

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-January 5, 1993 Regular Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the January 5, 1993 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Wayne Goeken— SHRWD Executive Secretary, Lawrence Woodbury-SHRWD Consulting Engineer, Mike Moore-City of Fertile and Don Ogaard—Red River Watershed Management Board were also in attendance.

2. **Minutes:** Wilkens read the minutes of the December 1, 1992 SHRWD meeting. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to adopt the minutes of the December 1, 1992 Sand Hill River Watershed District Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Hanson was not in attendance, thus no treasurer's report was provided this month. Gullekson presented a letter of resignation from Roger Hanson as Treasurer of the SHRWD. Motion by Jevning and seconded by LaVoi to accept Hanson's resignation. Motion carried unanimously. Wilkens then resigned as SHRWD Secretary. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to accept Wilkens resignation as Secretary and to nominate Wilkens to fill out the Treasurer's term of office. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Gullekson and seconded by LaVoi to nominate Jevning to fill out the Secretary's term of office vacated by Wilkens. Motion carried unanimously. Wilkens requested that an audit of the SHRWD's financial records be done prior to his taking over as Treasurer.

Gullekson reviewed past financial records of the SHRWD that have now been computerized. Further adjustments are being made in preparation for auditing. New claim forms will be developed to provide easier entry and accounting of expenses. Wilkens commended Gullekson on the effort he put in to bring the records up to date.

The following bills were approved for payment on motion by Jevning and second by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously.

Fertile Journal-SHRWD printed envelopes	39.90
Eide Mercantile-cleaning supplies	5.18
Fertile Bakery-rolls-meetings	6.00
Mac's Cafe-meals	26.00
Al & Laura's Hartz-ice melt salt & soda	15.01
Fertile Sand & Gravel-snow removal	45.00
City of Fertile-Utilities	43.45
Otter Tail Power Company-monthly electric charge	213.70
Agassiz Environmental Learning Center-development support	1,000.00
Minnesota Conservation Corp-river clean-up-one month contract	6,500.00
Lois Plante-Custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial expenses	323.23
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	630.24
Orley Jevning-Meetings & expenses	59.93
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	62.68
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	447.14
Monthly Total	<u>\$9,438.93</u>

Goeken was directed to contact the Polk and Norman County Auditor's offices to cancel the requested ditch levy for Ditch 17-2 as upon review of the account there was sufficient funds to cover anticipated costs for the upcoming year.

4. Winger Dam: There has not been any decision made by the Army Corps regarding their proposal to require that a programmatic EIS be done for the entire Red River Valley. The Red River Watershed Management Board will discuss this matter at their upcoming meeting which is being hosted by the ~~SHRWD~~. The Corps permit requirements will be reviewed and a strategy of how to move ahead constructively to get on with water management in the Red River Valley will be discussed. Concern was expressed that the upcoming meeting will be more talk and no action as not everyone has been as involved with the Corps and will need to first be apprised of the current situation before they can constructively contribute to a discussion of solutions. It was noted that some of the participants from the watershed side probably need to be educated of the underlying needs for water management in the Red River Valley and the scope of water projects to address these needs. It was also noted that it must be kept in mind that the Corps' regulatory division is totally different from its construction division.

5. Ogaard Project:

The status of the Ogaard Project was reviewed. It was agreed that the affected property relating to the proposed project of creating a water retention site/sediment catch basin/waterfowl-wildlife benefit area would be handled on the basis of the SHRWD paying Ogaard for a permanent easement on his property that is within the 100 year high water boundary. Ogaard would still retain ownership of the property and would receive CRP payments from the property. Various site features were discussed including the need to keep a rock crossing in place for farm machinery access on the north end of the project. It was also discussed that the outlet pipe should not be sized too large, i.e. it should allow for retaining water during a rain storm event thereby contributing to flood control. The ASCS office will be contacted regarding how the CRP payments will be handled and Jeff Hemmenway of the SCS office will be contacted regarding the current status of permits for the project.

6. CORE REPORT:

Gullekson reviewed information from the recently released Council on Reform and Efficiency (CORE) report. The report contains recommendations from a task force set up by MN Governor Carlson regarding options to streamline government. One option noted was to reform the current system of watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts, essentially doing away with them and shifting their resources and responsibilities to a central authority. There is concern that local control and contact would be lost with a central authority being less responsive to local needs. However, Gullekson noted that watershed districts need to take a hard look at how they have been doing business and how they can be more responsive to local needs. Traditionally, watershed districts have been almost solely involved with surface water issues—primarily flood control and ditching, Gullekson further stated “Minnesota law that established watershed districts does not restrict watersheds to this narrow focus. As environmental issues become more complex and impact all sectors of our rural areas, it is important for watershed districts to take the opportunity to help find broad-based solutions that will both help local residents and achieve the land and water stewardship goals of the watershed. Watershed districts must be more innovative in responding to both the natural and political environment and define a new niche where they can productively contribute to the areas they serve.”

Don Ogaard, Chairman of the Red River Watershed Management Board, noted that to gain public acceptance of their mission and projects, watersheds need to be more visible in explaining what they are doing. Watersheds must communicate more effectively at several levels including bridging the "language gap" between the state and federal agencies from whom permits are needed and local grassroots residents of a district who want projects done. Ogaard agreed that watersheds need to broaden their vision of services and support that they can provide to their local district, Ogaard stated that “Providing assistance to tree planting efforts, river riprapping, environmental education initiatives, mapping ditches and other related projects should be viewed as investments in the future of protecting the natural resource base of

the local district and the Red River Valley from which our livelihood depends. If watersheds prudently expend funds for the well-being of the district and its citizens, then their decisions and direction should be accepted."

With the above considerations in mind, Gullekson proposed that the Sand Hill River Watershed District provide financial support to the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center (AELC) as it is now in the process of developing environmental education programs to deliver to school groups and the public at large. Although the AELC is based in Fertile with programs primarily to be delivered in the Fertile Sandhills and along the Sand Hill River in that area, its programs will be provided to schools and groups from throughout the Sand Hill River Watershed District and the Red River Valley. The AELC will be promoting natural resource stewardship in keeping with the mission of the SHRWD. Motion was made by Wilkens to provide \$1,000 to the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center at this time to assist in program development and to further define program development needs to serve the public. Motion was seconded by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously. It was further requested that Goeken prepare an additional proposal for funding consideration for the February SHRWD Board meeting which would identify more specific benefits that would be derived by the SHRWD.

7. Other Activities and Business:

- a.) Gullekson noted that Mark Robbins of the Minnesota Conservation Corp contacted him to let him know that a signed contract from the DNR should be in place by January 10, 1993 for the tree snagging and debris removal work along the Sand Hill River which will begin in the Climax area. A check for \$6,500 for one month's work should be ready for the MCC when the contract is presented. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Jevning to authorize issuance of a check for \$6,500 to the MCC to be delivered when the contract is signed. Motion carried unanimously. Gullekson and Jevning will meet with the MCC crew in the Climax area when the work crew is ready to proceed to review the work needed to be done.
- b.) The SHRWD Board discussed the need for updating their original Overall Plan for the District. Other watershed districts are now also updating their plans or have recently done so, thus a general format has been established that the SHRWD can follow. The Board noted that the Plan should not just address surface water management and flood control as has been the traditional areas of watershed involvement, but the Plan should also include a broader scope of activities that contribute to land and water stewardship within the District. Motion was made by Wilkens to authorize SHRWD Executive Secretary Goeken and SHRWD Consulting Engineer Woodbury to proceed with revising the SHRWD Overall Plan. Motion was seconded by LaVoi. Motion carried unanimously. Goeken will begin by submitting a draft outline of the proposed plan to BWSR for approval.
- c.) Mike Moore, Acting Mayor of the City of Fertile visited with the Board to note that the City had approved of the proposed rip-rapping of the Sandhill River in the area of the Golf Course including where the City's storm sewer discharge enters the river. Wilkens reviewed his recent contact with the MN DNR regarding this project. Wilkens and DNR personnel had made a site visit to the proposed areas to be rip-rapped. The DNR Fisheries personnel had concerns about the work to be done as proposed as he felt it would be detrimental to fisheries success in the river. Further options to both maintain fisheries and to achieve the purpose of the rip-rapping for streambank stabilization and erosion control will be explored.
- d.) Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to approve purchase of office supplies for operation and record-keeping for the SHRWD. Motion carried unanimously.
- e.) Motion by Gullekson and seconded by Wilkens to authorize hiring of computer consultants as needed to assist with computer operations for the SHRWD and training of SHRWD Board and staff in efficient use of the system. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Permits: No permits came before the Board for review.

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD was set for Tuesday, February 2, 1993. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by LaVoi and seconded by Wilkens to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Orley Jevning, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary