

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes-March 5, 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 and Francis LaVoi. Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken was also present.

Others present were: Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering; Mike Peloquin-DNR Area Hydrologist, Terry Wolfe-DNR Area Wildlife Manager and Howard Rholl-landowner.

2. Minutes: Two omissions from the February minutes were noted and have been added including a permit approved for the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation and approval of \$1,000 towards relocation of Sletton Township Hall. Details of these items have been added to the February minutes. Minutes of the February 5, 1991 meeting were approved as amended on motion by Hanson and second by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report: Gullekson reviewed a preliminary computer printout of the treasurer's report. Motion by LaVoi to accept the treasurer's report and to pay current vouchers as follows. After voicing concern over the high cost and limited coverage provided by the liability and workmen's comp insurance policies, Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Garden Valley Telephone Co. 945-3204	150.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	185.79
Tony Dorn, Inc..-copy meter	75.50
Mac's Cafe	19.00
Fertile Sand and Gravel-snow removal	45.00
Harry's Red Owl-cleaning supplies	54.54
MN Assn of Watershed Dist.-annual mbrshp	566.00
Business Agency, Inc..-Liability insurance	1,864.00
Business Agency, Inc..-Workmen's Comp ins.	2,569.00
Lois Plante-custodial	60.00
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & expenses	350.00
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	1,565.96
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	173.46
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	63.80
Monthly Total	<u>\$7,742.05</u>

4. Winger Dam Report: Gullekson reported on the meetings he had with State agencies in St. Paul during the month. Bruce Wilson-MP,CA, noted that his projections were similar to what. Houston Engineering had presented on behalf of the Watershed. He didn't feel the lake would stratify which was also the Watershed's conclusion based on the worst case scenario which

was used. Options of a higher dam or digging depressions in parts of the reservoir were noted. Pat Bloomgren of the MPCA will be in Thief River Falls on March 15 and 16 for Lower Red Manager's meetings. A site visit will be arranged so she can see the local conditions first hand. MPCA approval is needed before moving ahead on other permit needs.

Terry Wolfe, DNR Area Wildlife Manager, inquired as to development options at the upper end of the reservoir. He noted that perhaps developing it as a waterfowl refuge would help waterfowl production in the area. Nesting islands and artificial nesting structures could be used at the upper end of the reservoir. The Burnham Creek impoundment was designated refuge status and has worked out well. Neither the Burnham Creek area or the Winger site have a history of hunting, so little public opposition is expected to the protected status that refuge's offer.

Gullekson also met with Ron Harnack, Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding mitigation options for the project. Harnack believes most of the mitigation can be accomplished on-site.

The Board discussed a possible project in the north end of Section 14 and extending into Section 11 of Sletton Township. The project would involve construction of an impoundment where a township road has been washed out. Impacts of the impoundment would include sediment and erosion control and hence nutrient control. The project area is in a well defined valley near the Castor State Wildlife Management Area. Surveying will need to be done to further define the project and additional options considered regarding wildlife improvements. The Sletton Town Board has expressed interest in the project. In addition to the Sand Hill River Watershed District, other possible cooperators include the Minnesota DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and East Polk SWCD/SCS.

5. Maple Creek Diversion: Terry Wolfe, DNR Area Wildlife Manager inquired as to the status of the proposed Maple Creek Diversion. The project was initially proposed to reduce spring runoff and heavy summer rains from flooding crop land along this shallow creek. Wolfe would like to consider the option of getting up to two more feet of additional water into neighboring Melvin Slough which is now getting filled in with sediment and being choked with cattails. Engineer Woodbury presented data and maps showing the area and elevations. Options considered included backing water up in Maple Creek north of Carl Todahl's and into Melvin Slough. Structures could be built so that if spring water gets too high it would be diverted to Burnham Creek. Improvements have been made to Burnham Creek by the Red Lake Watershed District

which were designed to accommodate this flow. The only party that would possibly be negatively impacted would perhaps be Jim Todahl who now occasionally hays land in this area. Compensation would be considered as part of the project. Wolfe will review the situation further and get back to the Watershed. The Watershed needs assurances that the project can be used for water retention before proceeding further.

6. DNR Hydrologist Report: Mike Peloquin, DNR Area Hydrologist was in attendance as part of his efforts to become more familiar with the region and the watershed managers. Peloquin has been at the Thief River Falls office as Hydrologist since April of 1989. Peloquin noted that he would like to meet with the Sand Hill RWD at least twice a year to foster dialogue on SHRWD activities and DNR programs and activities and opportunities for cooperation. Peloquin indicated that there may be stream maintenance grants available again this fall.

7. Report on Meetings and Activities of Past Month: In addition to the meetings noted above, Gullekson also met with Vonny Hagen, DNR Senior Planner in St. Paul. Preliminary discussion was held regarding a project which the DNR is advancing whereby they will work with several Minnesota watershed districts to incorporate an "Integrated Resource Management" approach to natural resource management. This will involve grass roots coordination with all entities that have an impact on and will be impacted by natural resource issues and management. More information will be forthcoming.

Gullekson also met with Mel Sinn of the Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding formats for watershed's annual reports and accounting packages. A uniform format is desired for these two items. The Small Cities Accounting Package available through the State Auditors Office will be evaluated by Gullekson with recommendations made to Sinn regarding its applicability as a statewide package.

8. Permits:

An irrigation permit from Carsten Hovland was received and will be filed. No action by the Board was needed. No other permits came before the board for action.

9. Other Business:

a. The Board authorized Gullekson and Wilkens to go to St. Paul for a computer training workshop on the Small Cities Accounting Package. Managers were also authorized and encouraged to attend the Lower Red Manager's workshop to be held at the Thief River Falls Best Western on March 15th and 16th. Motion by LaVoi, seconded by Hanson to approve this travel. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Goeken reported on a Sustainable Agriculture meeting that will be held at the Watershed's Office on Monday, March 11. Goeken also reported on a groundwater home study correspondence course being offered to residents in East Polk County by the East Polk Extension and East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District with partial funding through a local LCMR project. There are eight home study units with one unit mailed out per week. There is no cost to residents of East Polk County.

c. Goeken reported that he will be working with the Fertile 4-H Club as they are trying to develop a community pride project related to natural resources in the Fertile area. A project component involving cleaning up the river and establishing a nature trail and outdoor classroom will be proposed.

d. Goeken reported that the SHRWD 1990 Annual Report is now being reviewed by the Watershed's accounting firm in Ada. It should be done by the next meeting.

e. Gullekson noted that data had been received from Howard Lipke of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which documents wetlands which had been restored within the watershed District.

f. It was noted that the semi-annual report to the Corp. regarding the Sand Hill Ditch needs to be compiled and sent in.

g. Howard Rholl, landowner, noted a problem he was having with drainage of his land. As the property in question was in the Red Lake Watershed District, Mr. Rholl discussed this matter further outside the Watershed meeting with DNR Area Hydrologist Mike Peloquin and DNR Area Wildlife Manager Terry Wolfe.

h. On motion by Hanson, second by LaVoi, annual membership in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts for the current year was approved. Motion carried unanimously. Membership in the Fertile Community Club was discussed. The issue was tabled at this time.

i. The need for a vacuum cleaner for the office and a good office chair for the computer station was discussed. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Hanson to purchase these items. Motion carried unanimously.

j. The next regular monthly meeting will be April 2, 1991.

10. Adjournment: As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Hanson and seconded by LaVoi to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.