

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

February 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Vice - Chairman Roger Hanson called the February 5, 2008 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, and Gordon Sonsteli. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering, Paul Wannarka – DNR, Dennis Nikolayson – Landowner, & Gary Lee – East Polk SWCD.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the agenda, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on January 8, 2007, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for January, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.

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

5. Engineer's Report

Project # 17: The Minnesota Northern Railroad has not responded to Houston Engineering's previous letter relating to the bridges.

The Nelson Brothers vs. Kern & Tabery issue has not been resolved. A letter from Kern & Tabery was sent to Nelson Brothers giving them 30 days to sign the release forms so the retainer can be paid or they will start charging Nelson Brother's interest until the matter is resolved. Polk County has decided to not pay Kern and Tabery the retainer until the Nelson Brothers issue is resolved.

Overall Plan Update: Mark Aanenson has scheduled a meeting with East Polk SWCD on February 20th at 9:00 AM. He has also scheduled a meeting with West Polk SWCD at 8:00 AM on February 21 to update them on the progress made with the planning process. Aanenson will seek their input for the plan.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: A project team meeting is not scheduled.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met on January 22 at the Ramada Inn Suites in Fargo. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

Union Lake Erosion Control Project: The district needs to sign the extension when it comes and obtain the two easements and purchase the needed parcel.

Project # 20/Polk County # 46: Wilkens sent a request to the county for reimbursement from State Aid Bridge funds on the three bridges.

Project # 17/20: A meeting is scheduled for February 12 to look into the separation/consolidation statute with

our attorney and Polk County's attorney and the redetermination of benefits on ditch 93, 90, 73, 53, and 46.

Audit: Wilkens has contacted Joe Martin, from the firm of Brady Martz and asked for a quote. The RRWMB hired the Brady Martz firm at the last meeting.

7. **Permits:** None presented

8. **Other Business:**

Paul Wannarka - DNR: Wannarka has been hired to replace Don Buckhout at the DNR Bemidji office. Wannarka has worked with the DNR for 32 years, mainly in forestry and parks. He attended our meeting to introduce himself and meet the managers and staff of the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

Gary Lee – East Polk SWCD: Lee updated the managers on activities of the EPSWCD. Lee requested cost sharing with the district on projects that establish grass waterways and small retention dams to prevent erosion and improve water quality in our district and along the Sand Hill River. The managers agreed that interest is present to do so. The managers agreed on \$20,000 per year to assist with the proposed projects. Hanson suggested requiring the landowners to contribute to the cost of the project to ensure maintenance. Lee will coordinate with the board as projects arise. A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to set aside \$20,000 as a 25% cost share with the EPSWCD for the proposed projects on a case by case, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried.**

Lee stated that application has been made for a clean water legacy grant to develop a good education campaign and funding was approved. The SWCD is planning on rocking shore lines and planting native vegetation around Union Lake near the erosion control site. Currently eight sights are being proposed. Lee asked for assistance to continue with this plan. Lee added that the money could be used for promoting stewardship near the lakes, allowing the SWCD to continue their newsletters which promotes education. The watershed can also place active information regarding our district in the newsletter. A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to allocate \$500 to assist with the newsletters for the SWCD, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried.**

The SWCD held their district-planning meeting last week. The SWCD is exploring alternatives to eliminate rolling beans on a hilly ground. EQIP programs were discussed as an option along with CRP. Lee was asking the SHRWD to explore ideas to eliminate the rolling. Sonstelie stated that the rolling is due to the rocky ground. The option of buffer strips was also discussed and the cost of implementing buffer strips. Sonstelie will try to attend the Overall Plan meeting with the EPSWCD on February 20th.

BWSR: A letter from Don Buckhout was distributed stating that he had reported our district as not completing our 2006 annual report to the legislature. He also put in the report that it was due to not receiving our 2006 audit from our auditor. There was a death and illness in the firm which caused the delay.

County Ditch 92: Sonstelie brought forth an issue on county ditch 92 between Section 5 and 6 of Sletten Township. The township road is sloughing in, due to erosion, which plugs the ditch. The county and the township converse and neither party seems willing to fix the issue. Sonstelie asked advice from the board on how to get the parties to take the initiative to fix the area. Jody Beauchane is the county ditch inspector. Sonstelie will meet with the landowners and have them contact Jody Beauchane to see if something can be done. Manager Christian suggested asking the landowners to petition to turn the ditch over to the watershed if they can not solve the problem through the county.

Polk County # 41: The plans and specs for upgrading Polk County #41 from Highway 102 to Polk County # 12

were presented to the managers. Woodbury will review the plans and submit recommendations.

Gene Billing: Billing asked for a correction on his 1099 regarding the permanent ROW and grass strip. Dahl, Hatton, Muir and Reese distributed the 1099's and the issue will be corrected. Billing would like to know the original ditch ROW before the project. Woodbury will get this information to Wilkens. He insists that the parcels bought have not been taken off the tax roll. Wilkens will research that issue.

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m., **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant