

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

July 5, 2017

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called July 5, 2017 to meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad , JJ Hamre, Roger Hanson and Phillip Swenson. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance Harold Olson – Beaver Control Specialist, Gerald Paulson and Glen Paulson– Bear Park Landowner, Mike Gunderson – Bear Park Landowner, Zach Herrmann – Houston Engineering, Bill Downs – Landowner, and Joyce Downs – Landowner.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2017 **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the treasurer's report for June, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad, to approve and pay bills, adding Harold Olson's billing for beaver control and excluding the SWCD balances which are listed for informational purposes only, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. **Engineer's Report**

Climax Ring Dike: Davidson Construction awarded the bid for MnDOT's project for redoing the Highway 220 patch.

Rock Riffles: A field review was done of each riffle to ensure seeding. A final pay request is expected in August. HEI will begin the design and permitting for additional riffles downstream of existing riffles, using the additional grant funds.

Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program:

Carlson Coulee: A survey was completed in June and will be used for preliminary design and permitting.

Sediment Control Basins: HEI is finalizing the implementation scenarios for PTMApp analysis to complete the Prioritized Implementation Plan using GIS data.

Polk County Flood Plain: Preliminary flood maps were effective June 7, 2017. Wilkens and Herrmann will review the occupied dwellings and present possible LOMA's for next months meeting.

RCP (Upper Detention Sites): Herrmann and Swenby will set up a public input meeting for July/August.

Project # 24: Herrmann is still developing the plan to reinforce the outlet structure with sheet pile.

Ditch 9 and 119: Swenby mailed out all letters to all affected landowners summarizing the approach to use another year of assessments to build up reserves to buffer issues.

Project #5: Swenby mailed out a letter to all landowners to provide an update. She also mailed a letter to the viewers.

Ditch 80: Swenby mailed to the landowners stating the status of the improvement process. The district is currently awaiting signatures on a revised petition.

The final work plan was submitted for BWSR E-Link.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

RRWMB: The RRWMB met on June 20 in Thief River Falls followed by a FDRWG meeting. Meeting highlights were given to the managers. The RRWMB voted to continue to proceed with their strategic planning process and hire an Executive Director.

Drainage Workgroup: The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at the AMC building by the capitol in St. Paul.

Beltrami Diversion: A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the purchase of a culvert, trap, and installation, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**. Wilkens will obtain a permit from the Polk County Highway Department.

Vesledahl / Morvig legal system: Wilkens will a schedule a meeting to discuss the transfer and making this a legal ditch system.

Web Site Upgrade: The website and mapping system is complete and live.

Building upgrades: The roof project is near completion. Watershed Districts now qualifies for tax exempt status. Swenby will implement this for our building project.

MAWD Bylaw changes: Stuart and Phillip reported that all changes were approved.

Union Lake Easements: Wilkens attended the LID meeting last month to discuss the progress on the easements.

Union Lake Erosion Control: The SWCD is currently working on this.

Spokely Wash Plant: Bill Brekke reported that Spokely's have not cleaned as per the agreement. Wilkens will contact Spokely's.

7. Other Business:

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

Bear Park: Harold Olson reported that in the past two weeks they've blown 8 dams, three of them two times. A kayak tour was also completed and beaver reported, but no dams. Olson assumes that the vegetation is what is slowing the water down. Wilkens used google earth to determine elevations and reported approximately 8' fall.

Houston Engineering will determine the elevations at each crossing. Paulson asked if there was a field survey completed at the time the project was implemented. Paulson asked Herrmann if HEI has

been directed to do any work on the project outside the drone footage and Herrmann said during his time as district engineer, HEI has not been given additional instruction. Herrmann was unable to give an opinion of the problem without touring the area and verified his opinion is that installation of elevation gauges at various spots would not be costly.

Paulson and the managers discussed the silt in the river along with the vegetation. Paulson understands that the way the statute reads, the district is allowed to clean the waterway pertaining to the structure. The structure has minimal flow. Paulson is under the opinion that the issue is the river itself. He asked that the managers take a position to find a solution, rather than assuming that it can't be done. He asks authorization for the engineer to further investigate in the project.

The managers authorized our engineer to review the area by looking at the structure and the original plan. Manager Balstad asked Herrmann to request NRCS and FSA to release field historical maps to the district. The managers asked Herrmann to review the structure to determine if there is any elevation change. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad authorizing Houston Engineering to continue investigations to determine a reason for overland flooding in the upper reaches, and verify the fall, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.

Manager Balstad suggested involving the attorney to verify how much jurisdiction the district has to clean the waterway without involving the MN DNR. Wilkens was asked to contact our attorney for clarification along the waterway and the jurisdiction of public waters pertaining to this project. Paulson argued that the district has statute authority to clean the waterway pertaining to the project. He feels that the project has been allowed to fill with silt and that the board has not taken a proactive position to remove beaver dams. He feels that if no one was complaining the managers did not take action allowing the river to become a stagnant pool, which gave opportunity for the river to build up silt and debris. He does not believe there has been routine maintenance or inspections. Paulson maintains that the agreement states that the district has a responsibility to control beaver and other obstructions and that he feels the obligation is not limited to only beaver.

Mike Gunderson could not estimate crop loss but reported yield loss and diminished returns, stating that there are more cattails over the years.

8. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve permit, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.

2017-11: Minkota, Section 21 – Woodside Twp., Install crossing

The following permits were brought before the board for extension. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve extending the following permits, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.

2016-12: Craig Engelstad, Section 34 – Onstad Twp., Install Culvert and erosion control structure and clean existing ditch.

2015-21: Craig Engelstad, Section 34 – Onstad Twp., Install erosion control structure and clean existing ditch

2015-27: Craig Engelstad, Section 3 – Liberty Twp., Construct a new ditch

2015-20: Craig Engelstad, Section 23 – Liberty Twp., Clean existing ditch

2015-26: Craig Engelstad, Section 15 – Liberty Twp., Clean existing ditch

2011-13: Craig Engelstad, Section 15 – Liberty Twp., Install Culvert

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting will be held **Tuesday at 8:00 AM on August 1, 2017**. As

there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

JJ Hamre, Secretary