

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

April 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the April 7, 2009 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Roger Hanson, Gordon Sonstelie and Stuart Christian. Others in attendance were Mark Meister – RRWMB Public Relations, Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, and Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda as presented, **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 3, 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for March, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie 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

Sand Hill Ditch Restoration: Woodbury distributed Google Earth maps with explanations of the proposed restoration plan based on the concerns from the COE, DNR and PCA. Woodbury will send the proposed restoration plan to DNR who will distribute it to the other agencies for comment. The EPA has requested the contractors contact information and assurance that our board will cooperate in the restoration plan.

Overall Plan: Woodbury and Wilkens held a phone conference with Brian Dwight regarding the Overall Plan. Houston Engineering has completed their part, but the plan is still waiting for Henry VanOffelen Natural Resource Enhancement Plan. Dwight would like to see the Corp of Engineers involved in this process to develop the purpose and need statement directly into the overall plan process. Dwight has seen reluctance on the Corp's end if the proposed projects do not contain local benefits as well as Red River benefits.

Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: The project team meetings will be placed on hold until the overall plan process has more direction.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Fertile. Meeting Highlights were given to the managers.

RRBC: The RRBC met on Thursday, March 5th in Fargo.

Ditch Improvement in Nielsville area: The District received the final draft from attorney, Swanson. Wilkens, Hanson, and Brekke attended the ditch transfer hearing on April 2 at UMC. The ditches were transferred to the district. The district needs to set a Bond requirement for the petition for the improvement of ditch 166 and 77. Woodbury recommended the bond requirement be set at \$75,000.

Sand Hill River Golf course: The Golf Course had a lot of stream bank damage. The Golf Course would like us to keep them in mind if FEMA comes into play.

Best Management Practice Study: Gary Lee requested \$500 as a 50% match with the local SWCD to participate in a Best Management Practice study conducted by the Extension Service on roller packing soybeans

and its effect on both wind and water erosion. He has a farmer in the Winger area that has agreed to participate. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to participate in the study with the SWCD by offering \$500, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

6. Other Business:

Mark Meister: Mark Meister introduced himself to the board as the RRWMB Public Information Officer. His mission is to serve the affiliated members of the RRWMB and extend an invitation to use his services to provide public information support for the district. He encouraged the managers to incorporate public information into their monthly agenda and utilize his expertise in communicating with the public when the need arises.

Wilkens suggested Fish Passage and the Overall Plan as needing Meister's services.

The managers have agreed to add an agenda item to discuss public relations each month.

CD Purchase: The Red River State Bank of Halstad requests that the district pass the following resolution: *Be it resolved that Daniel Wilkens, April Swenby and Stuart Christian, have the following powers: To open any deposit or share account in the districts name and to endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with this institution.* A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke approving the above resolution, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Wayne Goldsmith: Vig will tour the area in question (as per the March 2009 minutes) and take photos of the area when the ground dries up.

J & S Gravel: A bill was submitted from J & S Gravel, who was hired by Polk County Highway Department for backhoe work on culverts during the flood of 2009. Wilkens and Hanson toured the said area. The work did not seem to improve the situation and the work had not had prior authorization by the district. Christian did tour the area during the flood and explained his version of the problem and it was his opinion that the culverts were working correctly. The ditches were full of ice but were not plugged at the culverts. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to table the bill and ask Richard Sanders to meet with the board to explain their position, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. The district suggested contacting the contractor to explain the delay in payment.

LID: The Union Lake Improvement District has hired Widseth, Smith and Nolting for engineering for the pumping process and the screen. The chairman has suggested that Manager Sonstelie and Manager Christian attend the LID meeting on April 15.

Encroachments: Wilkens is required to report all encroachments to BWSR. The ditches will need to be inspected this spring and the report sent in.

7. Permits: One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the following permit, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

2009-05 Garden Valley Telephone – install underground buried cable – Section 3,8,14,15,26, & 34 King - 19&20 Sletten – 26 Knute – 20, 27,&29 Winger – 8,18 Bejou.

8. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on May 5, 2009. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Gordon Sonstelie, Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant