

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-June 2,1992 Regular Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the June 2, 1992 meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Oriey Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Daniel Wilkens. Lawrence Woodbury-SHRWD Consulting Engineer and Wayne Goekerv-SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the May 5,1992 meeting were read by Wilkens. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to adopt the minutes of the May 5,1992 meeting as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Treaeurer'e Report:** Hanson updated the Board on the current fund balances in the District's various accounts. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay current vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal	65.23
Pierson's Hartz-cleaning supplies	19.51
Mac's Cafe-SHRWD meals	18.79
Fertile Bakery-rolls-July Board meeting	7.00
Tony Dorn, Inc.-1 box toner and copy meter	126.43
U.S. Postal Service-3 rolls of stamps (100 ea.)	87.00
Garden Valley Phone Company-phone service	32.85
Otter Tail Power Company-electric service	136.42
Lois Plante-custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial, office & mtg. expenses, beaver dam inspection	429.33
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	515.54
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	114.35
Oriey Jevning-Meetings & expenses	59.67
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	62.67
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	48.64
Monthly Total	<u>\$1,676.67</u>

4. **Ogaard project** Gullekson noted a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inquiring as to the status of the Ogaard project. After discussion it was agreed that the SHRWD would proceed with the Ogaard project by purchasing the entire property which will be 40 acres. A question was raised regarding the possibility that past CRP payments may need to be paid back on land that is converted to water. Wilkens called Ogaard who indicated it was still OK with him to proceed with the project. Woodbury will contact Jeff Heminway to determine the status of permits and with Ogaard to present him with the specs and plans for the project.

5. **Beaver Dams:** Gullekson reported that he had canoed with Goeken on the Sand Hill River below Ernie Uhlers to check on beaver problems. A five foot high beaver dam was found to be backing up water over the riverbank onto adjacent pasture. The beaver were also building mud and grass wing dams out into the pasture to hold back more water. Many ducks and some geese were using the area. Downstream from this dam there were some logs in the river, but no major beaver dams-beavers were burrowing in the river bank extensively in several areas. The next segment checked was the river flowing through the Eh/em Gunderson property. Two smaller beaver dams were found at the west end of this section-one was three feet and the second one further downstream was two feet high. Water was backing up into the field ditches, but not in the fields.

Gullekson visited with DNR personnel in the Twin Cities and with Jerry Martens at the Bemidji DNR office regarding options of leaving the beaver dams in to keep the wetlands that had been created. There was some interest expressed but no programs or personnel were specifically identified that could help with the project. Gullekson then arranged for a river tour by canoe of the area for June 1 which included Gullekson and Hanson from the SHRWD, Elvem Gunderson-landowner, Earl Johnson and Tom Kuchera from the MN/DNR, Steve Taylor and Les Krogstad from the Fertile Community Conservation Club and Wayne Goeken, SHRWD. Ernie Uhler met the group upon their return from the first part of the tour at the bridge west of his place to discuss the

situation. He didn't want to consider payment or other options to leave the dam and wetlands in place, but preferred that the dam be removed to restore the river to its normal level. The group then canoed the next section to inspect Elvem Gunderson's situation. Mr. Gunderson felt the same way, i.e. that he wanted the beaver dams removed rather than consider options to compensate for the lost value of the land from being wetter than normal. With these considerations in mind the Board directed that the dams be removed with the dam just above Bear Park being taken out first (by Tim Olson with his backhoe), then blowing the next dam up towards Gundersons and then use the backhoe again to remove the dam by Uhlers.

6. **Winger Dam:** Copies of a letter dated May 21, 1992 that was received from the Army Corps of Engineers were handed out for review and discussion. The letter identified 10 areas related to the Winger Dam which they requested more information before they would make their determination for the Corps permit. Much of the information has been provided to the MNDNR, MPCA and the Corps in the past, but will be reworked and submitted again. Wilkens reported that the Colonel who is head of the Army Corps office in St. Paul was up for a recent tour of the Winger Dam project area and other portions of the Red River Valley. Wilkens reviewed the tour and the Colonels' comments. The county and township roads in the Winger dam project area were visited. The Bear Park project was also visited at the request of Ben Wopat of the Corps. The tour then proceeded along the Sand Hill River towards Beltrami to give the Colonel a better understanding of the flatness of the Red River Valley and the necessity of holding back any flood water in the upper tributaries where there are some valleys. The rest of the tour included further stops in the Valley to view dikes and high water marks from floods on telephone poles and a slide presentation in Thief River Falls showing some history of the RRWMB and flood control efforts. A computerized data monitoring demonstration was also given at the Middle River Snake Watershed Office.

The Colonel was very appreciative of the tour and indicated that within 7-10 days of receipt of the Sand Hill's reply to the May 21 letter he will call in the Corp in-stream water 'experts' to review the project. He indicated that if they don't have hard data to refute the project, then the Corp permit should be granted. Regarding the May 21 letter, the SHRWD Board directed Woodbury to begin addressing items #1-8. To address wetland mitigation issues raised in items 9 and 10, it was decided that perhaps further assessment should be done of the amount of different types of wetlands in the project area. There may be errors in the amount of different types of wetlands reported in the EIS. Woodbury will visit with a couple of wetlands biologists, Jerry Van Amberg and Gary Clamburg, to determine how this might be done and their availability. He will try to set up a meeting between these individuals and the SHRWD Board to review possible options.

7. **Permits:** Two permits came before the Board and were approved.

- 1992-3 Fern S. Vatthaur. SE 1/4, N 1/4 in Section 36 of King Twp. Polk County. Restore a drained wetland for waterfowl and wildlife habitat. Also will help groundwater recharge and help control storm water and snowmelt runoff. Restoration is needed for eligibility in USDA's Water Bank Program. Work to be paid for and supervised by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 1992-4 Polk County Highway Department. CSAH 39 between CSAH 12 and CSAH 10. Polk County. CSAH 39 is proposed to be regraded between CSAH 12 and CSAH 10 which includes rehabilitation and reconstruction of CSAH 39 and associated ditch work as ordered by the Polk County Commission.

8. **Other Business:**

- a.) Jevning noted that culvert and channel repair is needed in the west end of the SH River. Jevning will check further on what's needed and on the SCS program whereby the farmer can initiate the request and the SCS will do the design and engineering with ASCS cost-sharing on the project for erosion control.
- b.) Board members were authorized to attend upcoming project tours as follows: Canada Tour June 18-19-contact Don Ogaard and Summer RRWMB tour of RLWD projects on June 26-27-send in own registrations.

9. **Adjournment** The next regular meeting of the Board is set for July 7, 1992. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Daniel Wilkens, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary