

Sand Hill River Watershed District

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Board of Managers

Bill Brekke, Jr.-Nielsville Stuart Christian-Erskine Roger Hanson-Beltrami Scott Balstad-Fosston Phillip Swenson-Fertile
Daniel Wilkens-Administrator April Swenby-Administrative Assistant

SAND HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 9, 2013

Attendance: Chairman Todahl called the April 9, 2013 meeting of the Sand Hill Advisory Committee (SHAC) to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Sand Hill Supper Club in Fertile, MN. Other advisory members present were Steve Taylor, Scott Tollefson, Wayne Goeken, Bruce Stromstad and Roger Black. Others in attendance were Craig Bunes – Polk County Commissioner, Phillip Swenson -Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager, Daniel Wilkens – Administrator, and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant.

Minutes: A **Motion** to approve the minutes from March 26, 2012 was made by committee member Tollefson, **Seconded** by committee member Bunes, **Carried**.

Annual Reorganization: The Annual Organization of the SHAC was conducted. Chairman Todahl turned the meeting over to Wilkens who asked for nominations for Chairman of the SHAC. Bruce Stromstad nominated Jim Todahl for Chairman. Nominations were called for three times by Wilkens. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Jim Todahl for Chairman by Craig Bunes, **Seconded** by Bruce Stromstad, **Carried**. Wilkens returned the chair to Jim Todahl.

Board Reappointments: Chairman Todahl stated that Stuart Christian is up for reappointment on May 17th of 2013. Todahl reviewed Christian's role as a watershed board member. Todahl informed the advisory committee that he was assured he was fulfilling his duty as a Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager and his attendance is good. Christian is willing to run another term. A **Motion** was made by Scott Tollefson to recommend Stuart Christian to the Polk County Commissioners for reappointment, **Seconded** by Bruce Stromstad, **Carried**.

Chairman Todahl opened the floor for comments regarding the Sand Hill River Watershed District's board of managers. No negative comments were noted. In 2014, Bill Brekke will be up for reelection along with Roger Hanson. Manager Brekke has not expressed interest in running another term. A new manager will need to be found and elected from the Nielsville area.

Dan's successorship/new managers: Craig Bunes reported that a subcommittee has been formed and facilitated by Jody Horntvedt to plan the successorship of Wilkens and the future of the district administrator's position. The group is discussion alternatives and financial considerations are being explored. Job descriptions are being evaluated. When alternatives are narrowed down, the advisory committee will be invited to attend a meeting along with the board of managers to review the alternatives.

The advisory committee is always searching out new members. Swenby will invite Matt Erickson and Gary Lee to join.

District Activities: Wilkens gave and update on the following:

Tile drainage laws: Polk County would like to see reasonable measures to keep record of tile drainage. The RRWMB is developing a standard set of Rules to guide districts with tiling. New software is developing that will allow decision makers to see water storage and it's impact on the Red River.

Riverwatch: Goeken reported the Riverwatch program is still active and successful with students from Climax, Win-E-Mac and Fertile monitoring the river. Sediment is higher in the winger area. High ecoli levels are found in the river.

Project Team: The district has placed all project team efforts on hold due to the lack of progress.

Financial Report: Wilkens reviewed the fund balances of the district.

Advisory Committee Comments:

Roger Black asked the status on the soil sampling that was completed via the project team direction near Bear Park. He asked that if structures or holding areas are built, careful consideration be made regarding the nearby gravel pits. Swenby will notify Black of future project team meetings so he can remain informed of the progress in these areas.

Adjournment: The next meeting of the SHAC will be at the call of the chair as needed. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant