

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2005

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Wilkens – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrator, April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrative Assistant, Roger Hanson – Sand Hill River Watershed District Chairman, Harold Vig – Sand Hill River Watershed District Manager, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Dan Grunhoyd – Landowner, Mick Alm – Norman County Engineer, Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Tom Groshens – DNR Fisheries, Adam Woltjer – NRCS, Don Kuntz – UNKNOWN AFFILIATION, Bruce Solberg – Landowner, Marvin Gunderson – Norman County Commissioner, Mike Vavrika – MPCA, Brian Dwight – BWSR, Henry Van Offelen – MN Center for Environmental Advocacy, Rolland Gagner – Union LID, Les Peterson – US Fish and Wildlife Services, Penny Doty – West Polk SWCD, Rita Trandem – Landowner, Sheldon Trandem – Landowner, Don Buckhout – DNR, Terry Wolfe – DNR, Jerry Jacobson – Polk County Commissioner, and Maynard Pick – Congressional Representative.

Administrator Wilkens called for introductions and welcomed the new attendees.

2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda. Wilkens gave an overview of the minutes from the April 12, 2005 meeting.

FISH PASSAGE: The cutoff date for the DNR \$200,000 set aside previously discussed has been extended to June 30, 2009. In addition to the extended date, the dollar amount has been increased to \$300,000. It was reported that Luther Aadlund recommended that the Sand Hill River Watershed District propose a master plan and complete the tasks as agreed without waiting for the Corp. of Engineers to obtain funding.

Because the date has been extended, the project team suggested that the managers approve Woodbury to prepare a master plan for the project. This will be placed on the agenda for the regular meeting of the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

The project team has also requested Woodbury to present a design sketch and a preliminary plan at the September 2005 project team meeting. After that information is prepared, Dan Thul and Chad Konickson will submit a permit application in time for the October 2005 meeting. Don Buckhout will converse with the Corp. of Engineers and monitor their progress. He will also invite them to our October 2005 meeting (after the Corps. Fiscal year end).

UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL: Wilkens reviewed the project objectives for the new attendees. He explained that funding is still being researched. A challenge grant has been applied for. This project did not qualify for 319 funding. Thul was unable to comment on the DNR's involvement regarding funding.

The landowners present regarding this project were: Don Kountz, Sheldon and Rita Trandem, and Bruce Solberg. The landowners were in agreement and thought positively of the project; however, at this point they did not want to contribute with funding. Don Kountz expressed his concern for the loss of trees on his property. The landowners would like to be apart of the process regarding this project and meeting notices will be e-mailed to them.

The vegetation on the upstream watershed was discussed. Woltjer reported that Mark Krebsbach land will not be in CRP this year as soybeans have already been planted.

Adam Woltjer reported on Burrack behalf regarding the sediment yield determination. He reported that beans on beans with a wheat rotation will loose about 1.4 to two tons per acre per year. Huelskamp added that this report may not hold true as it is moving within the field.

Woltjer reported that on the south side of the channel they are trying to put in a sediment basin using the CRP program on a 10 to 15 year easement. Without the sediment basin, the filter strip will be of minimal use. Mark Krebsbach is the owner of this strip. Permanent easement options could be looked at in the future. Adam will report next month with updates on the south strip and future CREP possibilities.

GARDEN SLOUGH: Based on preliminary information, Dan Thul reported that this project is considered a low hazard when referring to Dam Safety. If the highway is upgraded and MN DOT determines this to be a major collector or if the dam fails a breach analysis test, the rating may be raised to a high hazard dam.

Mick Alm reported on the county's future plans for this area. It has been their prior plans to extend Norman County Highway # 1. There are two miles of twp. road on the west of # 36 and one mile of county road by Bergeson Nursery that is in need of upgrading. These roads would need to be reclassified as county state aid highways. The county board is now considering what will be done and are discussing their concerns about converting to a state aid road. They are debating on swapping the roads. The board has not reached a general consensus. Alm stated that he would like to work side by side with the Sand Hill River Watershed District Project Team on the Garden Slough project. Wilkens reminded Alm that the Sand Hill River Watershed District has options where the two organizations can work together to make the project happen.

Brian Dwight reminded that project team that CREP could be a possibility in Section 4. This would remove the possible wetland issues. Gunderson reminded the project team that there would need to be two dams and a tremendous amount of earthwork would be necessary if that alternative were to be used.

Brian Dwight and Dan Thul will schedule a tour of the site for July with the Corp, DNR Division of waters and US Fish and Wildlife, Curtis Borchert, and Larry Kramka. They will coordinate with Lawrence Woodbury to get the appropriate engineering.

Grunhoyd will speak with the other landowners on the east side of # 36 for possible holding areas in this area and Randy Braulick - Norman County NRCS.

Marv Gunderson and Mick Alm requested their names to be placed on the Project Team Mailing List.

3. **LAKE SARAH STORAGE:** NRCS, BWSR, and SWCD will report on the mapping and overlay progress for the July 2005 meeting.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Modeling: Dwight is currently working on the modeling process. This item will be placed on the July 2005 agenda.

CREP: The project team requested that Dwight invite East Polk SWCD, West Polk SWCD and Norman SWCD to the next meeting and supply large area maps for them. The project team would like them to highlight possible CREP areas.

5. **ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held June 14, 2005 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant