

# SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Minutes-April 7,1992

**1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the April 7, 1992 meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Daniel Wilkens. Elvern Gunderson and Gerald Paulson, property owners in the Bear Park area, Lawrence Woodbury—SHRWD Consulting Engineer and Wayne Goeken—SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

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

**3. Treasurer's Report:** SHRWD Treasurer Hanson reported on current balances in all SHRWD accounts. There was discussion on amounts and interest rates for the various accounts with agreement to keep the investments in their current instruments. Insurance coverage by Business Agency, Inc. for Workmens Comp and Liability were discussed. A motion was made by Wilkens and seconded by Hanson to hold off on payment for the workmens comp insurance until further investigation of alternatives. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by Jevning to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay current vouchers as follows. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal-copy paper	13.50
Pierson's Hartz-janitorial supplies	11.31
Eide Mercantile-cleaning supplies	2.35
Fertile Sand & Gravel-snow removal	30.00
Fertile Bakery-rolls	7.00
City of Fertile-utilities	41.58
Otter Tail Power Co. - electric billing (1/31/92-3/03/92)	261.05
Garden Valley Phone Co.	31.96
First State Insurance Agency-Building insurance	557.00
Business Agency, Inc.-General Liability insurance	1,918.00
Anderson&Bailey, Attys-phone conf. re: MN Statutes(West Mill petition)	43.06
Lois Plante-custodial	50.79
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & Expenses	520.66
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & Expenses	757.53
Roger Hanson-Meetings & Expenses	179.22
Orley Jevning-Meeting & Expenses	179.77
Francis LaVoi-Meeting & Expenses	112.30
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & Expenses	97.30
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>4,814.38</b>

**4. Bear Park Beaver Dams ;** Elvern Gunderson and Gerald Paulson reported on beaver dam blockage upstream of the Bear Park Structure which is causing water to back up on land being used by Gunderson for

**4.) Bear Park (continued);** pasture. Gunderson indicated that he had to reduce the number of cows he pastured last year and would likely have to do likewise this year due to the reduced pasture availability unless the beaver dams were removed to release the water encroaching on his pasture. Gunderson and Paulson requested that the SHRWD pass a resolution that beaver dams be removed after freeze-up each year as beaver can't build back so easily at that time of year. Paulson referenced the agreement made between the SHRWD and landowners in the Bear Park area when the Bear Park structure was put in place which provided that the SHRWD maintain the Sand Hill River free of beaver dams upstream of the Bear Park area which includes the area under discussion now being pastured by Gunderson. Gullekson suggested that it may be more cost-effective for the SHRWD to pay a fair market value for the pasture to the landowner rather than continual beaver removal which has become quite expensive over time. It was noted that \$350 was spent in 1991 for trapping beaver in this area and the budget for this activity has been depleted. There may need to be an assessment made against the benefited property in the impact area to generate funds to cover future costs for beaver management. The SHRWD indicated they will contact Olson Excavating to have them survey the area and remove beaver dams to alleviate the problem. Paulson again asked that the SHRWD pass a resolution regarding annual inspection and removal and asked that the SHRWD Board contact him regarding its decision in this matter.

#### **5. Winger Dam:**

It was noted that the Army Corps 30 day public comment period was over, but it was unknown if an extension had been granted by the Corps for any reason. Woodbury handed out and reviewed a series of projections from 1988 to 1990 regarding flow conditions and reservoir accumulations based on gaging records from the Climax gaging station. Considerable discussion followed including discussion of the MN DNR's operating plan conditions that strives to maintain downstream flows that have never existed in the past. It was agreed that more detailed projections would be made using monthly data that goes back to the mid-80's. Parameters to be projected were agreed upon and that projections would be made based on DNR's proposed operating plan and also on the SHRWD's proposed operating plan.

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

- a.) Gullekson was on KKCQ Radio's (Fosston) "Food For Thought" talk show program on March 4 to visit about the Winger Dam.
- b.) Gullekson attended a meeting in St. Paul on March 23 regarding a draft report that is to be prepared and delivered to the State Legislature by September which addresses "unsewered areas" and would bring the State up to standards. Rural areas and lake property owners may be significantly impacted,
- c.) Wilkens and Gullekson attended the public hearing held in Fertile on April 2 regarding the proposed new zoning ordinances for Polk County. Quite a number of complaints from local residents were being raised,
- d.) Gullekson attended the Polk County Local Water Planning Task Force meeting that was held at the Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary near Warren on April 3.
- e.) Wilkens reported information he had received at a Red River Management meeting regarding IRS rulings of what counts as income for Board members and withholding amounts and reporting requirements.

#### **7. Other Business:**

- a.) Fertile West Mill Pond: Woodbury has contacted Floan and Sanders and determined that a contour map of the project area is in place. Upon receipt of the City of Fertile's formal petition, the next step would be to do get reliable soil borings. F&S could then send all survey data on the site to Houston Engineering for use in analysis. If the dam site has not been surveyed, to keep costs down the City should try to get F&S to do a profile and cross-section of the site when they are in town doing other

**7. Other Business (continued):**

- survey work. Analysis could then be done and a project report provided to the City regarding the physical feasibility of the dam and a realistic appraisal of permits and issues that would likely need to be met to complete the project.
- b.) Motion by LaVoi and second by Wilkens nominating Gullekson to serve as a public interest representative on the Northwest Regional Development Commission. Motion carried unanimously. A letter of nomination will be sent to the NWRDC.
- c.) Gullekson reported that he received a letter from Howard Lipke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Detroit Lakes, noting that due to the unique nature of the Ogaard project that the USFWS would cooperate on the project with the SHRWD even if it is used as mitigation for the Winger Dam project.
- d.) Gullekson reported that a letter dated March 26, 1992 was received from the MN DNR noting that the Stream Maintenance grant has been awarded for removing tree snags from the Sand Hill River east of Fertile and the agreement has been submitted to the County for their signature. The DNR Regional Hydrologist is to be notified prior to work proceeding.
- e.) Goeken reported on correspondence received at the SHRWD office including:
- A meeting being called for April 7 in Saulk Centre to explore the possibility of forming a formal organization of Watershed District Administrators.
  - East Polk SWCD is seeking applicants until May 1st for cost-sharing of abandoned wells.
  - Mike Peloquin has vacated his position as DNR area hydrologist out of the Thief River Falls office effective March 24 to take a like position at DNR Duluth office.
  - A legislative update from Judith Erickson related to watershed issues was distributed for Board review.

**8. Adjournment:** The next regular meeting date of the Board is scheduled for May 5, 1992. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



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Daniel B. Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Executive Secretary