April Swenby-Administrative Assistant

SAND HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 3, 2015

Attendance: Chairman Todahl called the December 3, 2015 meeting of the Sand Hill Advisory Committee (SHAC) to order at 8:00 a.m. at Erickson's Smokehouse in Fertile, MN. Other advisory members present were Clayton Baartz, David Johnstad, Alan Stromstad, Wayne Goeken, Bruce Stromstad and Matt Erickson. Others in attendance were Craig Bunes – Polk County Commissioner, Phillip Swenson -Sand Hill River Watershed District and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant.

Annual Reorganization: The Annual Organization of the SHAC was conducted. Chairman Todahl turned the meeting over to Johnstad who asked for nominations for Chairman of the SHAC. Craig Bunes nominated Jim Todahl for Chairman. Nominations were called for three times by Johnstad. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Jim Todahl for Chairman by Matt Erickson, **Seconded** by Alan Stromstad, **Carried**. Johnstad returned the chair to Jim Todahl.

Minutes: A **Motion** to approve the minutes from December 29, 2014 was made by committee member Erickson, **Seconded** by committee member Bunes, **Carried**.

SHAC attendance: Chairman Todahl welcomed Clayton Baartz as the newest member of the SHAC.

Board Reappointments: Chairman Todahl stated that the term of Stuart Christian is up for reappointment on January 1, 2015. Todahl reviewed Christian's role as a watershed board manager and observed that Christian has served a long time, bringing experience to the board. Todahl informed the advisory committee that he was assured he was fulfilling his duty as a Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager and his attendance is good. Christian is willing to run another term. A **Motion** was made by committee member Bruce Stromstad to recommend Stuart Christian to the Polk County Commissioners for reappointment, **Seconded** by Johnstad, **Carried**.

Riverwatch: Goeken reported the Riverwatch program is still active and successful with students from Climax, Win-E-Mac and Fertile monitoring the river. Goeken presented handouts highlighting the history of turbidity of the Sand Hill River. Turbidity levels have been declining in the past three years, with the annual mean value of 23.3 NTRUs for 2015 falling below the MN State turbidity standard of 25. Sediment basins installed in the area monitored over the past several years (coordination between the SHRWD and the East Polk SWCD) are likely helping to bring turbidity levels down.

Goeken presented slides of a Headwaters conditions report, highlighting various areas of the Sand Hill River with images of findings such as erosion, wild life, and other natural events.

District Activities: In Wilkens absence, Swenby gave and update on the following:

Project # 29 Rock Riffles: Swenby distributed the technical memorandum highlighted the purpose, need, funding, and timeline for the Rock Riffles project. She also stated that the DNR and the SHRWD, from the US Army Corp (the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council) was successful in receiving \$990,000 of the requested 1,666,800. The MN DNR has found an additional \$120,000 which was forwarded to the US Army Corps to continue with designing to prepare for the upcoming construction season.

Annual Report: Swenby distributed the 2014 Annual Report to the SHAC.

SHRWD Financials: Swenby distributed the November 2015 treasurer's report to the SHAC. .

Sediment Basins: The district just approved \$50,000 additional cost share funding at the December 2015 meeting for the East Polk and West Polk SWCD's for sediment basin projects.

Adjournment: The next meeting of the SHAC will be at the call of the chair as needed. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant