

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Minutes—April 2, 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, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken was also present.

Others present were: Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering; Terry Wolfe-DNR Area Wildlife Manager, Marls Kaupang and Clinton Balstad-landowners.

**2. Minutes:** Motion by Wilkens, seconded by LaVoi to approve the March 5, 1991 meeting minutes as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Miscellaneous Business** as follows was dispensed with at the beginning of the meeting:

-April 8 will be Water Day at the Capital. Managers are urged to attend.

-Wilkens noted that the Lower Red Technical Committee of engineers will meet at the SHRWD office April 9 to review Star Value in the morning and the Winger Dam Operating Plan in the afternoon.

-EPPL 7 computer software is available at discount now. Woodbury noted that Houston Engineering has this program, and it can be used for the SHRWD's needs.

-Goeken noted that the Citizen Lake Monitoring program was funded by BWSR, thus he will be looking into purchase of a dissolved oxygen meter for the program as previously approved by the District.

-Betty Berhow was authorized to put the Watershed's mailing list on computer labels with reimbursement at \$6/hr.

-On motion by LaVoi and second by Wilkens, payment was authorized for John Roeschlien for services and expenses related to assisting with setting up the Sand Hill River Watershed computer system. Motion carried unanimously.

-After discussion of the pros and cons of membership in the Fertile Community Club, motion by LaVoi and second by Wilkens to pay the \$50 annual membership fee. Motion carried.

-Buffer Liability Policy was submitted for renewal. This coverage would bring the District's limits up to \$600,000. After discussion of insurance rates getting out of hand, it was decided that this policy would not be renewed.

-Since improvements had been made to the Watershed's office and office equipment has been put in place, it was decided that coverage on the District's office should be raised to \$100,000 for the building and \$25,000 for contents.

-The Board expressed approval of the work that Executive Secretary Goeken has been doing during his six month trial period. It was agreed that Goeken should keep track of his hours separately for special projects over and above the secretarial duties for the Watershed and reimbursement will be made on a consultancy basis at a rate of \$15/hr. This would be for work such as proposal writing and coordination on special projects with state agencies and local groups.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi that the current vouchers be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Garden Valley Telephone Co. 945-3204	43.92
Otter Tail Power Co.	212.63
City of Fertile-utility-water & sewer	46.20
Coast to Coast-vacuum cleaner, supplies	195.78
Eide Mercantile-cleaning supplies	2.35
Mac's Cafe-Fertile	32.23
Fertile Bakery	37.85
Fertile Journal-meeting notice	3.17
Fertile Community Club-membership	50.00
Morans-Winger	38.50
Slager Construction-Drive pilings-SH Ditch	2,000.00
Slager Construction-Backfill dirt-SH Ditch	300.00
MASCOM Marketing-7 pages Fax-Oper. plan	14.00
Norman Co. Abstract & Acctng-Annual audit	250.00
Houston Engineering-Project 4	4,752.00
Houston Engineering-Boundary Changes	465.00
Houston Engineering-General/Meetings	1,870.00
John Roeschlien-Computer consultant	158.78
Lois Plante-custodial	20.00
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & expenses	387.44
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	1,507.28
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	484.33
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	134.50
Dan Wilkens	213.11

**Monthly Total \$13,219.07**

**5. Permits issued:**

1991-4 Marls Kaupang. Section 17 and 18, Sletton Twp, Polk County. Replace culvert between Sections 17 and 18 due to old culvert falling apart.

An irrigation permit from David A. Sandem was received and will be filed. No action by the Board was needed.

**6. Winger Dam Report:** Woodbury presented two options for creating a small dam structure upstream to create wetlands for mitigation purposes. One option would be a low embankment upstream with an elevation of 1196 which would back up about a half foot of water over 60 acres—depth at the river channel would be 3-4 feet. The second option wouldn't be as far upstream, would have an elevation of 1196 also, would have a six foot depth in the river channel and would cover 135 acres with water. Terry Wolfe-DNR commented that small dams would help by filtering water through marshes, but 3 feet of water depth is needed for muskrat and mink habitat—which is the type of habitat needed for mitigation. If water depth is only 1-2 feet, this creates more of a cattail area which doesn't provide wildlife values for muskrat and mink.

Other mitigation options were discussed including the farmsteads that may be purchased and removed, the Castor Wildlife Management Area, the

additional greenspace due to easements up to the 1200 foot level versus 1196 and the Watershed's program for cost-sharing on grass filter strips. Specific individual wetland restoration projects on private land in the area that could be done were also identified.

If waterfowl islands were placed in the wetlands created upstream, this would not provide mitigation values, but sportsmens groups or natural resource agencies may be interested in helping with these type of projects. Options of small dams on incoming streams to serve as sediment and phosphorous catch basins were reviewed. After discussion of how to proceed, it was agreed that the various mitigation options being explored should be written up into a comprehensive list with a map and presented to the DNR Regional office for their review and comments. Rather than just put in options that would meet the minimum mitigation needs required, it was agreed that all options that may be done should be included for review at this time.

Clinton Balstad—farmer in the Winger Dam area—visited with the Board regarding re-signing of easements. He indicated that some landowners in the project area will likely be seeking higher payments for easements. The Board is willing to consider other payment options. It was also noted that the Watershed will be purchasing easements up to the 1200 foot level versus 1196 which the previous easements were based on. Balstad also informed the Board that a petition opposing the project was being circulated by Blanchard Krogstad with 10,000 signatures being sought.

**Recess:** Due to the need to meet again soon to review the operating plan and other matters relating to the Winger Dam, the meeting was recessed until the week of April 15 at which time the regular SHRWD Board meeting will be resumed. On April 17, 1991 the regular monthly meeting of the SHRWD Board was resumed at 1:00 p.m. at the District's Office in Fertile. Board members present were Roland Gullekson, Roger Hanson, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Also present were Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken and District Consulting Engineer Lawrence Woodbury.

**6.) Winger Dam Report (continued):** The operating plan for the Winger Dam had been reviewed by the Lower Red Technical Committee and a written summary provided by Dan Thul was presented to the Board for review. The SHRWD's position is that 1190 ft. is to be the normal lake level. There will be an outflow when water is above this level, but no flow when the pool level drops below 1190'. It was agreed that the design and variables that have already been approved by the MPCA and MDNR should be left as is. Currently, the operating plan allows water to be retained only when mainstem flooding on the Red River is threatening as determined by the National Weather Service. The plan calls for discharging water to maintain natural stream conditions downstream. It was noted that this will cause erosion downstream which seems at odds with erosion control

objectives being promoted upstream. It was noted that the operating plan needs to allow for water storage and local flood control even when the National Weather Service doesn't necessarily call for holding water back in normal summer conditions. Regarding management of retaining water, the SHRWD proposes that citizen observers along the river notify an operator at the dam to restrict water discharge if local flooding conditions exist. It was proposed that two check points for closing of the flood gates would be; 1.) when water would begin flowing over the road at the Bear Park dam and 2.) use data from the stream gauging station at Climax.

The Board reviewed a draft response to the operating plan written by Gullekson which incorporated much of the above discussion. It was agreed that Gullekson would continue to write up comments on the operating plan which would provide an overview of the SHRWD's position and Woodbury would provide a more technical document which would provide the engineering specs related to the operating plan.

The Board reviewed a letter and map sent to Gerald Paul, DNR Regional Hydrologist which identified mitigation options to be considered. Gullekson also reviewed a table which he prepared based on information from the County Assessor's office which showed the type of land and valuation by landowner. Discussion ensued as to the amount of wasteland, pasture, woodland and tillable acres that exists and possible payments that would be made for future easements.

**7. Other Business:**

- a. Dan Wilkens noted that he will be attending a meeting of the Bois de Sioux Watershed to discuss the option of the BDS joining the Lower Red Water Management Board,
- b. Goeken noted that the SHRWD Board is scheduled on the Polk County Board agenda for May 1 at 10 p.m. to present the District's Annual Report, report on projects and answer questions, c. The next regular monthly meeting will be May 7, 1991.

**8. 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 4:40 p.m.



Daniel Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary