

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
September 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the September 7, 2010 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Stuart Christian, and Roger Hanson. April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, and Lawrence Woodbury - Houston Engineering. Others in attendance were Harold Olson – Beaver Control Agent and Joe Martin – Brady and Martz.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager to Hanson approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on August 3, 2010, with minor changes, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the treasurer's report for August, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. For the next meeting the managers requested more information on the status of the cost share agreement between the district and the East Polk SWCD. Wilkens suggested a written report from Gary Lee.

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

5. **Engineer's Report**

**Project # 24:** Wilkens, Woodbury, Langan, and Manager Brekke met regarding landowner concerns about the cost of the project. Several alternatives were discussed that will give landowners flexibility in searching out alternatives to address their needs. Woodbury was instructed to develop the various alternatives and when completed an informational meeting will be held so landowners can obtain more information so the best possible alternative that addresses the needs of all can be selected prior to the final hearing. The district will focus on finalizing what the final project will encompass before viewers are sent.

**Red River Diversion:** Wilkens gave an update on Collin Peterson's proposal to fund flood storage in the basin over the next ten years.

**Sand Hill River Restoration Project:** Wilkens is in frequent contact with Gary Bennett regarding the EPA's recommendations regarding the SH Restoration project. We are trying to get EPA to agree to a final restoration order so we can proceed to constructing the project. It is getting very late in the season and with continued rains it will require next year construction season.

**Ring Dikes:** The following three pay requests were submitted: \$4,516 for Rodney Spokely (pay request # 2), \$543.50 for Jason Voeller (pay request # 2), and \$3,175 (pay request # 3) for Jeff Voeller. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke authorizing payment of the three pay requests from Custom Earth for the Rodney Spokely, Jason and Jeff Voeller ring Dikes, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

6. **Dan's Monthly Report**

**Project Team:** The district is still awaiting approval of the purpose and need statement from the COE so we can move forward on completing our Overall Plan and moving forward on our flood damage reduction project.

**RRWMB:** The RRWMB met in Moorhead. A joint meeting with ND Joint Powers Board was also held. Meeting highlights were given to the board.

**RRBC Commission:** The RRBC met on September 2 at the Ramada Suites in Fargo. The Ex officio members started at 9:00 am with the Board meeting following at 11:30 am. Collin Peterson’s committee met at 1:00 pm.

**LID:** Pumping was started on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The gage at Climax was 6.49 feet. Pumping has continued with some problems with the air blast system. There is an LID board meeting on Wednesday evening at the Ness Café.

**Drainage Records Modernization Grant:** Scott Wolfert took a lot of our records with him to be scanned.

**Fish Passage:** Tom Grohans indicated that the COE is confident that they will receive funds for next year’s construction season. The DNR is also pursuing the Clean Water Legacy funding.

**Permit Data Base:** Scott Wolfert and Wilkens have updated the permit database. Wolfert is implementing the information for submission to our website.

**Beaver Problems:** Beavers are causing problems in Bear Park area. Greg Ranz inspected the questioned area and recommended that Harold Olson blow the dam and then he will try to trap them. The Dam has been blown. Harold Olson submitted a bill.

**Ditch # 55:** Wilkens attended the County Commissioner meeting and discussed the Fosston Appeal. The managers received Hauff’s response to the appeal. Manager Balstad suggested hiring the engineers to review the areas in question to determine a negotiated solution. Manager Balstad questioned whether there are options or alternatives to this project. Manager Balstad asked that if the county repaired the existing tile several miles downstream would that help mitigate the Fosston issue. Manager Hanson reminded the managers that the law is what the watershed is to abide by and that negotiations on whether the Fosston permit is not an improvement is a null issue.

**Ditch Mowing:** Jon Peterson reported that he has completed ditch mowing this year. He damaged a couple of traps. He said it was very hard to see them this year. A little more mowing later may be needed as some people have not completed haying.

**7. Other Business:**

**Budget Hearing:** The budget hearing began at 8:30 a.m. No citizens attended the hearing. The budget was presented as follows:

	<u>Jan - Dec 11</u>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>	29,000.00
<b>REIMBURSED EXPENSE</b>	15,000.00
<b>TAX LEVY INCOME</b>	<u>158,414.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	202,414.00
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>BUILDING</b>	
<b>MAINTENCE/OCCUPANCY</b>	18,000.00
<b>COMPUTER EXPENSE</b>	3,214.00

<b>DUES-MEMBERSHIP</b>	2,000.00
<b>EDUCATION</b>	5,000.00
<b>MANAGER EXPENSE</b>	22,000.00
<b>OFFICE OPERATIONS</b>	15,000.00
<b>PAYROLL EXPENSES</b>	90,000.00
<b>PAYROLL TAXES</b>	7,200.00
<b>PROF SERVICES</b>	40,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>202,414.00</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>0.00</b></u>

A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the budget as advertised, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. Balstad suggested reviewing the levy in more detail next year.

**Accountants Review:** Joe Martin, representative from Brady and Martz, reviewed the 2009 auditors report with the managers. The auditor suggested placing the actual salary dollar amounts in the minutes. Manager Hanson explained that the board sometime ago decided that putting the salary for employees in the minutes violated privacy issues and quit doing it at that time. The auditor said that was only a suggestion. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve and accept the 2009 auditor's report, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

**Carlson Coulee SE of Winger:** Balstad requested Wilkens attend an upcoming SWCD meeting or hold a private meeting with Gary Lee regarding a grant proposal for the project he is submitting.

**RRBC engineering request:** The RRBC has requested updates on the 1997 flood data. They have a cost share of \$10,000 towards the project. The project is estimated to cost in the \$36,000 range. The district's share will be \$16,000, some may be reimbursed by the FDRWG and the difference can come out of the construction fund. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to provide the hydrologic information to the RRBC, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

**Public Relations:** The managers reviewed possible public relations items. No new information was brought before the board.

**Managers Report:** Chairman Vig suggested that an individual managers report be apart of the agenda. The managers reviewed their August schedule and their pay request forms.

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

2010 – 12 Donald Andringa & Gene Nagel – Clean existing ditch – Section 32 of Vineland Township

2010 – 13 Dean Larson – Clean existing ditch – Section 4 of Hubbard Township

2010 – 14 US Fish and Wild Life – Wetland Restoration – Section 35 of Rosebud Township

Dean Johnson - extension

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on October 5, 2010. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

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April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

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Scott Balstad, Secretary