

# SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Minutes-February 4, 1992

**1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the February 4, 1992 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Daniel Wilkens. Jeff Hemenway~SCS, John Gunderson~U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Steve Mikkelsen~The International Coalition, Lawrence Woodbury—SHRWD Consulting Engineer and Wayne Goeken-SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

**2. Minutes:** Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to adopt the minutes of the January 7, 1992 Sand Hill River Watershed District as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** SHRWD Treasurer Hanson reported that there has been no change in investments during the previous month. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay current vouchers as follows. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal-Meeting Notice	3.17
Coast to Coast-De-icer	11.99
Pierson's Hartz-soda, coffee, hot cocoa	36.34
Mac's Cafe-SHRWD lunch	20.00
U.S.Postal Service-100 29 cent stamps	29.00
Tony Dorn, Inc. -copy meter	28.16
Otter Tail Power Co. - Electric billing (12/391-1/2/92)	236.29
Garden Valley Phone Co.	41.88
Red Lake Watershed District-Winter Shows booth/prizes	75.00
Freshwater Foundation-annual membership	50.00
Houston Engineering-Variou projects	6,456.00
Lois Plante-custodial	36.94
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & Expenses	326.95
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & Expenses	449.23
Roger Hanson-Meetings & Expenses	267.20
Orley Jevning-Meeting & Expenses	125.35
Francis LaVoi-Meeting & Expenses	59.67
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & Expenses	115.77
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,368.94</b>

**4. Winger Dam:** Copies of a letter received from MN DNR Regional Administrator Merlyn Wesloh were distributed and reviewed. The letter, dated January 24, 1992, explained the process

to determine mitigation needs on the Winger Dam project which would involve the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MN DNR taking the lead in defining wetlands. There was discussion of the mention in the letter that 700 acres of wetland acres need to be mitigated for. It was proposed that the USFWS and the SCS would work together in cataloging wetlands in the project basin with a relative value assigned based on their condition. The SHRWD will make a formal request to USFWS Regional Director Howard Lipke seeking USFWS involvement and designation of staff to work on the project. John Gunderson (USFWS) noted that upon approval by Lipke, he would be glad to be of whatever assistance he can be. Jeff Hemenway also noted that on behalf of the SCS, he would be available to assist in identifying wetland acreage that exists in the project basin. Gullekson reported that he had visited with two possible consultants with wetlands experience—Van Amberg and Klamberg with both expressing interest in assisting later in the spring. Gullekson also noted a phone conversation he had with Merlyn Wesloh in which Wesloh recommended that at this time the SHRWD not hire a consultant with wetlands expertise to help with the process.

### **5. Project Reports;**

a.) Ogaard Project: As it does not appear that the wetland acreage created by the Ogaard Project will be allowed as mitigation compensation for the Winger Dam Project, options of proceeding with the Ogaard project were reviewed. There is now about 12 acres of wetlands in the project area as it currently exists. Going ahead with the proposed project will create an additional 3 acres of wetlands. Besides doing some good in this regard, it was also noted that it will provide flood control of approximately 1,800 acres of watershed, wildlife benefits would be enhanced and it is a good cooperative project involving a private landowner, USFWS, SCS and the SHRWD. It was noted that in comparison it provides more erosion control than the SHRWD's previous Verdell #2 Project. It was also noted that if the SHRWD did wait and try to get mitigation value for the project, the \$4,000 that the USFWS have committed to the project would be sacrificed. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to proceed with the Ogaard project. Motion carried unanimously. It was suggested that the dam safety permit be sent to Area Hydrologist Mike Peloquin in Thief River Falls and to DNR Central Office Hydrologist Craig Regallia simultaneously to expedite the process. It is hoped that permits can be secured quickly to allow for an early 1992 construction date as the SCS has the Burnham Creek Project scheduled for later in the summer.

b.) Fertile West Mill Petition: Wilkens read a letter received from SHRWD Attorney Lowell Bottrell regarding Mr. Bora-ell's review of the petition submitted by the City of Fertile requesting assistance from the SHRWD to investigate construction of a dam to create a reservoir as part of Fertile's West Mill Recreation Area. Recommendations included that a more detailed legal description of the property be included as well as documentation of the county that it is located in. It was also recommended that the City of Fertile provide verification via minutes of the City Council meeting showing that the Council had authorized submission of the petition to the SHRWD. Wilkens will contact the City requesting that these matters be cleared up at which time the SHRWD will then act on the petition.

**6. Reports on Recent Meetings and Activities:**

a.) Levy Request Uniformity: Wilkens reported on a meeting that he attended on January 28, 1992 in Bemidji to discuss uniformity between watershed districts in how tax capacity is calculated and reported. All districts have been asked to send a copy of their latest levy request to the County Auditors to Eldon Johnson who will use these forms to develop a new uniform form for all the watershed districts and the Red River Board to use when requesting taxable market value and taxes received reports.

b.) Gullekson reported on two slide presentations regarding operations and projects of the SHRWD that he presented in the past month. One was to a meeting of the Polk County Water Planning Task Force and the other was to the Fertile Lions Club. Both were well received, with the slide and talk format working well.

**7. Permits:**

-The Polk County Highway Department has applied for a permit from the MN DNR to allow for work in protected waters. The MN DNR provided the permit to the SHRWD for local government comment. No comment was made by the SHRWD.

-Orley Jevning noted that Hubbard Township is planning on replacing a bridge and they were wondering what permits, if any, were needed. The SHRWD noted that the county generally takes care of the permit needs with the township being responsible for removal of the old bridge and site clearing.

**8. Other Business:**

a.) A letter was received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noting that due to inclement weather, they were not able to fly the Sand Hill River for the Sand Hill Ditch Inspection. They will try to fly the inspection run in the spring.

b.) The Red Lake Watershed requested financial assistance and assistance in staffing a booth at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in Crookston on February 15, 1992 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It was noted that the Red River Water Management Board was putting in \$200 towards prizes of tree certificates. Motion by Wilkens and second by LaVoi to provide \$75 towards booth rental costs and prizes. Motion carried unanimously. Wilkens, Jevning and LaVoi will coordinate schedules regarding manpower to host the booth.

c.) The agenda for a wetlands training conference in Twin Valley was reviewed. Due to time constraints of Board members and the fact that Watershed Districts will not be the regulatory entity dealing with wetlands anyway, it was decided that no Board members would attend.

d.) It was noted that a town meeting is scheduled at the Fosston Library and Arts Center for 1:30 p.m. on February 14 with MN DNR Commissioner Rod Sando. Board members were authorized and encouraged to attend if possible.

e.) The agenda for the Annual Watershed District Meeting in Thief River Falls set for March 12-13 was reviewed. Board members and staff were authorized to attend if possible.

f.) Steve Mikkelson of The International Coalition visited with the Board briefly regarding TIC's operations and services available.

g.) Goeken reported on a community outing planned along the Sand Hill River and in the Fertile Sand Hills on Sunday, February 16, 1992. He noted that the trail that the SHRWD had made as part of its river snagging and clean-up operations over the past two summers was being used extensively for cross-country skiing and hiking during this winter's season. It was noted that trail

widening may be desired for increased future trail use. Options of purchasing old township bridges that are being replaced and using them for river crossings for recreational use were also noted.

**9. Adjournment:** Goeken noted that he had a schedule conflict with the next regularly scheduled meeting date of Tuesday, March 3. It was agreed to move the date up one day to Monday, March 2, 1992. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:15p.m.



Daniel Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Executive Secretary