

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-September 8, 1992 Regular Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the September 8, 1992 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Lance Yohe and Marilyn Englund from The International Coalition, Lawrence Woodbury—SHRWD Consulting Engineer and Wayne Goeken—SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

2. **Minutes:** It was noted that at the end of the second paragraph on page 2 of the August 11, 1992 SHRWD meeting minutes, it should state that Gullekson gave a tour of the project area to the individuals listed on August 7. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to adopt the minutes of the August 11, 1992 Sand Hill River Watershed District Board meeting with this correction being made. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** No Treasurer's Report was given for September. It was noted that workmen's comp will be paid this year, but the need for the SHRWD to carry this insurance will be explored before next year. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Wilkens to pay current vouchers as follows. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Bakery-rolls-meetings	8.00
Coast to Coast-Fertile-cleaning supplies	4.97
MASCOM Marketing-Fax charges	16.00
Olson & Sons Excavating-beaver dam removal	66.00
First State Insurance Agency-Position schedule bond(9/1 7/92-9/17/93)	239.00
Business Agency, Inc.-Workmen's Comp Renewal	2,469.00
Lois Plante-custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial expenses	323.22
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	627.39
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	57.17
Orley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	59.92
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	59.97
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	<u>145.95</u>
Monthly Total	<u>\$4,095.06</u>

4. **Winger Dam:** Gullekson reported on a meeting held in St. Paul on August 13 with the MN Pollution Control Agency and Gullekson and Woodbury from the SHRWD. Variables such as rainfall, discharge levels and reservoir levels were reviewed for various scenarios. Options of monitoring for mercury were also discussed. Copies of public comments received by the Corp during the permit review process were picked up from the Corp by Gullekson.

The SHRWD Board also discussed options for development of a dry dam which could be designed such that a reservoir could be developed later if conditions changed. This would possibly be considered if the current permit for the reservoir development is denied by the Corp. Factors to consider include: local residents have favored development of a reservoir over a dry dam; costs of downstream flood protection would be lower with a dry dam; over 1 million dollars would be saved with a dry dam because overflow construction would be avoided; \$300,000 in landscaping costs and costs of road relocation would be avoided with the dry dam option.

A meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 16 or 17 in Alexandria between the SHRWD Board and various agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corp, MN DNR, MPCA and Board of Water and Soil Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the positions of the agencies regarding the various permits that are needed to move ahead with the project. However, the meeting was changed to September 15 to accommodate the Corps schedule and it will be held in Fargo to bring in North Dakota interests as well. It now appears that the meeting will concentrate on the Corps proposal to develop a

generic environmental impact statement for the Red River Valley. If this comes about, it would likely take approximately two years and no projects would be acted on in the Red River Valley in the meantime. Discussion followed on who to invite to the September 15 meeting in Fargo. It is the same day as the Red River Water Management Board meeting, thus options to hold the RRWMB meeting in Fargo so these members could be in attendance will be explored. As this will also likely impact water projects in North Dakota, representation from The International Coalition will also be considered.

5. Other Activities and Business:

- *Woodbury reported on streambank stabilization options in three sections of the Sand Hill river in the Fertile area. Placement of filter cloth over a smooth base with sand or a similar granular pit material covering this before rock rip rap is placed as fill was recommended. The Board directed Woodbury to work up estimates of how much rock would be required at each site and estimated project costs.
- *Gullekson noted that he had given Norm Moody of the MN DNR a site tour of the Winger and Bear Park area and also the Ogaard project area. Moody had indicated that he had heard from other DNR sources that the Ogaard project, while being advanced as a wildlife project, would have very little wildlife benefits. Upon visiting the site, Moody was impressed with the wildlife aspects and indicated he would defend the project at DNR meetings. Moody's office is set up to have equal status with other DNR Departments. It was noted that Moody is leaving his DNR Central Office position for a Forestry position in Cass County.
- *Jevning reported that Skallet had checked with the ASCS Office regarding culvert and channel repair in the west end of the SH river and they indicated no cost-share programs were available. It was suggested that perhaps the SCS office had been contacted and not the SWCD. Jevning will follow-up to see if the right office was contacted and what programs might be available.

6. The International Coalition: Lance Yohe, President of The International Coalition discussed three areas with the SHRWD Board that TIC proposes to work with the RRWMB on; 1) problem areas, 2) GIS, and 3) wetlands. Regarding problem areas, Yohe noted that all watershed districts are frustrated with roadblocks by the permitting agencies and lack of coordination between agencies. Yohe proposed that TIC work closely with the RRWMB to sort out the permit process and other regulatory constraints and develop a strategy to work with government agencies in a pro-active manner. This would also include working with area legislators and require a commitment on the part of the RRWMB and local watersheds to be involved with the project and monitor its progress. Area #2 involves a project proposal by TIC to train staff and managers of watersheds in the use of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Marilyn Englund, TIC GIS Coordinator explained some of the uses of GIS and the proposed training program. Area #3 involves using one watershed as a pilot area to compare differences in TIC's definition of wetlands to the USFWS wetlands classification. Wetland zones and use options would be defined. Costs of the above proposals are projected to be \$60,000 to address problem areas, \$25,000 for the GIS training, and \$15,000 for the wetlands component. The RRWMB will decide on funding of these projects with advisement from member watershed districts.

7. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the Board is set for October 6, 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