

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Minutes-August 13, 1991 Regular Meeting

**1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the August 13, 1991 meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. The District's Consulting Engineer Lawrence Woodbury and Executive Secretary Wayne Goeken were in attendance.

**2. Minutes:** It was noted on page 5 that the Ogaard project consisted of 41 acres, 29 of which are in cropland and 12 in grassland. Wilkens also noted that the "Red River Watershed Management Board" is the now the official name of the former Lower Red River Management Board. Motion by LaVoi, seconded by Wilkens to approve the July 9/23, 1991 meeting minutes as mailed with these clarifications being made. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Otter Tail Power Company	\$118.86
Garden Valley Phone Company	145.56
Fertile Journal-copy paper & office supplies	88.96
Al & Laura's Hartz-supplies	5.45
Fertile Coast to Coast-supplies	14.45
Tony Dorn, Inc.-copy meter charges	27.04
Gaffaney's of Grand Forks-office supplies	28.14
Rice Hegstrom-4 drawer legal file cabinet	179.95
U.S. Postal Service-100 stamps	29.00
Hiawatha RC&D-Workshop for two	50.00
Shirley Bjerk-MahnomenCo.Auditor-computer lists	5.00
Lois Plante-custodial	46.18
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & office expenses	352.47
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	328.86
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	86.36
Orley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	119.85
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses-June*	124.55
Dan Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	318.03

**Monthly Total    \$2,068.71**

**4. Winger Dam**

Gullekson reported that DNR Regional Administrator Merlyn Wesloh had no response from agencies to his letter to reestablish the HEP team to review the mitigation options proposed by the SHRWD for the Winger Dam. Wesloh subsequently phoned agencies directly to request HEP team members be assigned. The Corp will do so, but no response has yet been received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wilkens reviewed a letter dated August 1, 1991 from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator to Dave Leuthe, DNR Surface Water Hydrologist regarding amendments to the Winger Dam Draft Operational Plan. Thul responded to questions that came up in

a meeting of DNR staff on July 19, 1991 regarding the draft operating plan in relation to operational plan requirements contained in the project EIS. Thul suggested that all parties meet with the SHRWD and its engineer to discuss the modified operational plan with an in-house meeting possibly being held first to update everyone internally on the project status. Flexibility in meeting the EIS conditions seems possible.

A meeting has been scheduled for August 28 in St. Paul between DNR regional and central office staff to review current project status. The meeting will especially involve staff dealing with in-stream flow conditions. Following this August 28 meeting the Regional DNR staff will meet with the SHRWD to review progress and identify what needs to be done next to move the project along.

Gullekson reviewed discussion from a recent meeting with Senator Roger Moe. Moe will be back in his office on August 26 at which time he will call a meeting of project participants to discuss actions needed to further the project. Moe's staff will make arrangements for this meeting.

Establishing zoning parameters for the Winger Dam was discussed. The intention of the SHRWD is to adopt zoning and land use regulations in conjunction with Polk County zoning but which would apply specifically to the reservoir and a project area defined around the reservoir. Many zoning and land use issues will be addressed by the HEP team, thus the SHRWD will further define zoning for the reservoir after the HEP team analysis is completed.

Discussion followed on SHRWD managers involvement in pushing Watershed projects along and attending meetings to advance such projects. It was the concensus of the SHRWD Board that the managers should be active in seeking resources and assistance to further District projects. Board managers should continue to meet with agency personnel as appropriate to promote District projects.

## **5. Project Reports**

**a. Ogaard Project:** Upon reviewing the project plans, Ogaard had concerns regarding the island in the proposed design. The island was included to meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs regarding predator protection for waterfowl nesting habitat. USFWS cost-share of \$4,000 which was recently committed to the project is contingent on this arrangement. An option is being explored with Ogaard whereby the SHRWD would purchase the property. CRP payments would essentially cover the purchase cost. SCS Area Technician Jeff Hemenway had called Gullekson to report that the State SCS approval of the plan is expected, but had not been received yet. Hemenway noted that completed plans would be available within a week.

**b. Beltrami Cut-Off:** Woodbury reviewed preliminary information regarding a possible ditching project involving property in Reis Township. The drainage area was estimated at 5.5 square

miles (doesn't include Kittleson Creek). The drop is projected at 20-30 feet from the proposed ditch bottom into the Sand Hill Ditch. Projected needs to handle this flow is a 66 to 72 inch diameter pipe that is 150-200 feet in length. Without specific surveying and costing out, a preliminary rough estimate of project cost would be \$40,000 which would include volunteer assistance from area farmers with scrapers and heavy equipment to do the earth moving.

Woodbury noted another option of a rock rip-rap chute with a concrete lip/wall at the upper end to serve as an overflow mechanism to drop the water into the rock chute, thus preventing erosion. The ditch would be about one mile long going into the drop section with a 3 foot cut at the upper end to a 6 foot depth at the lower end.

The flow goes through the old Sand Hill channel. A duty of the SHRWD is to provide landowners an inlet into the Sand Hill Ditch. The ditch option would provide downstream flood control thus reducing Beltrami's flooding problems. It was noted that this would allow for lower flood insurance rates in Beltrami.

Discussion followed regarding if the project was to proceed should it be handled as an improvement or maintenance to the Sand Hill Ditch or to create a new ditch. If a new ditch is created, the landowners impacted/benefitted would be assessed. If treated as an improvement to the Sand Hill Ditch, costs would be assessed to landowners across the entire Sand Hill Watershed District. If a ditch is created, there would likely be other areas in the District in a similar situation which would need to be treated equally. Thus a policy decision setting a precedent for future projects would have been made.

On motion by Hanson, seconded by Jevning, Lawrence Woodbury was authorized to identify more specific engineering specifications and costs related to the above discussed project options. Woodbury was also requested to complete and submit the Corp of Engineers annual inspection report for the Sand Hill River. Motion carried unanimously.

**c. Citizen Lake Monitoring:** Goeken reported that the August lake samples had been taken. Goeken attended the Union Lake Sarah Improvement Association's Annual Summer Meeting to review the Lake Monitoring Project. Much interest was shown and a commitment of \$500 from the Association towards lab costs with another \$500 contingent on the funds being available in their budget at the end of the year.

**d. Fertile West Mill Project:** Goeken noted that the Fertile City Council had resolved at their August Council meeting to petition the SHRWD to assist in exploring options related to establishment of a dam and reservoir at the West Mill Recreation area. Discussion followed regarding the process for

petitioning. In reviewing the Minnesota State Statutes regarding this matter, it was determined that a government unit such as a county or city does not have to post bond, but the City must pay all investigation costs if the project doesn't proceed. Costs may include collection of information from past project participants such as Omar Rood, Floan and Sanders and others and gathering of additional information that is missing to make an informed decision regarding the project.

**6. Budget:** Motion by LaVoi and second by Jevning that the Sand Hill River Watershed District submit a budget for the upcoming year at a level of three percent greater than the dollar amount from the current budget.

**7. Other Business:**

**a.** Gullekson noted that the Minnesota Department of Transportation has requested an up to date map of the District. Woodbury will send a map to Mn/DOT.

**b.** Wilkens requested that a computer consultant be hired to come in and answer some questions and provide instruction regarding various aspects of the District's computer system including file and directory organization, the accounting system and printer set-up. A potential consultant will be in the area in the near future with rates of \$75/hr and a half day minimum workshop. Motion by Wilkens, seconded by LaVoi that this consultant be brought in at a time convenient to as many Board members as possible to participate in the training. Motion carried unanimously.

**c.** Gullekson read a letter noting that additional stream maintenance grant dollars are available again this year for river clean-up and tree snag removal. The grant deadline is November 1, 1991.

**d.** A wetlands workshop is being hosted at the University of Minnesota-Crookston on September 13. On motion by LaVoi and second by Wilkens, Goeken was instructed to send in registration for all members and staff of the District who can attend. Motion carried unanimously. All indicated interest in attending.

**8. Adjournment:** As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Jevning, seconded by LaVoi to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Daniel Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary