

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**Minutes—June 4, 1991 Regular Meeting**

**1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the June 4, 1991 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. The District's Consulting Engineer Lawrence Woodbury and Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken were also in attendance.

**2. Minutes:** Motion by LaVoi, seconded by Hanson to approve the May 7, 1991 meeting minutes as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Hanson presented the Treasurer's Report, noting current balances in the construction, ditch, administrative and savings accounts. Hanson also reported that \$9,829.97 has been spent since 1983 on beaver control related to the Bear Park project with a balance of \$182.30 in that account at this time. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Wilkens that the current vouchers be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Eide Mercantile-cleaning supplies	3.73
Fertile Journal-Annual Reports & mtg. notices	126.24
Twin Cities Testing-water analysis	672.00
Lois Plante-custodial	20.00
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & office expenses	557.55
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	711.41
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	144.55
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	63.80
Dan Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	104.83
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,404.11</u></b>

**4. Winger Dam:**

Gullekson handed out a two page office memo addressed to DNR Regional Hydrologist Gerald Paul from DNR Regional Fisheries Supervisor Robert Strand. The memo noted items that Mr. Strand would like to see changed or added to the minutes of the March 26 meeting between the Regional DNR staff and the Sand Hill River Watershed District. Gullekson had called Mr. Paul regarding this matter with Mr. Paul noting that they would like to have the memo added as part of the minutes or as an addendum. Upon discussion, the SHRWD Board felt that the issues raised in the memo were not central to the discussion at the meeting and as such the memo need not be adopted as part of the meeting minutes. Gullekson will convey this to Mr. Paul.

Gullekson reported on meetings he had with the DNR, MPCA, Corp of Engineers and Roger Moe's office on a recent trip to St Paul. He noted that there still has not been discussion between the Corp, MPCA and MDNR regarding the mitigation options that the SHRWD proposed. Gullekson also alerted the MPCA to some problems with improper manure application practices in the project area and was told that the MPCA would address this right away. Nothing has been done to date.

Woodbury reviewed water analysis results from Twin Cities Testing. Ortho phosphorus was down at all testing sites. Woodbury reported that samples were taken following a rain event in May, including a sample from the river at Fertile. In regard to on-going testing, the Board directed Woodbury to do additional sampling only after major storm events.

Wilkins distributed a letter from DNR Deputy Commissioner of Waters Ron Nargang addressed to Don Ogaard regarding implementation of watershed related projects. Nargang emphasized that specific priorities need to be identified within each watershed or sub-watershed. It was also emphasized that grassroots involvement in project planning needs to be done upfront and that an integrated approach be taken to optimize multiple benefits from projects.

### **5. Project Reports**

**a.** Hanson reported that the pilings that were driven into the bank for stabilization of the Sand Hill Ditch in the Beltrami area this past spring are giving way and bending over. The poles were driven down 25-35 feet with only 2-3 feet remaining above ground. This situation will be monitored with future options considered including the possibility of putting a new crossing in a different location.

**b.** The Board discussed the possibility of ditching an area west of Kittleson Creek approximately 1.5 miles wide on each side 5 miles long. This is along the quarter line of Sec. 23 of Reis Twp. Between Ila and Warren Gast. A permit was given at one time and would have to be reactivated. A "V" cut could be made with local farmers likely providing tractors and scrapers. The biggest expense would likely be removal of cottonwood trees. This would be a new inlet into the Sand Hill Ditch and would need to be designed for Corp approval. There is considerable drop in this section, thus to control erosion the project would probably need a pipe structure versus an open inlet. Woodbury will review cross sections of this area and identify design options.

**c.** Ray Gullekson brought an issue before the Board for discussion involving operation of a ditch which is an extension of County Ditch #90 on the border of Sections 26 and 30 of Russia Township. Four sections drain into this area with the natural slope of the land toward the County Ditch, but the County Road stops the flow. The ditch is 32 feet wide, impacts two acres and crosses land owned and farmed by John Lenz. There is generally no problem, but a recent 5 inch rain in the area illustrated the need to address this situation.

No written record of an operating agreement for the ditch can be found. Ray Gullekson believes the original agreement called for the gated structure to be closed on the ditch in question only when County Ditch #90 was full or flooding. He would like to see the ditch be open black dirt to facilitate

runoff rather than planted into crop as is now being done which holds water back. Lenz wants the gate controlled to keep water within the ditch and not overflowing on his fields. If closed, water backs up and covers 80 acres of cropland owned and farmed by Ray Gullekson. If open and water is in the ditch, Lenz cannot directly cross the ditch to access the other half of his field, but he can go out on the road and access it from the road.

Ray Gullekson asked what options the SHRWD could offer such as adopting an operating plan for the ditch, taking the gate off completely, compensating Mr. Lenz for the two acres covered by the ditch or other measures to address this problem. Board Manager Roger Hanson will visit with Mr. Lenz noting that the gate cannot be closed, that there may be compensation options and to discuss options for agreement on an operating plan for the ditch.

**d. River Clean-up:** Wilkens reported that he and Goeken had walked downstream from the Strem crossing and identified tree snagging that needed to be done. The major area of work will be in an area where large bridge timbers from the Burlington Northern have lodged in the river. Rather than calling for general volunteers via newspaper and radio, the clean-up work will be approached using a smaller crew from the Fertile Community Conservation Club. Butch Olson will be contacted for operation of a backhoe.

#### **6. Permits:**

-The Board granted a request from Larry Johnson for an extension till December 1st, 1991 on Permit # 1990-6.

#### **7. Meetings and Activities**

**a.** Wilkens reported on the May meeting of the Lower Red River Management Board. A handout prepared by Dan Thul was reviewed which showed the impacts on downstream flooding from various scenarios of operating the gates at the Winger Dam. Wilkens also presented new financial spread sheets and a summary to the Lower Red Board. The next Lower Red meeting will be in Thief River Falls and will be a tour of Stage 1 projects including Bee Lake.

**b.** Gullekson reported that he reviewed a concept paper which had been addressed to Deputy Commissioner Nargang (a copy was provided to the SHRWD Board) with DNR Planners Tom Balcomb and Keith Wendt in St. Paul on May 22 regarding options for a pilot project involving the SHRWD which emphasized using an integrated resource management approach to watershed projects. The DNR is now developing guidelines for such projects.

**c.** Gullekson reported that he visited with Roger Moe's office regarding trying to secure funding to develop a standardized accounting package for watersheds statewide.

**8. Other Business:**

a. Goeken reported on the status of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. The first round of samples were collected for lab analysis on June 3. The first round will be processed by the MN Dept. of Health lab with costs covered by the MPCA. Lake level gauges were placed by the DNR in all the lakes being monitored and the Lake Watch kits have been distributed to all the citizen monitors. The Board asked Goeken to check if the City of Erskine would sell their Dissolved Oxygen meter to the SHRWD.

b. Gullekson noted that the MAWD summer tour is scheduled for June 20-21 and the Red Lake Watershed District has arranged for a bus to go down for anyone interested from this area. c. It was reported that the Polk County Board of Commissioners reappointed Roland Gullekson and Francis LaVoi to the Board of Managers to the Sand Hill River Watershed District for three year terms to expire May 17, 1994.

**9. Board Reorganization**

Motion by LaVoi that Officers remain the same as last year except that Roger Hanson replace Vernon Larson as Treasurer due to Mr. Larson's resignation from the Board and that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Motion was seconded by Wilkens. Motion passed unanimously.

President	Roland Gullekson
Secretary	Daniel Wilkens
Treasurer	Roger Hanson

Gullekson appointed LaVoi as Vice President. Meeting rate for Board members is \$50.00. The rate for work between meetings is \$25.00 per hour with a daily limit of \$50.00. Mileage will be reimbursed at 27.5 cents per mile for meetings and any other necessary mileage. Expenses will be reimbursed at cost. Lowell Bottrell was designated as the SHRWD attorney. First State Bank of Fertile was designated as the official checking depositor and investments are to be made at any bank or financial institution that has necessary insurance for protection of deposits. This is done at the discretion of the Treasurer. Houston Engineering will be retained as the SHRWD Engineering firm. The Fertile Journal was designated as the official newspaper. Wayne Goeken was retained as Executive Secretary at \$350 per month plus any necessary mileage and expense.

**10. Recess:** There was no further business to come before the Board at this time. Gullekson recessed the meeting with the option to reconvene the week of June 17th if action was needed quickly on mitigation options or the operating plan related to the Winger Dam project. Meeting recessed at 12:35.



Daniel Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary