

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes—January 8, 1991 Regular Meeting

1. Attendance: Roland Gullekson, President, called the regular monthly meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Vernon Larson, Francis LaVoi, and Daniel Wilkens. Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken was also present.

Others present were: Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering; Harold Olson; Howard Lipke-USFWS, Detroit Lakes; Jeff Hemenway-SCS District Technician; Craig Peterson-SCS Engineer and Dan Lindquist-SCS, Thief River Falls; Clarence Eraker, Don Ogaard-landowners; Gerald Paul-DNR Hydrologist, Bemidji.

2. Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of the December 4, 1990 meeting as mailed with the addition of two items to the vouchers paid as follows: \$423.08 to First Card for expenses related to attending a pesticides conference and \$500.00 to First Card for deposit on SHRWD computer purchase. Motion by Larson, seconded by Wilkens. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report: Interim Treasurer Hanson reported on CDs that were due for renewal. It was also noted that for bills to be paid at the monthly meeting, expense vouchers are to be handed in to the SHRWD Treasurer by 8:30 a.m. of the meeting date. Motion by Wilkens that the current vouchers be paid. Motion seconded by LaVoi. Motion passed unanimously.

Garden Valley Telephone Co. 945-3204	50.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	120.24
Tony Dorn, Inc.-copier parts	12.85
Fertile Coast to Coast-carpet cleaning	58.68
Radio Shack-computer discs	61.90
Mac's Cafe	39.00
Fertile Journal-envelopes	35.90
City of Fertile-Water & sewer	46.20
West Publishing Co.-MN Statutes	6.00
Lois Plante-custodial	154.00
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & expenses	459.48
Lower Red Mgmt Board-USGS stream gauging	1,450.00
Houston Engineering-Winger Dam work	5,329.00
Houston Engineering-Misc SHRWD work	2,926.00
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	1,313.79
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	772.05
Vernon Larson-Meetings & expenses	61.78
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	624.50
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	63.80
Monthly Total	\$13,585.17

4. Ogaard Farm Project: SCS personnel presented preliminary design specifications that had been worked up for a possible water retention site on a field waterway in Section 31 of Winger Township, Polk County. The proposed structure and pool would be on land owned by Don Ogaard at this location. Proposed project specs for discussion were as follows:

- 92'9" Lowest point in proposed pool area
- 98'4" Permanent pool elevation
- 102'0" Emergency spillway overflow level
- 12'0" Proposed overall height of dam
- 5'7" Maximum depth at permanent pool elevation of 98'4"
- 13 acres Surface area of permanent pool(98'4" elevation) of which
- 2.5 acres would have depth of 4'6" or more
- 84' Flood storage created at emergency spillway level
- 1802 acres Total drainage area of project area

The project is currently designed so that the permanent pool would not back up onto Clarence Eraker's land, which lies immediately north of the proposed project. In a 10 year flood event, there would be two feet of bounce which would be contained in the temporary pool and not go over the emergency spillway. In a 25 year event, 3.5 feet of bounce would occur with 7 acres of Eraker's land being temporarily flooded. A 100 year event would result in 12 acres of Eraker's land being in the temporary pool. Eraker is agreeable to providing an easement on his property for temporary flood storage. A 24" pipe is proposed for discharge with options noted for a larger discharge pipe which would reduce pool bounce.

Clay for building the dam would come from the immediate area as preliminary soil borings have indicated continuous clay present below a depth of four feet. An estimated 6,000 yards would be needed as total fill for the dam as proposed. A five foot core channel would need to be cut at the dam site to remove a sand lens and get down to the clay layer.

Further discussion related to increasing the width of the dam so it could serve as a stream crossing for field access with farm machinery. Multi-purpose wildlife benefits were discussed including waterfowl, deer, upland game birds and nongame species. Options for a waterfowl nesting island and additional tree plantings were noted. The Sand Hill River Watershed District would likely have a permanent easement put in its name for this project area so there would be one holder and long term stability to satisfy USFWS and MN DNR requirements for involvement in this project.

Preliminary costs were projected at \$21,000. Widening the structure and associated costs would bring the project to a possible cost of \$30,000. At this time, the USFWS indicated they could contribute \$4,000 towards the project if a 100 ft. distance could be maintained to the waterfowl nesting island. This project will serve to collect sediment, thus helping to control erosion.

Jeff Hemenway will further explore cost-sharing possibilities through an ASC program which addresses downstream erosion. The Sand Hill River Watershed District would make up the project balance.

Based on the above discussion, the following resolution was made: Whereas, the Sand Hill River Watershed District is responsible for management of land and water resources in the Sand Hill River Watershed and, whereas the proposed water retention structure on the Ogaard property in Section 31, Winger Township, Polk County would provide benefits for the Watershed in terms of flood storage, erosion control and wildlife benefits, the Sand Hill River Watershed District hereby agrees to cooperate in development and funding of this project with the understanding that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide \$4,000 towards this project and ASC will provide funding for a portion of the project if it fits their erosion control program with the SHRWD providing the remaining funding to complete the project. Motion was made by Wilkens, seconded by LaVoi. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Winger Dam Report: Lawrence Woodbury reported on preliminary results of expected water quality variables based on computer modeling using observed field data from previous Watershed water testing. Woodbury worked on the models in cooperation with Bruce Wilson of the MPCA. Essentially the results were similar to the values that were initially projected. The initial values were guidelines used by the MPCA with final values to be discussed and determined with local input. A hardcopy of the computer runs were left with the Watershed District and the computer models loaded into the Watershed's computer system. Woodbury will write up a summary report of the data and submit this to the MPCA and to the EPA representative in Minnesota.

Woodbury also provided a handout summarizing information he received regarding a project in Virginia which is very similar to the Winger project. Problems arose there in acquiring 404 Corp certification which has resulted in a pending court case. More information will be forthcoming as this case is decided.

Gullekson noted that the SHRWD will coordinate a tour of the Winger Dam area and related land and water management issues for Ted Rockwell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Minnesota Operation's Office staff. Other cooperating agencies and involved parties to the Winger project will be contacted to coordinate this tour which will likely occur within the next month.

Discussion followed with DNR Hydrologist Gerald Paul regarding wildlife values that were assigned during the HEP analysis. Mink, muskrat and wood ducks were the only three species that were specifically identified that would need to be compensated for elsewhere. Gerald Paul will notify appropriate DNR personnel to activate the project again and proceed on necessary reviews.

6. Construction Report: Hanson reported that Slager Construction estimated it will cost \$2,300 to correct sloughing of the Sand Hill River south of Beltrami. The bank stabilization work will be done this spring. Slager has an opportunity to pick up inexpensive REA poles that will be needed for the project. Larson made a motion which was seconded by LaVoi to authorize Slager to purchase the poles. Motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from the Corp of Engineers which noted they had done an aerial survey which showed tree snags below the improved channel east of Climax and beaver dams. Removal options will be decided on at a future meeting. A semi-annual maintenance report needs to be sent in to the Corp also.

7. Permits issued:

1991-1 Polk County Highway Dept. Remove existing Bridge No. 4389 between sections 14 and 15 of Garfield Twp, Polk County and replace with 3 lines of 10'x 9' concrete box culvert with end sections and riprap at the elevation of 1110.6. Accompanying grading will involve straightening the Twp. road and raising the elevation as shown on map provided. This bridge is deficient and was requested for replacement by the Garfield Town Board.

1991-2 Polk County Highway Dept. Remove existing Bridge 3407 between sections 12 and 13 of Sletten Township and replace with 2 lines of 10'x 6' concrete box culverts with end sections at the elevation of 1238.1. The bridge is deficient and was requested for replacement by the Sletten Town Board

8. Past month's meetings and activities:

Gullekson, Hanson, Wilkens and Goeken attended the MAWD Annual Meeting in Alexandria on December 7 and 8. Wilkens made a slide presentation of activities of watersheds in MAWD Region 1 at the MAWD Annual Meeting in Alexandria. The regular business meeting was conducted including adoption of resolutions, budget and selection of officers. Information sessions on the role of watershed managers, working with legislators and standardized accounting packages were attended. The Sand Hill River Watershed District expressed concerns that MAWD, while being an important voice for watersheds, was not being as effective as it could be and that the MAWD Board needs to be more involved with hands-on administrative duties with less reliance on a paid administrator.

Gullekson also attended a DNR legislative meeting on December 18 regarding "No Net Loss Wetlands." A MAWD Director's meeting followed on the 18th and 19th in St. Paul. Gullekson met with PCA representatives on the afternoon of the 19th to discuss the Winger dam status and set up a meeting for the next morning. On December 20, Gullekson met with DNR, MPCA, EPA, and Sen. Moe's Chief of Staff Vie Moore regarding the Winger Dam. Status of water quality conditions and permit needs were discussed.

Gullekson and Wilkens met with Houston Engineering on December 24 to coordinate work to be done on the Winger Dam.

Wilkens attended the December Lower Red Management Board Meeting in Fertile. A few refinements to the Project Evaluation Manual were approved at that meeting. Final adoption of the manual will be at the January 15 meeting in Ada. Wilkens noted that all Managers are invited to the next Lower Red meeting which will be the Annual North Dakota/Minnesota Joint Meeting of Watershed Boards which is scheduled for Jan. 23 at the Westward Ho in Grand Forks. Wilkens will present a slide program illustrating activities of Minnesota watershed districts.

9. Other Business:

a.) Goeken presented information on a grant proposal being submitted by the East Polk SWCD to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for a Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. The program will provide for citizen's to collect basic information such as secchi disc readings, rainfall, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and a variety of other observations throughout the summer months of 1991. 15 lakes in Polk County are proposed to be monitored with three lakes—Cross, Maple and Union—to receive more detailed lab analysis of nutrients. Citizens will be involved in collecting and reporting the data, review of results and goal setting regarding desirable lake conditions. Management options around the lake and the upstream watershed will be identified. U of M-Crookston, Minnesota Extension, DNR, PCA, BWSR and the Freshwater Foundation will assist in interpreting the data. The East Polk SWCD and Polk County Central Cities will be the lead local coordinators. LaVoi made a motion that if the project proceeds, the Sand Hill River Watershed District will purchase a dissolved oxygen meter which will be available to be used for the project as well as for monitoring of the Sand Hill River. Motion seconded by Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

b.) A Quicken computer course is being offered at UMC in January. This program deals with personal and small business accounting which may fit the Watershed's needs. Managers and staff of the SHRWD were authorized to take this course if it fits their schedule.

10. Adjournment: As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Hanson and seconded by Larson to adjourn. Motion,, passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.