

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-December 7, 1993 Regular Board Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. District Managers present were Roger Hanson, Francis LaVoi, and Dan Wilkens. Others in attendance were Wayne Goeken—SHRWD Executive Secretary, Lawrence Woodbury—SHRWD Consulting Engineer, Arnold Balstad, Dick Larson, Jan McWilliams, Steve Ranz, Duane Knutson, and Mike Moore.
2. **Agenda Review:** Reactivating the SHRWD Advisory Committee was added to the agenda.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to adopt the minutes of the November 2, 1993 SHRWD Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a) Wilkens handed out and reviewed the SHRWD Treasurer's Report covering the months of October and November, 1993. The past months transactions, fund balances and investment portfolio were reviewed. Motion by Hanson and second by LaVoi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and authorize payment of the current months bills as presented below. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Goeken-Secretarial services & expenses	325.00
Lois Plante-Custodial-August	36.94
U. S. Postal Service-stamps	116.00
Dahl, Hatton, Muir, and Reese, Ltd.--SHRWD Financial Audit	2,080.00
Olson & Sons-Beaver Dam Removal	86.00
Al & Laura's Hartz-supplies	50.99
Fertile Bakery-rolls-meetings	31.60
H. Slager Construction-Kittleson Creek Diversion work	1,470.00
Harold Olson-Beaver Dam removal	1,100.00
Bakken Trucking-rock hauling for riprap project	6,560.00
Roland Gullekson-Meetings & expenses	560.43
Roger Hanson-Meetings & expenses	1,210.30
Francis LaVoi-Meetings & expenses	62.68
Daniel Wilkens-Meetings & expenses	1,182.74
Otter Tail Power Co.- Heat & Utilities	247.78
Garden Valley Telephone Co.	94.70
Roger Hanson-re-issue of 12/1/92 expense check that was lost	300.58
Red River Water Management Board—levy	17,430.73

Monthly Total \$32,946.47

5. Project Reports:

- a.) Beaver Report: Arnold Balstad, Dick Larson, and Jan McWilliams reported to the Board the situation related to problems being caused by beavers in their area—located approximately 3 miles upstream from Winger along the Sand Hill River. It was reported that 10-15 dams were

along this stretch of river raising river levels higher than normal with river depth now being reported as 8-10 feet. Pasture along the river is being lost due to wet conditions. The main problem area is between the old wooden bridge below Hidgem farm to the Hwy 59 bridge. This would involve an area within Sletton and Winger Townships. It was noted that the beaver trapping and dam removal that has been done in the immediate upstream area from the Bear Park project has been necessary due to an agreement made at the time of the Bear Park Project which requires the SHRWD to do so. Otherwise, the SHRWD has not normally become involved in beaver problems. It was noted that beaver problems have become quite prevalent throughout Minnesota and control options are being explored in the Red River Valley and statewide to deal with the situation. It was agreed that a trial cost-share arrangement for trapping beavers could be developed between the SHRWD and Sletton and Winger townships with the townships handling the collection and payment with the trappers. The three landowners noted above will visit with these two town boards regarding this option.

- b.) Steve Ranz: Ranz noted that their town board (Liberty township) is meeting soon and he will bring up beaver control options with them also. He also discussed with the SHRWD Board the situation related to erosion and oxbows along the river in the area near Jim Lehman's.
- c.) West Mill Project: Engineer Woodbury handed out and reviewed a summary report of findings regarding investigation of the feasibility of building a dam and reservoir on the Sand Hill River just downstream of Fertile at what is referred to as the West Mill Pond. A field survey of the dam site and soil borings at the proposed dam location were completed. The soil borings showed that fill material, poorly graded sand and silt were present to a depth of approximately 39 feet. The engineer's report noted that "in order to provide for adequate seepage control and embankment stability, some type of engineered impervious barrier would have to be constructed along the alignment of the dam to the depth of the glacial till. It would be impractical and uneconomical to replace all of the silts and sands with clay embankment. The engineered impervious barrier could be a constructed slurry trench or provided with sheet pilings." Total project costs were estimated to be \$1,320,000 which does not include annual operation and maintenance costs. It was also noted that mitigation would probably be needed and permitting agencies would probably require aeration of the pool which would add additional costs. Options were further discussed with Fertile Mayor Duane Knutson and Council person Mike Moore. If the project was to proceed the next step would be to get the various permitting agencies involved in review of the project which would result in the beginning of a series of studies and further engineering analysis which would likely take several years. The above and related information will be presented to the Fertile City Council along with costs incurred for this investigation thus far. No further investigation of this project will be done unless the Fertile City Council decides to continue.

6. Report on Meetings and Activities During the Past Month

- a.) A report on the recent annual conference of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts was provided. It was noted that much of the time was spent on on-going business matters and that maybe future conferences should include more information sessions dealing with issues faced by Watershed Districts. Wilkens noted that the MAWD financial report was compiled and presented with a bit more difficulty than should have been necessary. Wilkens reviewed a letter with the SHRWD Board which he proposed to send to MAWD outlining recommendations

which MAWD should follow which will provide for better accountability and easier record keeping and reporting. The SHRWD Board agreed with the content of the letter and that it should be sent.

- b.) Wilkens and Hanson reported on the annual conference of The International Coalition recently held in Winnipeg. It was noted that the conference was useful in terms of networking with other people at the conference to get information on similar problems being faced throughout the Valley. The focus of the conference was on water retention which may not have been the best topic in light of the fact that water retention projects are basically at a standstill for the immediate future. But in general it was felt that the TIC conferences do a good job of providing information on a topic which allows resource managers to form an opinion about the issues of the day.
- c.) Gullekson reported on water levels from river readings that he took in several locations during the past month.

7. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a.) It was reported that a joint effort is underway to share booth space at the Red River Valley Winter Shows between a variety of natural resource agencies in the Red River Valley including Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, MN Extension, Polk County Environmental Services offices, MN DNR, USFWS and others. The Agassiz Environmental Learning Center is coordinating the project with the goal of providing information from all participating groups through the booth which will help raise public awareness of natural resource issues. A variety of interactive displays are being considered to attract the public into the display area Motion by Wilkens and seconded by LaVoi to have the SHRWD be involved in this project and to provide \$250 to defray costs of the booth space and display development. Motion carried unanimously.
- b.) Gullekson noted that the Planning Committee for the RRWMB spring meeting will be meeting December 15 in Thief River Falls to plan the spring RRWMB program.
- c.) It was noted that plans will be made at the January Sand Hill River Watershed District Board meeting to hold a meeting of the SHRWD Advisory Committee to reactivate the Committee and discuss conditions in the watershed and Committee and Board nominations.

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

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be January 4, 1993. It was agreed that the January, February and March meetings will begin at 9 am with the regular 8 am. start time resuming in April. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Hanson and seconded by LaVoi to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Roger Hanson, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Executive Secretary