

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-June 8, 1993 Regular Meeting

1. Attendance: Roland Gullekson, President, called the June 8, 1993 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Orley Jevning, Francis LaVoi and Ray Baatz. Others in attendance were Elvern Gunderson, Walter Helgeson, Harold Olson, Gerald Paulson, Ernest Uhler, and Ray Van Den Einde. Wayne Goeken—SHRWD Executive Secretary, and Lawrence Woodbury-SHRWD Consulting Engineer were also in attendance.

2. Agenda Review: Gullekson added Board Reorganization and Oath of Office to the agenda.

3. Board Reorganization and Oath of Office: Ray Baaz was welcomed as a new Board member to the Sand Hill River Watershed District Board as he was appointed by the Polk County Board to replace Orley Jevning who had resigned. Gullekson administered the Oath of Office to Baaz & Hanson..

Gullekson appointed LaVoi as temporary chairman. LaVoi asked for nominations for Chairman. Motion by Hanson and second by Wilkens to cast a unanimous ballot for Gullekson as Chairman. Motion carried unanimously. Gullekson resumed as Chairman and asked for nominations for Secretary. Motion by Baaz and second by LaVoi to cast a unanimous ballot for Hanson as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously. Gullekson asked for nominations for Treasurer. Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Hanson to cast a unanimous ballot for Wilkens as Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Minutes: The following corrections were noted to be made to the May 11, 1993 SHRWD Board meeting: page 1 Item 4, first sentence change to note that Ogaard did not chair the meeting, but attended it with Wilkens. In the same paragraph, the last sentence change "three" principal lead contacts to "two" and delete the last 11 words in the sentence. On page 2, Item 6, second paragraph—delete the third sentence. On page 2, Item 7.b., the first sentence—permits were issued for "three" sites along the Sand Hill River" rather than "four." On page 3, Item 8.b. regarding the vote on purchasing a refrigerator, it should read, "the motion carried unanimously with Wilkens abstaining." Motion by LaVoi and seconded by Batz to adopt the minutes of the May 11, 1993 SHRWD meeting as mailed with the above corrections being made. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report: Wilkens handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's Report covering the month of May 1993. The past month's transactions, fund balances and investment portfolio were reviewed. Wilkens also noted the status of the annual SHRWD audit. Motion was made by LaVoi and seconded by Batz to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and authorize payment of the current month's bills as presented below. Motion carried unanimously

Mac's Cafe-meals	30.00
Mercantile-janitorial supplies	4.88
Coast to Coast-janitorial supplies	16.17
Fertile Bakery-rolls-meetings	24.50
Al & Laura's Hartz-supplies	42.28
D & B Demo-blowing 3 beaver dams-Bear Park Project	340.00
Olson & Sons Excavating-3 beaver dams removed-Bear Park Project	92.00
Anderson & Bailey, Attorneys-fees for audit	70.00
Lois Plante-Custodial-May	20.78
Lois Plante-Custodial-June	18.47
Wayne Goeken-Secretarial & consulting expenses	415.58
Wayne Goeken-office supplies(printer toner)	100.70
Raymond Batz-Meetings & expenses	62.68
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	203.07

Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	129.74
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	62.68
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	<u>340.56</u>
Monthly Total	\$1,974.09

6. Bear Park Project: Five landowners upstream of the Bear Park Project visited with the SHRWD Board regarding high water encroaching on their land. Gerald Paulson speaking on behalf of the property owners requested that the following three items be addressed by the SHRWD: 1.) remove all beaver structures that are currently in place upstream of the Bear Park structure, 2.) trap or dispose of all beavers in this section of river, and 3.) make arrangements for a contact person designated by the Board to be authorized to remove beaver dams when contacted by landowners in the project area. Paulson noted that the design for the Bear Park project was for a clear river channel without beaver dams resulting in no water being in the channel during dry periods—however, with-beaver dams present, it is reducing the project's intended flood storage. Gullekson reviewed calculations concluding that even with beaver dams less than 2 percent of the project's flood storage is lost. Gullekson further noted that removal of beaver dams above the river bank can be done, but it just doesn't seem realistic to remove all of beavers and beaver dams that are below the stream bank. Paulson noted that this hasn't been much of an issue in past years due to it being a dry period, but it has become so again with the current wet conditions. Paulson further noted that it is totally unacceptable that the SHRWD only deal with beaver dams above the river channel as the specific language of the original project agreement was that all beavers and beaver dams in the project area were to be removed

It was noted that \$10,000 has been spent on beaver control in the Bear Park area since the project went in 10 years ago and to what extent the lands that are now affected were impacted in a similar manner before the Bear Park project went in. The SHRWD has directed individuals to trap beavers in the project area, but this hasn't been continued on a regular basis as the trappers apparently weren't aware they were to do so. Harold Olson noted that he had blown 3 beaver dams in the past two days. Olson will contact Marvin and Greg Ranz to let them know that they are to continue trapping for beaver in the project area on a continuous basis with the SHRWD reimbursing them for each animal removed. It was concluded that: 1.) when a landowner in the project area calls in regarding a nuisance beaver danij they must report exactly where the location of the dam is so contractors can be sent out to remove it without having to hunt for it first; 2.) the SHRWD will maintain their on-going beaver trapping program; and 3.) the SHRWD Chairman will be the lead contact for landowners to contact when beaver problems arise. Gullekson will direct Tim Olson to remove-obstructions at the Bear Park structure and also upstream at a site that Ernie Uhler will direct him to.

7. Red River Valley Environmental Assessment: Wilkens reported that a scoping committee has been formed which is working on narrowing down issues to address in the environmental assessment. Various other task forces and work groups have also been formed to work on various parts of the project. The next joint meeting will be on June 28 and 29, 1993.

8. Polk County Wetland Inventory: It has been stated that there are "unlimited" drained wetlands that could be used for mitigation on projects, but it has never been documented what really may be available. The Red River Water Management Board is planning on doing a pilot project to inventory drained wetlands in Polk County. Maps showing drained wetlands and a variety of other information will be used to identify wetlands that could potentially be restored. Property owners will then be contacted to see if they would be interested in restoring these wetlands and to determine what the cost of the land would be.

9. SHRWD Overall Plan: Goeken noted that he has reviewed various overall plans from other districts which included a variety of formats and issues that were discussed. A combination of some of the styles and elements from these plans will be used but for the most part modifications will be made to the original overall plan for

the SHRWD which still includes most of the essential elements needed for the plan. Maps and data that will be used in the plan are to be provided by The International Coalition. Although these may not be used to a great extent, they need to be included as the Overall Plan is a single source for the most up to date information on the Sand Hill River watershed.

10. Project Reports:

a.) Stream Maintenance: The two previous stream maintenance grant projects need to be wrapped up by June 30 with the final reports submitted to Polk County Auditor Jerry Amiot so he can finalize the project with the MN DNR.

b.) Sand Hill River Streambank Stabilization: The plans for the stabilization projects need to be finalized. Wilkens will work with Jerry Bennett to get the diagrams re-drawn and submit an addendum to MN DNR Waters. Motion by Wilkens and seconded by Hanson to authorize Houston Engineering to work with the Sand Hill River Watershed District to investigate and design stream bank stabilization measures for five project sites including curves just west of the Highway 32 bridge, at the City of Fertile's storm sewer discharge area, the next curve downstream from the storm sewer site, just downstream from the Strem culverts and a curve on Ray Christian's property and further that these are to be submitted as addendums to the original permit application. Motion carried unanimously. Gullekson noted that there may be possible cost-sharing funding available for these projects through the SWCD and that this should be explored at the same time as the permit applications are resubmitted to the MN DNR.

11. Other Activities and Business:

a.) Wilkens reported that a letter to the SHRWD was received from Farmers Home Administration requesting a quit claim deed to the easement the SHRWD had on the Benbo property which had expired on October 1, 1985. Wilkens consulted with the SHRWD attorney who advised that as the easement had already expired, it was unnecessary to go the expense of providing a quit claim deed. Wilkens relayed this information to FmHA County Supervisor Gary Schommer who concurred with this course of action and will relay this information on to his supervisors.

b.) Gullekson handed out sample brochures that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts is proposing to be used for general information on watersheds. No suggestions for changes were noted.

c.) Upcoming tours including the joint TIC tour on June 18 and the State MAWD summer tour near the Twin Cities on June 25-26 were noted. The-EastPelk-Soil Mid Water Conservation District's annual meeting will be on June 22 at Lakeview Resort on Maple Lake. Board members were encouraged and authorized to attend these functions.

d.) As Wilkens will be gone for the next RRWMB meeting, Gullekson will attend as his alternate. Wilkens noted that the levy amount for the RRWMB will be discussed and likely voted on at that meeting. After extensive discussion on the matter, motion was made by LaVoi and seconded by Batz to keep the levy at the same level as it is now. Motion carried unanimously.

e.) Wilkens also noted that he will be gone when a CD from the Climax Credit Union will be coming due and instructed Gullekson to re-invest it.

f.) Wilkens reviewed information on a no-smoking campaign going on in the Fertile area. Motion by Wilkens and second by Hanson for the SHRWD to join the effort. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Permits: A permit from Douglas Berg to provide irrigation for 59 acres was reviewed with no comment given. No other permits were received for review.

13. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be July 6, 1993. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to adjourn. Motion carried

unanimously.

Roger Hanson, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary