

Final Hearing
Project 5 - Redetermination
Sand Hill River Watershed District Office
Fertile, MN
September 18, 2018
9 AM

1. **Attendance:** Staff members present were Daniel Wilkens – SHRWD Administrator, and April Swenby SHRWD Administrative Assistant. District Engineer, Wade Opsahl – Houston Engineering. Managers present were JJ Hamre, Stuart Christian, Roger Hanson, and Dan Vesledahl. Viewers present include Eddie Bernhardson, Lead Viewer, Edwin Johnson, and Dennis Olsen. Others in attendance included the following: Steve Gullickson, Phillip Swenson, Brian Floan, and Troy Lindberg,
2. **Welcome:** Administrator Wilkens welcomed the group and introduced the Sand Hill River Watershed Board of Managers. Wilkens gave a history of the of the redetermination process. Outcomes will be accurize the boundaries, bring benefits up to current values and purchase ROW including adding buffer strips.
3. **Benefit Area Map:** Benefit area maps were displayed in the meeting room, along with printed 8 ½ x 11 sheets for each attendee.
4. **Viewers Report:** Eddie Bernhardson presented the viewers report. He explained the process they went through to verify the boundaries and the benefits landowners receive from the drainage system. The viewers reviewed all properties and determined the amount of damages to be paid. They compared recent sales in the area to establish a payment rate. They used lidar, aerial photos, as wells as visual inspection to determine boundaries for the benefited area. They used several methods to develop the value each parcel received for benefits from the ditch system.
5. **Audience Testimony:**
 - Brian Floan:** Floan stated that his land, in the far NW corner of the boundary area, drains into a swamp on his neighbors and his land does not drain into the ditch. Wilkens explained that if he is in the boundary, he has the right to use the main ditch. If he is not in the boundary, he cannot use the main ditch. The viewers were instructed to review the benefits of the area Floan is referring to.
 - Phillip Swenson:** Why is the NE quarter blue? He was referring to the parcel owned by Steve Gullickson. And why isn't it cleaned all the way north to the township road? The original legal ditch system did not continue to the road but rather ended at a natural draw. Wilkens stated that under watershed law, it can be cleaned past the end of the legal system for a short distance.
 - Steve Gullickson:** Gullickson owns land in the bottom SW corner of the boundary, and is unclear of how his water in that parcel gets to the ditch system. He also states this is a new assessment on this parcel.
 - Steve Gullickson** stated that land South of him goes for up to \$4,000 an acre and he questions the viewers \$2,500 an acre number. No one thought the viewers number should be changed. This is not an outright purchase but rather an easement. Gullickson questioned the large buffer area where the ditch is deep at the outlet to the ditch system. Wilkens explained that nothing will be done in this area. No land will be worked up to establish the buffer strip because the area is currently in good vegetative cover. Wilkens explained that the district is proactive in applying for grants to try to fix this erosion site and if we get a grant the necessary land rights would already be taken care of. Everyone needs to remember that the district is only the caretaker of the ditch. Major issues would require an improvement project process which requires a petition and bond. As part of the redetermination process no work is

being planned on the system other than purchasing easements for the ROW and establishing the buffer strips. This will include marking and seeding the necessary areas.

Troy Lindberg: On the NE quarter of Section 8, Lindberg asked the viewers to review the area to determine if the water flows toward the ditch, or if it flows to the east. Troy thinks that some of this land may flow away from the ditch.

6. **Proceeding:** The managers asked the viewers and engineer to review the concerns and comments and make recommendations to the board so they can act at the next meeting and complete the redetermination process for project Number 5.
7. **Adjournment/Recess:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hamre to recess the final hearing until October 2, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the district office at which time the boundary adjustments will be addressed and to order the redetermination forward. **Seconded** by Manager Vesledahl, **Carried**. The meeting was recessed at 9:37 AM.