

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes-February 14, 1995 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Roger Hanson, called the February 14, 1995 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Ray Baatz, Roger Hanson, Jimmy Krogstad, Harold Vig, and Dan Wilkens. Gerald Paulson, David Black, Harold Olson, SHRWD Consulting Engineer Lawrence Woodbury, and SHRWD Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken were also in attendance.
2. **Agenda Review:** No changes to the agenda were made.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Vig to approve the minutes of the January 3, 1995 SHRWD regular Board meeting as mailed. Motion seconded by Baatz and carried unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a.) Wilkens handed out and reviewed the SHRWD's financial reports for January, 1995. The past month's checking account transactions, investment portfolio and current fund balances were reviewed. Motion by Baatz and seconded by Vig to accept the January 1995 Treasurer's report as presented and authorize payment of the current month's bills as presented below. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment Made to Memo	Amount
Demos Habeck—project maintenance	\$ 3,360.00
First State Bank of Fertile— Soc Sec/Medic.	253.58
Wayne Goeken—secretarial services	461.75
Lois M. Plante—janitorial services	41.56
Ray Baatz—meetings & expenses	60.68
Roger Hanson— meetings & expenses	173.32
Jirmie Krogstad— meetings & expenses	132.78
Harold Vig— meetings & expenses	137.59
Daniel Wilkens— meetings & expenses	482.05
U.S. Postal Service— stamps	168.00
Fertile Bakery— meeting expenses	7.50
Mac's Cafe— meeting expenses	24.14
Houston Engineering—professional services	6,217.78
Garden Valley Telephone Co.— phone bill & fax line	170.04
Eide Mercantile—janitorial supplies	2.59
Harold Olson— beaver dam removal-Bear Park	625.00
Tony Dorn— copy count & toner	188.69
Anderson & Bailly— professional services re: Project #12 (98 & 148)	7.80
Otter Tail Power Co.--heat and light	618.62
Polk County Auditor-Treasurer— copies for ditch maps and beaver contract	42.00
West Publishing Company— MN Statutes manual	6.39
Al & Laura's Foods— Janitorial supplies	16.52
Bear Park Township— beaver contract	140.00
Fertile Journal— envelopes	52.50
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$13,390.88

- b.) Wilkens reviewed current CD rates. Approval was given to invest up to \$200,000 in CDs for one year terms.

5. Project Reports:

a.) Bear Park. Gerald Paulson visited with the Board regarding the beaver situation in the Bear Park project area. He indicated that his brother walked the river after freeze-up from the Bear Park structure to the Polk/Norman County line and counted 11 beaver houses and 4 dams. Paulson noted that it was the understanding of landowners in the Bear Park project area that the dams would be removed shortly after freeze-up and that as many beavers as possible would be eradicated.

Wilkens explained that the individual that is normally called upon to do the dam blowing had undergone surgery and his partner then had the flu so the job was not done immediately after freeze-up. Krogstad arrived at this point in the meeting and after being brought up to speed immediately reported that Harold and Marvin Olson blew the dams in early February. Harold Olson then arrived and noted that they had blown six dams and have set traps for beaver. The water level has gone down about 2 feet since blowing the dams. Harold and Marvin Olson will continue to blow beaver houses in the Bear Park area.

Harold Olson was also directed to proceed with beaver control in the Castor State Wildlife Management Area as previously approved.

b.) Woodbury handed out and noted changes that had been made to the Summary of Procedures for Work on Legal Drainage Systems in Minnesota. The SHRWD Board will review it further and suggest changes if needed. Upon final approval this will be provided to those that attended the Nov. 22 meeting at the Beltrami Mall Cafe, those on the bus tour, and to Township clerks with a note to file the summary for future reference.

c.) Project #12: 98/148. The project was reviewed including the present ditch systems and current drainage areas. A preliminary cost estimate to do the project was discussed. Costs will vary depending on right of way costs and how large of a benefit area is included. At this time there is approximately 7,000 acres or 11 square miles included in the project. It was noted that landowners in this area must be sure that if they want to use this ditch system for drainage in the future, they should be included in the benefit area as it is difficult to be added into the system at a later time. Benefits for a project such as this in the Red River Valley typically range from \$100 to \$200 per acre.

A variety of other options that will affect the project cost can also be adjusted. One such item is whether to have a 3:1 or a 4:1 sideslope to the ditch. The minimum standard is 3:1 for roads with an Average Daily Traffic Count of under 50. A 4:1 slope is becoming the standard. It is a safer design for drivers and allows easier maintenance of the ditch system. The option of going with a 3:1 slope on the roadside and 4:1 on the field side was also discussed. Woodbury will run cost projections for each scenario and present the costs and benefits of each to a public meeting of the landowners.

The next steps for this project are to contact the SHRWD attorney to determine procedures for having an information meeting followed by a formal hearing at a later date. A date for these meetings will then be set. Viewers for the project will also be selected. It would be most desirable to get one or two individuals who have had previous experience viewing projects. This will be coordinated with the Red Lake Watershed District who are doing a petitioned project adjoining Project #12 directly to the north. Using the same viewers for both projects would provide a better understanding of how the drainage of this entire area works and therefore how benefits should most equitably be assigned.

d.) Beltrami Project. The current status of projects in the Beltrami area were reviewed. The project west of town appears to have enough landowners willing and ready to sign the necessary petition to move the project ahead. This could be done as a drainage project under regular ditch establishment proceedings. The original proposed Beltrami Diversion project to the east of Beltrami does not have the necessary landowner signatures at this time to move the project ahead by the petition process. The SHRWD could determine that this project is of such significant benefit for flood control that the SHRWD Board could approve the project by unanimous resolution of the Board. The initial project construction costs would be paid from the SHRWD Construction Account. Viewers would assess the area to determine drainage

benefits which would be used to determine future cost sharing for ditch maintenance. This would then be a legal system with the benefiting landowners only paying an assessment as needed for future maintenance. In terms of looking at this whole area as a single functioning drainage system and to keep costs down for the entire area it would be best to work these projects together.

- e.) Russia Twp. situation. Wilkens noted that the Red Lake Watershed District Board member said that plywood will be used to block water from coming south towards County Ditch 45 for this spring with a permanent structure installed at a later date.

6. Other Business

- a.) Vig reported that a visit was made to the Winger area after last month's meeting to view the situation as presented by the Winger Mayor. It appears that cleaning the existing ditch will alleviate much of the problem.
- b.) Summer Tour. Krogstad reported on the joint meeting held at Ada with the Wild Rice Watershed District on January 26, 1995 in preparation for the MAWD summer tour that will be held on June 23rd and 24th. Tour options were discussed including routes to go, stops along the way to highlight watershed conditions and projects, and logistical arrangements such as vehicles to use, refreshment arrangements, and assignment of tasks. Krogstad and Vig accompanied members of the WRWD on a drive through of the proposed tour route to get an estimate of time and distance. The total tour took about 6 hours with about 2 hours of this time being in the SHRWD. Write-ups need to be done of the highlights of the SHRWD portions of the tour which will be included in an information packet to all attending the summer tour.
- c.) Hanson reviewed the mail with brief comments as follows:
1. MAWD is coordinating Legislative breakfasts on March 2-3 to allow watershed district managers to visit with their area legislators about watershed issues. Motion by Wilkens to authorize SHRWD managers to attend if it works in their schedules. Motion seconded by Baatz and carried unanimously.
 2. Watershed Managers Training sessions will be held in Thief River Falls on March 16-17. Motion by Krogstad and seconded by Vig to require all SHRWD managers to attend these sessions. Motion carried unanimously.
 3. The status of the Valley EIS was noted. An update of this project was mailed by Don Ogaard to all the managers.
 4. A Wetlands Conference scheduled for March 21-22 was noted with no action taken regarding attending it.

7. Permits.

Two permits that came before the Board for review were approved as follows:

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| 1995-3 | David Black | Bear Park Twp NE 1/4 Sec 8 | Norman Co. | Clean existing ditch and install culvert and crossing to reach twp road |
| 1995-4 | Gary Letnes-Vivian Bartoh | Hubbard Twp NW 1/4 Sec 2 | Polk Co. | Install culverts with traps to drain area that now floods. |

8. **Next Meeting and Adjournment.** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be March 7, 1995 at the SHRWD office at 8:00 a.m.. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Baatz and second by Vig to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Jimmie Krogstad, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary