

# SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Minutes-February 2,1993 Regular Meeting

**1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the February 2, 1993 meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Wayne Goeken—SHRWD Executive.Secretary, Lawrence Woodbury-SHRWD Consulting Engineer, and Bill Best-MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (Bemidji Office) were also in attendance.

**2. Minutes;** Jevning read the minutes of the January 5, 1993 SHRWD meeting. It was noted that on page 2, paragraph 1, line 4—change "SHRWD" should be changed to "joint North Dakota/Minnesota Water Management Board." Hanson asked for clarification of discussion related to Item #6 on pages 2 and 3. It was agreed that comments made regarding watershed's future role in land and water stewardship were opinions of the individuals involved in the discussion and not a policy statement of the SHRWD. As such, the minutes will be corrected by putting quotation marks around the last three sentences in paragraph one under Item #6 and attributing these remarks to Gullekson and quotation marks around the last two sentences of paragraph two under Item #6 and attributing these remarks to Ogaard. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Wilkens to adopt the minutes of the January 5, 1993 Sand Hill River Watershed District Board meeting as mailed with the above cited corrections being made. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report;** Wilkens reported that considerable time had been spent by himself and Pam Wilkens over the past month in setting up the SHRWD's financial records on the Quiken computer program. Wilkens handed out the Treasurer's Report for the February 2 SHRWD Board meeting. Discussion followed regarding how the accounts were broken out and what the Board should receive for review at future Board meetings. Motion by LaVoi and second by Jevning to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by Wilkens. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was also made by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to officially thank Pam Wilkens for her time and effort in organizing the SHRWD accounting system and further authorizing a \$50 dollar gift certificate be provided to Pam Wilkens. Motion carried unanimously.

The monthly bills were reviewed with the following discussion and action resulting. Membership in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts was due. Hanson questioned if this organization was providing any real benefits to the SHRWD. It was noted that although MAWD has not been as active as it perhaps should be, it is a forum that can be used to address watershed issues. Motion by Hanson to pay the annual MAWD dues. Motion seconded by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Gullekson and second by Wilkens to approve annual membership at \$50 to the Fertile Community Club. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to pay \$100 for annual membership to the Freshwater Foundation. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Jevning and second by LaVoi to authorize payment to-Wayne Goeken in the amount of \$20 per hour for work performed for the Sandhill River Watershed District over and above the normal duties of the Executive Secretary of the Sandhill River.,Watershed District, Motion carried unanimously. This will include work on the District's Overall Plan. Wilkens requested authorization to purchase the Quicken system with Quick Pay and associated checks. Motion by Jevning and second by LaVoi to authorize such purchase. Motion carried unanimously. Any Board members that can make it were authorized to attend the Rinke-Noonan Conference in St. Cloud.

The following bills were approved for payment on motion by Jevning and second by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal-meeting notice  
Fertile Bakery-rolls-meetings

3.17  
8.00

Mac's Cafe-meals	25.00
Al & Laura's Hartz-soda & supplies	32.96
Garden Valley Telephone Company	27.57
U.S. Postal Service-roll of stamps	29.00
West Publishing	6.39
Fertile Community Club-annual membership	50.00
Freshwater Foundation	100.00
Minnesota Assn. of Watershed Districts-annual membership	635.46
Otter Tail Power Company-monthly electric charge	356.30
Red River Watershed Management Board-Stream gaging-Climax	1,555.00
Houston Engineering	4,439.00
Lois Plante-Custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial expenses	365.48
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	333.12
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	657.41
Orley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	264.71
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	62.68
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	1,017.84
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b><u>\$9,988.16</u></b>

#### **4. SHRWD Overall Plan:**

Bill Best of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources reviewed the general process that Watershed District's should go through to develop their District's Overall Plan. Best noted that the County Water Plans should be reviewed to determine what roles the Watersheds are identified as playing and to incorporate data from the County Water Plans as applicable. At this time the SHRWD has submitted a generic outline for development of its Overall Plan. Upon notice from BWSR that the outline has been approved, the SHRWD has 120 days to update its Overall Plan. There was discussion of problems in getting computer generated maps done in a timely manner as The International Coalition is supposed to be providing these with their GIS system, but they do not seem to have the expertise to get the job done.

#### **5. Agassiz Environmental Learning Center:**

Wayne Goeken, Executive Director of the Agassiz ELC provided a slide presentation of other residential environmental education centers and programs of the Agassiz ELC. He informed the Board of the status of the Agassiz ELC and its role in meeting the environmental education needs of the watershed, the region and the state. Goeken noted that there are four existing residential environmental education centers in Minnesota with the closest one to northwest Minnesota being Deep Portage Conservation Reserve near Hackensack. All of the existing centers are in northwoods settings and as such do not offer prairie learning experiences. All of the existing centers are planning on expanding their facilities to meet the growing demand for EE services.

Goeken noted that the Agassiz ELC would be located in the Fertile Sandhills and would have a prairie focus. Other ecosystems present at the site that will be featured include sand dunes, oak savanna, poplar forests, and riverine communities along the Sandhill River. Programs will be provided on-site for audiences of all ages with the primary audience being elementary students in grades 4-6 who would stay for 2-3 day visits once the residential facilities are developed. In the interim, day-use programs will be delivered to school groups visiting the site. A stream study unit is scheduled to be developed along the Sandhill River which could be expanded to include an on-going citizen monitoring program of rivers, streams and lakes in the student's home communities. The Agassiz ELC could also provide staff

naturalists to present programs on various topics related to water issues to summer audiences at the major lakes in the area.

Discussion followed regarding what role the SHRWD could or should play in helping to develop the Agassiz ELC. Hanson questioned whether the District should be involved with this project. Gullekson noted that there is nothing in the State statutes that prohibits watersheds from getting involved in a project such as this. Watersheds are charged with providing land and water stewardship, thus it is probably more cost-effective in the long run to educate youth up front about natural resource conservation than it is to take corrective actions down the road to address problems that arise from a lack of understanding of the interrelationships between humans and nature. It will be increasingly important to deal with the source of natural resource issues rather than reacting to situations after they have become problems. Wilkens noted that as we need to deal with more permit needs in the future, it is important to educate the population about how the system works and that humans are part of the system. By being part of helping to develop a local environmental learning center, watersheds and other local partners will have more influence on the programs being offered and the direction of the center. Gullekson noted that an investment by the SHRWD to help develop the Agassiz ELC would be an investment in the future well-being of land and water resources of the whole watershed district and could serve as seed funding to get other watersheds and the RRWMB involved as schools and the general public from throughout the Red River Valley will be served by the Agassiz ELC.

After further discussion, it was felt that before a commitment of resources was made to the Agassiz ELC, that information should be provided to the public about this expanded direction being taken by the SHRWD to allow more public input. An article will be presented in local newspapers to explain the Agassiz ELC and the role that it can play in helping the SHRWD fulfill its mission and how the SHRWD could help develop the Agassiz ELC.

**6. Winger Dam:** Woodbury reported that he was just about finished with the Engineers Development Report for the Dry Dam option for the Winger Dam Project.

**7. Other Activities and Business:**

a.) Wilkens reported that he had visited with Climax Mayor Dan Gronberg regarding the progress being made with the tree cutting operation in the Climax area that was being done by the Minnesota Conservation Corp. Jevning also reported on a visit he made to the clean-up site. The MCC crew had done some work, but was not accomplishing as much as they had indicated they would be doing. Wilkens was authorized to try to secure the services of an individual to do additional tree cutting work in the Sandhill River Watershed District. The work will be done to help stabilize the streambank, reduce erosion and control flooding. This person has been doing this type of work for the Wild Rice River Watershed District.

**8. Permits:** No permits came before the Board for review.

**9. Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD was set for Tuesday, March 2, 1993. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by LaVoi and seconded by Wilkens to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Orley Jevning, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary