

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes-December 6, 1994 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance;** Roger Hanson, called the December 6, 1994 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Ray Baatz, Jimmie Krogstad, Harold Vig and Dan Wilkens. Clayton Engelstad, Craig Engelstad, Paul Engelstad, Brian Gullekson, Ray Gullekson, Marvin Skaug, Mike Skaug, Elliott Solheim, Roy Van Den Einde, and SHRWD Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken were also in attendance.
2. **Agenda Review;** Hanson noted that Craig and Clayton Engelstad would be coming in to discuss the status of the various ditching projects under consideration.
3. **Minutes;** Motion by Vig to accept the minutes of the November 1, 1994 SHRWD Board meeting as mailed. Krogstad seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report;

Wilkens handed out and reviewed the SHRWD's financial reports for November, 1994. The past month's checking account transactions, investment portfolio and current fund balances were reviewed. Motion by Krogstad and seconded by Baatz to accept the November 1994 Treasurer's Report as presented and authorize payment of the current month's bills as presented below. Motion carried unanimously. Wilkens noted that plans should begin regarding making arrangements for getting next year's SHRWD audit done in early 1995.

Holiday Inn--MAWD meal tickets	\$ 89.30
MAWD-Registration for 3	75.00
Dennis Habeck-tree cutting in SH Channel	1,980.00
Wayne Goeken—secretarial, annual rpt, supplies	638.77
Lois M. Plante-custodial	30.02
Ray Baatz-meetings & expenses	114.10
Roger Hanson-meetings & expenses	1,203.72
Jimmie Krogstad-meetings & expenses	470.55
Harold Vig-meetings & expenses	60.68
Daniel Wilkens-meetings & expenses	810.75
FRS Industries-rubber stamps	35.99
Fertile Journal-meeting notice, permit forms, apprec. plaques	108.05
Garden Valley Telephone Co.-phone & fax line	214.34
Otter Tail Power Co.-Heat & Lights	126.41
Anderson & Bailly-attorney work-98-148	359.80
Coast to Coast—supplies	7.20
Beltrami Cafe—meals and refreshments for info meeting~45-93-6	58.00
Fertile Bakery—meeting expense	15.00
H. Slager Construction-clean silt by Texas crossing/SHRiver-1/3 share	169.17
HIV. Johnston Culvert Co.-Culvert trap for replacement on Hubbard/Scandia Twp line	254.06
Christian Excavating-fuel tank removal, rock for riprap, replace culvert-Scandia Twp	3,016.00
Mac's Cafe-Nov, Dec Board meetings and Dec 13 Tour Meal	234.09
Hartz-supplies and meeting expense	73.69
Agassiz ELC-1/2 of \$3,000 commitment for River Watch Grant	1,500.00
First State Bank of Fertile-Soc. Sec./Med.	190.46
Monthly Total	\$11,835.15

5. Project Reports:

- a.) Bear Park Beavers: Roy Van Den Einde reported several beaver houses in the mile east of Roger Black's and asked that the one big house be removed. It was noted that use of a backhoe is the most efficient and effective, but a backhoe would not be able to get to this particular spot at this time. Harold Vig will check with Dale Olson to see if he would go in and blow the dam.

Related to beaver control, Wilkens reported that he had checked with the Polk County Auditor and as of October 29 the rate that was being paid for beavers had been cut to \$10/beaver during the trapping season (compared to the previous rate of \$30/beaver). Polk County was over their allotment of funds for the beaver control program but other participating counties were not, so the Beaver Control Board is allowing Polk County to use these funds for beaver control. The SHRWD still has its program as a back-up to use in the area's not covered by the State/County Beaver Control Program and in the event that the State/County program ends.

- b.) Beltrami Diversion. Roger Hanson gave a historical overview of the project noting that it had started six years ago when Jon Lenz wanted to drain water south through Ila Gast's land. As options were explored the current proposal emerged. Landowners west of Beltrami then explored options to improve drainage of their lands related to this project. It was decided to proceed by seeking permits and doing the necessary engineering for both projects together as they are related although the funding for the drainage and flood control portions would be kept separate.

Landowners to the east of Beltrami whose lands drain into the proposed Beltrami Diversion Project (BDP) noted maintenance options they are considering for County Ditch #95 which would affect the BDP. If CD#95 was cleaned it would put more pressure on the bottom end of the system to handle the increased flows. If the lower end of the system can't handle it the waters go overland.

It was noted that an option should be considered to get water that now comes down by Paul Engelstad's into CD#95 where it should be going. Presently water in Sec. 18 of Liberty Twp. does not go into the ditch, rather it goes overland to the west northwest. This also occurs in Sections 13 and 14 of Reis Twp. If these waters were put into CD#95, it would help keep water out of Maple Creek.

The option of cleaning along the road ditch and getting the water down to the substation was noted with the main need being to get the water into the diversion in an orderly manner so as not to overload the system. About a 3/4 mile ditch would need to be created on the south side of Polk County #1 at the west end of CD#95 to connect to the Diversion project at the substation. This portion could be added to the existing petition and leave #95 out for now although landowners along CD#95 would still be involved as part of the viewer's benefit assessment area. It was noted that the slope of the current road and ditch (along CD#95) will continue to cause problems with the county road sloughing. To correct the situation would require a major project which would involve moving utility poles and possibly the buried cable. Options of the County assisting with this project should be explored as the County will have continual problems if just regular maintenance is done over time.

Hanson noted that landowners could have basic ditch cleaning done by simply requesting the Polk County Ditch Authority to clean the ditch. To improve the ditch to better handle the water and minimize future problems would require that the affected landowners petition for improvement. Options need to be explored whether this would be a separate petition or whether the existing petition coverage area could be extended to take in landowners up to Kittleson Creek. This would add 9 additional landowners to the existing 16 who are currently in the petition process. The existing petitioners would need to agree to this additional project component.

The landowners at the meeting indicated that at this time they are just informing the SHRWD Board of their intentions to have the County clean the ditch at the upper end. They are not necessarily interested in being part of the petition, but will consider this option.

In a matter related to the original Beltrami Diversion Project Hanson noted that one landowner was concerned that due to the increased water volume they might get flooded where they have never been before. As such, they wanted an extra foot on top of the bank to protect against any possibility of flooding. The Board felt that this would not be a problem. The ditch would be engineered to work.

- c.) Maple Creek. Elliott Solheim asked the Board what could be done to control flooding related to Maple Creek. It would be desirable to get all the landowners involved from the end of the project near Climax on upstream to where the DNR protected waters designation begins. This would include all or parts of existing County Ditches 6, 119, 9, and 80. Petition options were discussed including costs if a petition does or does not go through. If the project does not proceed then those signing the petition share in the costs of the engineering that was done. If the project proceeds, then all affected landowners share in the project costs based on the viewer's assessment. Elliott and Ray Baatz will begin visiting with landowners to see what interest there is in a project with a public information meeting to be held if enough interest is shown. Wilkens will check with the MN DNR regarding how far upstream work could be done without infringing on protected waters. Motion made by Krogstad, seconded by Vig to authorize Wilkens to get the appropriate DNR personnel on a tour of sites in our District needing permits, e.g. Maple Creek, Climax Golf Course, Climax Bike River Crossings, and Beltrami Project. Motion carried unanimously. Wilkens noted that he would send out notice as soon as possible to anyone interested in this tour. The SHRWD will also have their consulting engineer prepare a handout summarizing the steps involved in the petition process and the options involved at each step. It was also noted that it would be desirable to keep some of the water out of Maple Creek. Wilkens noted that the Red River Water Management Board assists with flood control projects which in this case could be purchase of part of a section of land which could be diked and serve as temporary storage during peak runoff periods.
- d.) It was suggested that with the increased number of public meetings being held for ditching that the SHRWD Board of Mangers should consider getting simple nametags made to wear at such meetings. No action was taken.
- e.) Hanson and Krogstad noted that they inspected the area along the Sand Hill River with local landowners that had been approved for logging immediately following last month's meeting. All those present agreed that a single row of trees will be left in Sec. 29 on the north side of the ditch and Sec. 28 on the south side of the ditch in Liberty township where no groves are present. These trees will be left as a windbreak for five years while the local landowners establish field windbreaks. Section 29--south side of the ditch and Section 28--north side of the ditch will be clear cut.

6. Other Business

- a.) Jimmy Krogstad reported on activities and discussion that occurred at the December 2-3 Minnesota Assn. of Watershed Districts annual meeting. Beaver control was a much discussed topic statewide. The best part of the conference was information gathered in informal visits with other Watershed managers between sessions. The various resolutions that were discussed and acted on were reviewed. Hanson noted that one point that was emphasized was the need to monitor and maintain all ditch systems to avoid having them be considered as abandoned. It was also noted that several changes in drainage laws and regulations will be proposed in the upcoming legislative session. MAWD is doubling their lobbying budget to \$35,000 to have two staff involved in tracking and lobbying these legislative initiatives.
- b.) Roland Gullekson reported that the Polk County Comprehensive Water Planning Task Force is in the process of updating the Polk County Comprehensive Water Plan and is seeking input from water managers in the County regarding priority issues. One area of the plan that is receiving greater attention is ways to strengthen education efforts. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by Baatz to authorize SHRWD Board members to attend the December 16th Polk County CWPTF meeting to be held in Fertile. Motion carried unanimously.

Gullekson also reported on progress being made with the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center including receipt of a \$5,000 contribution from the Red Lake Watershed District which was their second year of contributing at this level to support land and water stewardship education.

It was also noted that the Agassiz ELC has received a Board of Water and Soil Resources grant to conduct the Sand Hill Riverwatch Program which will involve the fours schools on the Sand Hill doing chemical and biological monitoring on the Sand Hill River for a two year period. Payment of the \$3,000 from the SHRWD for this project as was previously committed was requested. Motion by Vig,

- seconded by Baatz to approve payment of \$1,500 towards this project at this time. Motion carried unanimously. SHRWD Board members were also invited to attend a project orientation session to be held with administration and teachers from the four participating schools on Wednesday, December 14th.
- c.) Craig Engelstad on behalf of the Sand Hills Snow Cruisers Snowmobile Club reviewed with the Board State law relating to landowner's liability protection for "activities involving a public benefit or function"--in this case recreational enjoyment of snowmobiling. Engelstad noted that the Club currently has about 80 miles of trail locally which have connections to the state system of trails to the north, east, and south. The Club carries insurance which covers up to a million dollar limit. Motion by Wilkens to approve authorization to sign an agreement with the Sand Hills Snow Cruisers to allow their trail to proceed along the Sand Hill River right of way--NW1/4 of Sec 28 and W1/2 of Sec 29--Liberty Twp. Motion seconded by Vig and carried unanimously.
- d.) Hanson reported on the MN State Environmental Education Conference that he attended November 18-19 at Alexandria. Overall, there was nothing too controversial that came out. The graduation requirements for environmental education are in limbo as State funding for EE is in jeopardy. It was noted that MN is the leader in the nation in EE. Overall, the feeling of the conference was that of conservation and management of our natural resources, not extreme environmental protectionism.
- e.) Policy Manual. Draft copies of the Wild Rice policy manual were provided to the Board for their review and comment. This will be worked on along with the District's Rules and Regulations over the upcoming winter months.
- f.) The Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual meeting will be held December 11-13 at the Radisson South in Minneapolis. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by Baatz to authorize the Board members to attend if it fits their schedule.
- g.) Goeken noted that several items should be taken up over the winter months while the District Managers have a bit more time to spend on Watershed issues. These include the Overall Plan, the District's Rules and Regulations, involvement of the Advisory Committee, planning of the Summer Tour, visit with Don Ogaard regarding RRWMB status and status of the Ogaard project within the SHRWD, and an invitation to the Polk County Ditching Engineer and Polk County Commissioners to come to a meeting for a general discussion of the increased interest in ditching and other matters such as beaver control, etc.

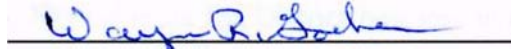
7. Permits:

- a.) It was reported that the Sand Hill River Golf Course has received an irrigation permit from the MN DNR which specifies when irrigation is permissible and when restrictions would be in effect
- b.) The Five Year Improvement Plan for the Polk County Highway Department was reviewed and filed.
- c.) Eight permits that came before the Board for review were approved as follows:
- 1994-48 Woodside Twp NE 1/4 of Sec 25, Woodside Twp. Install culvert for field crossing to avoid possible back up of water.
 - 1994-49 Clayton Engelstad W 1/2 of Sec 18, Liberty Twp. Annual cleaning of field ditches and add one on quarter line because of pond on east end.
 - 1994-50 Clayton Engelstad W 1/2 of Sec 5, Liberty Twp. Normal fall ditch cleaning needed due to ditches filling in from tillage.
 - 1994-51 Clayton Engelstad Sec 34, Onstad Twp. Install new field ditch to minimize wet conditions.
 - 1994-52 Clayton Engelstad SE 1/4 of Sec 11; NE 1/4 of Sec 14; N1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec 13 and W 1/2 of W 1/2 of Sec 12; Sec 23. all of Liberty Twp. Normal fall ditch cleaning needed due to ditches filling in from tillage.
 - 1994-53 Eric Engelstad SW 1/4 Sec 32, Onstad Twp. Clean existing ditch on west line and cut two new ditches going west through the field due to siltation and poor drainage.
 - 1994-54 Mike Skaug & Craig Engelstad Sec 1, Reis Twp. Clean existing south end of ditch and extend it to the 1/2 mile line due to poor drainage and inadequate present design.

8. **Adjournment** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 a.m. January 3, 1995 at the SHRWD office. As there was no other business to come before the Board, motion by Krogstad and second by Vig to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmie Krogstad", written over a horizontal line.

Jimmie Krogstad, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne R. Goeken", written over a horizontal line.

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary