

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**Minutes – October 1, 1991 Regular Meeting**

**1. Attendance;** Roland Gullekson, President, called the October 1, 1991 meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning and Francis La Vol. The District's Consulting Engineer Lawrence Woodbury and Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken were in attendance.

**2. Minutes;** The minutes of the September 3, 1991 meeting were approved as mailed on motion by Hanson and second by Jevning. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer 'a Report ;** Hanson reviewed the status of funds currently on deposit at various financial institutions and the fund- balances of the Watershed's accounts. Motion by Jevning and seconded by LaVoi to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay current vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal-Notices-Budget hearing/mtgs	61.25
Norman County Index-Budget hearing notices	115.43
U.S. Postal Service-100 stamps	29.00
Garden Valley Phone Company-phone service	53.59
Otter Tail Power Company-electric service	74.63
City of Fertile-Utilities (water/sewer)	38.22
MN Lake Mgmt Federation Conference-2 registr..	90.00
The International Coalition-annual membership	250.00
Houston Engineering-7/1/91-9/22/91 billing	1,657.00
Lois Plante-custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial, office & mtg expenses	405.23
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	241.32
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	324.72
Or ley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	178.38
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	124.75
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,661.99</u></b>

**4 . Winger**

Gullekson reported on a meeting! held September 6, 1991 in St. Paul. Meeting participants included Roland Gullekson, Roger Hanson, Dan Wilkens and Lawrence Woodbury representing the Sand Hill River Watershed District; Don Ogaard of the i Red River Watershed Mgmt. Bd., Larry Smith, Lynn Lewis and Rick Rowse of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tim Seek of Senator Roger Moe's office; Ben Wopat and Paul Richert of the Army Corps of Engineers; Ron Nargang, Jim Breyen, Charlotte Cohn, c. Christiansen and Paul Swenson of the MN DNR; Richard Wedlund of the MN Pollution Control Agency and Ted Rockwell of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Discussion involved four issues as specified in a letter dated August 28 from Wopat (Corp). The first issue was project purpose and need to which Ogaard responded that the project meets the criteria for flood control in the Red River Valley. Rockwell (EPA) questioned where the criteria is written. It was pointed out that it is documented in the McComb-Knutson report and in the Project Manual.

It was pointed out that the project has multiple purposes including flood control, recreation and providing a roadway.

Richert(Corps) noted that the Corps must receive request for re-opening of the permit process in writing before they will consider re-opening the process. This was not stated in any previous conversations with Richert. It will take 2-3 weeks to re-open after they receive the written request plus Richert noted he's too busy to look at the request for 30 days so publication of notice will take at least 6 weeks.

Rockwell(EPA) noted that the EPA is opposed to the project because they do not believe that the Watershed has examined sufficient alternatives in the Environmental Impact Statement and further that the project is not the alternative in the EIS that they would accept. He stated, "The alternative that must be accepted is the one with the least environmental impact irrespective of the purpose of the project."

EPA and Corps both tried very hard to make the Watershed commit to the project being for one purpose or another to which they could then declare various project components as unnecessary. The Watershed maintained that the project is multi-purpose with all components being of importance.

Mitigation must be identified up-front, prior to any permits. Mitigation was discussed as being valued at 1 to 1 or 1 to 1.5. Rockwell faulted the State for not cooperating with Federal agencies in the EIS process. He also stated that a Federal EIS could be required. Fish and Wildlife Service would require a detailed operational plan and documentation of recreational needs of the area--a justification that this is the "best site", i.e. topographically and hydraulically. All stated concerns with the permanent pool.

It was agreed that the Sand Hill Watershed will send Wopat a request for opening the permitting notice procedure within 30 days and within 2-3 weeks the Corps will publish notice of comment period to extend for 30 days with EPA almost certain to ask for a 30 day extension. (Conclusion of notes from Sept. 6 meeting)

Woodbury reviewed with the Board a two page report that he prepared of supplementary information that will be submitted to the Corps that addresses the main issues raised at the September 6 meeting. Clarification of the project's purpose and the rationale for selection of the proposed project over the other alternatives were addressed. This will be sent along with a cover letter to Ben Wopat of the Corps with copies sent to other parties that have been involved in recent meetings.

## **5. Permits:**

The one permit that came before the board for review was approved.

- 1991-10 Polk County Highway Department. NW corner of Sec. 31, between Sec. 31 & 20 of T147N, R47W in Scandia Twp. of Polk County. Replace existing Bridge #L7435 with one line of 12'x 5' P.C.C. Box Culvert with end

**5. Permits (continued):**

sections in Judicial Ditch #57. Work is needed because existing bridge is deficient in size and strength and the Scandia Twp. Board requested its replacement. I

Gullekson reviewed a letter received from Howard Lipke regarding wetland restoration on the Donald and John Juvrud farm which addressed questions that the SHRWD has regarding this project. A decision on granting the permit for this project was tabled until the Board has an opportunity to inspect the site.

**6. Other Business**

- a. Gullekson noted that Ray Gullekson and John Lenz had visited with Wilkens again regarding operation of the gate valve on County Ditch #90 in Russia township. The landowners would like to be able to control the gate valve. The Board discussed the option of removing the structure completely.
- b. Gullekson reported on a MN Assn. of Watershed Districts meeting that he attended in Moorhead on September 20. There was discussion on what service this organization actually provides and how a group such as that could be involved in assisting with projects such as the Winger Dam. Options for submitting resolutions to the MAWD annual meeting in Dec. were discussed. •
- c. River Clean-up. It was reported that Wilkens had organized the final phase of the river clean-up which included removing the bridge timbers downstream from Fertile. This stretch of the river looks good now. The Board commended Wilkens on organizing the clean-up. Goeken will check with the County Auditor regarding finishing off the reporting requirements for the project.  
It was again noted that additional funds are available for removing snags from the river and streambank stabilization. There has been some interest expressed for this type of work east of Fertile on the Sand Hill River. Jevning will check on interest at the west end.
- d. Lake Monitoring. Goeken reported on status of the program including the next testing date of October 8. Board members are welcome to come along to see how the samples are taken. Goeken also requested that the watershed boundaries for Union Lake and Lake Sarah be delineated on a map so that land use of this area can be defined from aerial photos. This information will be compiled as part of a management report for each lake. Woodbury will develop these maps.
- e. Ogaard Project. John Gunderson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called Gullekson to check on the status of the project and note that they will cooperate to whatever extent they can on the project. Jeff Hemenway, SCS has also inquired regarding the project's status. It will likely not be done until mitigation plans for the Winger Dam are finalized.
- f. Upcoming Conferences. Goeken will be attending the River Watch Conference in Wayzata on October 3rd and 4th. Goeken and Gullekson will attend the Lake Management Workshop from Oct. 27 to Oct. 29 at Alexandria. Gullekson and Hanson plan on attending The International Coalition's conference in Grand Forks in November with additional board members possibly going also.

**8. Adjournment;** The next regular monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 5, 1991. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by LaVoi, seconded by Jevning to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Wilkens". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Daniel Wilkens, Secretary      Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary