

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

April 3, 2007 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Roger Hanson called the April 3, 2007 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, Gordon Sonstelie and Harold Vig. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby-Administrative Assistant, Bryan Paradis – Union LID, Jack Bailey – Union LID, Jack Erickson – Union LID, Mike Bruggeman – Union LID, and Erik Jones-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** The Lake Improvement District, (LID) was placed on the agenda to discuss the Union Lake Erosion Control Project. **Motion** was made by Manager Vig to approve the agenda, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on March 6, 2006, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Vig to approve the treasurer's report for March, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve and pay bills **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Engineer's Report

Project # 20/Polk County # 46: The geo-technical engineering has been done and a review of the preliminary plan did not foresee any complications with the preliminary railroad bridge design, which consists of a concrete trough between the piers. A final plan is being designed and will be sent to the railroad for approval. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to begin advertising for bids and setting 10:00 AM at the May 1, 2007 board meeting as the time to open bids, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**. The district is pursuing bridge replacement funds through the county for the 5 large box culverts under the township roads. If they can be obtained it will reduce the project cost substantially.

BWSR Challenge Grant Deadline: A 50/50 Challenge Grant is available for putting the ditch systems and their assessments into GIS format. Jones presented an estimate for placing the ditch systems into both paperback and GIS format that would allow the public to view the individual ditch systems assessments on our web site. He showed us work that was done last year on the Wild Rice Watershed District maps. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to submit an application for the BWSR Challenge Grant, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: A Project Team meeting was held on Tuesday, March 13. The team discussed Modeling efforts and the Union Lake Erosion Control project. The model needs some calibrating and is expected to be ready for use soon. The project team was informed that the Union Lake project needs to proceed forward or the funds will have to be returned. The Project team recommends that the Watershed District be the owner of the project and that the necessary steps be taken to get the project completed.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Thief River Falls on March 20. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

RRBC: The RRBC was scheduled for March 1, 2007 but was postponed until April 5 due to inclement weather.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast: Wilkens, Hanson, and Sonstelie attended the MAWD Legislative Breakfast.

Union Lake Erosion Control Project: Wilkens has contacted Mark Krebsbach for his input. Krebsbach is in favor of the project and will work with the district. We discussed the longevity of the project and Krebsbach may be interested in selling the portion that is in CRP. Wilkens also contacted Brian Dwight about purchasing the 10 acres and he verified that the purchase would qualify under the grant. Wilkens contacted Bruce Solberg and Don Kuntz regarding ownership and ROW. Solberg and Kuntz are in favor of the project. Wilkens discussed easements for the ROW needed for the 5 structures and a minimum of a 20 foot ROW on each side of the channel, some of which would be kept in permanent vegetation. Wilkens explained that west of the road would have a small channel excavated from the road to the lake. Both landowners are in agreement.

The Union Lake LID reviewed with the board the history of the project, highlighting the purpose and need. The LID discussed ownership of the project with the Sand Hill River Watershed District managers. Bruggeman asked if the land purchased could be placed in wetland credits. Wilkens doubted that the land would qualify.

The LID is in favor of the project and feels that action is necessary, but do not want to take responsibility for the project. They fear that along with ownership may come substantial maintenance costs in the future, thus increasing lake owner's taxes. The LID would not be in favor of owning land but do feel that ownership is important. Alternatives for ownership and possible benefits to the owners were discussed. To develop a petition project, landowners along the project would have a lot of costs upfront. This idea would not be feasible. Chairman Hanson suggested obtaining a show of good faith from the LID in that they will participate in maintenance issues in the future. Hanson suggested starting a fund for future maintenance issues of \$500 each year, up to \$2,500. The LID suggested a contract enforcing a cost share agreement and/or watershed support for major maintenance. These were all discussion items.

At the end of the discussion the Sand Hill Watershed Board agreed to the following:

1. That the watershed district will be the owner of the project.
2. The LID will fund a repair fund of \$500/year up to \$2,500.
3. Repairs that exceed \$2,500 will require negotiation between the two boards.

The WD board directed Dan to:

1. Proceed with obtaining easements from Don Kuntz and Bruce Solberg to have the right of ingress and egress for maintenance purposes.
2. That the easements contain the necessary Right of Way for the dam sights, including the flooded area, and a strip 20 feet wide from each side of the centerline of the channel that would be left in a natural vegetative state. This area would be established into grasses or shrubs that would stabilize the channel.
3. Proceed with negotiations on purchasing the upland 10 acres from Mark Krebsbach.

The centerline of the channel needs to be surveyed as soon as possible to establish the centerline and areas needed in the easements so legal work can be completed defining the easements. An extension with BWSR needs to be filed asking that the grant be extended to the end of the year. Bid advertising will begin in June and bid opening will be at the July 07 meeting.

Ditch # 65 Partial Abandonment: The TNC has sent in the three requests to Polk County to abandon portions of three ditches. Keith Mykleseth asked that if we oppose the partial abandonment of ditch # 65 the TNC would pull their request on ditch # 65. After discussion it was felt that abandoning a middle portion of a ditch system was not in the best interest long term of the owners of that system and that the district should oppose the abandonment. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to oppose the partial abandonment of Ditch # 65. **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.

Ditch # 133: Wilkens has gathered data from Polk County and East Polk SWCD to use to evaluate costs for Charles Balstad. Based on that information, the district gave Balstad an estimate of \$40,000 to bring the project to the final hearing. Wilkens met with the landowners on March 19 at the Sletten Town Hall. Almost all of the landowners involved in the project attended. There was a good discussion and at the end of the meeting three people were appointed to go forward with developing a petition. There was a great concern about costs to construct the project but it is impossible to give an estimate until the survey is complete.

Overall Plan: Mark Aanenson has set May 3rd as the kick off meeting of the Overall Plan Project. We have also applied for an extension of the project as per Brian Dwight.

Other Business:

Board Appointments: Stuart Christian has an appointment with the Polk County Commissioners at 11:00 this morning.

Advisory Committee meeting: A meeting was held on March 19th at Eats and Antiques. Jim Todahl was re-elected chairman for the next year. The upcoming appointment was discussed. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried recommending Stuart Christian to the Polk County Commissioners for another term.

7. **Permits:** No new permits were brought before the board; however, the two previous permits were approved after review by Houston Engineering.

2007-01 Clayton Engelstad, Install a crossing on Maple Creek, section 5/6 Liberty Township

2007-02 Mahnomon County – Section 6 Heir Township – Remove a truss bridge and install box culverts.

8. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at **8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2007**. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m., **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant