

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT Minutes-

December 3, 1991 Regular Meeting

**1. Attendance;** Roland Gullekson, President, called the December 3, 1991 meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning and Daniel Wilkens. Harvey Helgaas, Lawrence Woodbury-SHRWD Consulting Engineer and Wayne Goeken-SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

**2. Minutes;** The minutes of the November 5, 1991 meeting were corrected as follows: pg. 1-spraying was for "Liberty/Onstad". not "Liberty/Olson" as shown in bills; pg. 2-corrected spelling of John "Lens" to "Lenz"; pg. 3-Drop last line of Item 6.d. as it had been agreed to not look further into credit card options at this time. Motion by Jevning and seconded by Wilkens to adopt the minutes of the November 5, 1991 minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report;** Hanson noted that there had been no changes in the deposits since the November Board meeting. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by Jevning to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay current vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.

Anderson Camera-Film & processing	56.95
Fertile Journal-Published meeting notice	3.17
Fertile Coast to Coast-cleaning supplies	8.87
Mac's Cafe-SHRWD Board lunch-12/3/91	21.00
U.S. Postal Service-100 stamps	29.00
Garden Valley Phone Company-phone service	22.54
Otter Tail Power Company-electric service	153.40
Olson & Sons Excavating-Beaver Dam Removal	45.00
Olson & Sons Excavating-River Clean-up	606.00
Lois Plante-custodial	50.80
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial, office & mtg expenses	352.25
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	385.23
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	112.97
Orley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	59.92
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	174.51
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,081.61</u></b>

**4. Winger Dam;** Wilkens read the November 12, 1991 letter that was sent by the SHRWD to Ben Wopat, Chief of the Regulatory Branch of the St. Paul District of the Army Corps of Engineers. The letter again requested the Corps to take action on the District's Section 404 permit for the Winger Dam and the issuance of a public notice. No response had been received from the Corps as of the Dec. 3 SHRWD meeting. Gullekson brought up for discussion the option of bringing this matter to the Red River Management Board to see if they could assist in moving the project along. Discussion followed on who else could get involved to help the project along and how-these included local grassroots individuals and groups from the Winger area, The International Coalition, township, county, state and federal representatives from the area and the MN DNR.

An option that could be pursued would be to proceed with the MN DNR in getting a dam safety permit issued and proceed with bids for the project. This could result in the Corps stopping the project with an injunction if the project doesn't meet their criteria, but at least it would force the criteria to be examined and ruled on by the Corps. The SHRWD could also proceed in working with the MN DNR on identifying acceptable mitigation options for the project.

It has also been speculated that the Corps may waive the need for a 404 permit and give blanket permit authorization for the project due to this river segment not being designated as navigable waters anyway. If this occurs, then the Federal EPA may not get involved in the project either and a certification would also not be needed in this instance.

At this time, while waiting for notice from the Corp, the SHRWD will pursue dam safety and mitigation plans with the MN DNR and perhaps will discuss the matter further with the Red River Water Management Board. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has also recently inquired as to the status of the project as they plan highway improvements for Highway 59 in the area of the proposed dam. The option of securing the services of a lawyer with past experience in environmental law and specific projects such as this was also discussed.

#### **5. Reports on Recent Meetings and Activities;**

**a.) MN DNR Stream Maintenance Grant:** Goeken reported that an application has been submitted to the MN DNR to assist in cleaning up about two miles of the Sand Hill River upstream (north) of the river crossing on Polk County #1 approximately three-fourths of a mile east of Fertile. Clean up will primarily consist of clearing fallen trees and snags. The grant request was for \$1,500 from the DNR which will be matched with \$1,500 or more of cash and in-kind services from the SHRWD and local volunteers and contractors.

Jevning reported that there was also interest in the Climax area to do some river maintenance. Hubbard Township and the City of Climax are interested, but Vineland Township representatives were opposed. The City of Climax is very interested and has designated a liaison to coordinate efforts along these lines.

**b.) Beaver Dam removal:** Wilkens reported that he assisted Olson & Sons Excavating in removal of a beaver dam west of Fertile that was blocking a culvert at the Kittleson Creek-Sand Hill Ditch Junction.

**c.) Lenz/Gullekson Situation:** The situation related to operation of the control structure which controls drainage of water across John Lenz's field to the County Ditch was further discussed. Again, it was pointed out that Lenz's main concern is that when the County ditch is full of snow in the spring that water be controlled from flowing over the top of adjoining fields to prevent erosion. The SHRWD Board discussed options of writing up a formal agreement that specifies the operating plan for the control structure which could be treated as an easement that goes with the property thus

addressing future landowner changes. It was discussed that the operating plan could strictly be limited to springtime operation or it could also leave open the option that the SHRWD could operate the structure in the summer if conditions dictated. It was agreed that a draft operating plan should be drafted and then get all affected parties together to reach consensus on the agreement.

**6. Permits:**

The one permit that came before the board for review was approved. - 1991-11 Harvey Helgaas. NE quarter of Sec. 17 in Garden Twp. of Polk County. Install culverts to serve as crossings on old hand dug ditches to access wood cutting operations to salvage large supply of poplar cut by beaver .

**7. Other Business;**

- a.) Minnesota Assn. of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Annual Meeting: Gullekson noted that his term on the MAWD Board is up and he is not necessarily interested in serving again. As Gullekson will not be able to attend the entire MAWD conference, specifically the election of directors, Gullekson will leave it up to Hanson and Wilkens who will be attending to re-nominate Gullekson, nominate one of them or find another person who wishes to serve. Resolutions that were submitted by Watershed District's throughout Minnesota and which will be brought to a vote at the MAWD Annual Meeting were reviewed.
- b.) Wilkens briefly reviewed the proposed administration of wetlands as outlined by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- c.) The selection of a local and long distance phone carrier was discussed. AT&T was selected for long distance with Polaris Telecom being selected to provide local service.

**8. Adjournment:** The next regular monthly meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 7 , 1992 . As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Wilkens, seconded by Jevning to adjourn. Motion/carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:20



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Daniel Wilkens, Secretary  
Secretary

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Wayne R. Goeken, Exec.