

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Minutes-April 4, 1995 Meeting Minutes**

- 1. Attendance:** Roger Hanson called the April 4, 1995 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Managers present were Jimmy Krogstad, Harold Vig, and Dan Wilkens. Craig Engelstad, Walter Johnson, Harold Olson, Marvin Olson, Steve Taylor, Lawrence Woodbury, SHRWD Engineer and Wayne Goeken, SHRWD Executive Secretary were also in attendance.
- 2. Agenda Review:** It was noted that Harold and Marvin Olson would be coming to the meeting to report on their beaver trapping in the Bear Park area.
- 3. Minutes:** Motion by Vig to approve the minutes of the January 3, 1995 SHRWD regular Board meeting as mailed. Motion seconded by Krogstad and carried unanimously.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:**  
 Wilkens reviewed the Treasurer's report and bills for payment. There was discussion of the request from MAWD for annual membership. Motion by Krogstad and second by Vig to join MAWD for another year. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Vig and seconded by Krogstad to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and the following bills for payment.

Payment Made to Memo	Amount
Lois M. Plantz—janitorial services	\$ 36.94
Wayne Goeken—secretarial services & office supplies	543.75
Roger Hanson— meetings & expenses	372.72
Jimmie Krogstad-- meetings & expenses	130.05
Harold Vig—meetings & minutes	60.68
Daniel Wilkens— meetings & expenses	570.89
Mac's Cafe— meeting expenses	49.00
Houston Engineering— professional services	2,036.00
MAWD- 1995 Dues	647.62
Garden Valley Telephone Company— phone bill	72.19
Polk County Auditor— copies for ditch maps	59.30
Otter Tail Power Co.-heat & lights	355.52
The Fertile Journal—meeting notices	6.10
Harold Olson — Bear Park beaver control~20 trapped	400.00
Fertile Bakery—meeting expenses	7.00
First State Bank of Fertile—Soc Sec/Medic.	178.61
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,526.37</b>

- 5. Project Reports:**
- a.) Project #12 ( 98/148): Woodbury recommended that the District proceed with an information meeting to discuss project options with landowners in the project area. If after this initial meeting the landowners want to proceed further with investigation of the project, viewers will be appointed to assess drainage benefits associated with the project. Final engineering plans and project costs would be developed and presented along with the viewer's report at a public hearing. Wilkens and Goeken were directed to make arrangements and send notices out for the initial public information meeting which will be held in Crookston during the week of April 17th.
- b.) Beltrami Diversion: Woodbury reviewed project options with the Board. As Polk County will be working on the road along this proposed project in the near future, options for cooperating with Polk County to

combine the road project and the drainage project will be further explored. Representatives from the SHRWD Board will attend the Polk County Board meeting at 2 p.m. today to discuss the project.

## **6. Other Business**

- a.) RR EIS. Wilkens noted that a draft copy has been prepared and as soon as it is available it will be reviewed by the RRWMB to make comments and corrections before it is issued to the public for review.
- b.) Harold Vig noted a situation in the east end of the District related to County Ditch #48 whereby the County had cleaned this county ditch and placed the spoils along side the ditch. The Army Corp of Engineers has become involved ruling that placement of ditch spoils in this manner is impacting wetlands and has determined that the spoils must be removed from this area at a cost of \$40,000. After calling Don Ogaard it was suggested that the Polk County Ditching Engineer come to the RRWMB meeting in Moorhead on April 18th to discuss the situation.
- c.) Harold and Marvin Olson reported that they had trapped 20 beaver in the Bear Park area. They noted the abundance of wildlife throughout this area including otter, mink, and numerous species of waterfowl. It was noted that Polk County is out of funds for the beaver control program that was initiated this past year, however participating townships are carrying on with the cost sharing program established with the SHRWD. The program is set up whereby the township approves who is to control beavers in their township; pays these individuals for the beavers removed (the current rate is \$30 per beaver); and annually submits for reimbursement to the SHRWD for two-thirds of the cost. At this time the following townships have signed agreements to work with the SHRWD on this program: Bear Park, Garden, Godfrey, Hubbard, King, Knute, Liberty, and Rosebud. Other townships are eligible for cost-sharing of beaver control by signing an agreement with the District.
- d.) Summer MAWD Tour. Krogstad reported that Harold Vig, representatives of the Wild Rice River Watershed, and himself would be taking a driving tour of the proposed tour route tomorrow (April 5) to time the stops. All the spots to be highlighted will be finalized with a brief summary of each spot to be written up and included as part of a hand out for the tour participants. The tour will stop at the SHRWD office on Saturday. On Friday the tour will come over to Fertile and rotate between the Wild Rice WD Project 35—5 miles SE of Fertile and the Sand Hills Nature Center where the Agassiz ELC will feature the Sand Hill River Watch Program.
- e.) SHRWD Overall Plan. Woodbury handed out and reviewed a draft of the proposed SHRWD Management Plan which was based on input received at the March 14th special meeting regarding this matter. The District's rules and by-laws were discussed. The mission, goals and policies of the District are to be set by the Board. Woodbury will proceed with providing the needed inventory of the District's characteristics for inclusion in the Plan. The Board was asked to review the draft further and include any issue area that is now affecting or may impact the District in the future. The Plan should be kept broad enough to include any issue areas that the Board may need to deal with in the future. The Overall Plan is to be updated every 10 years whereas the by-laws can be updated annually as needed. Once the Plan is submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, it can be approved as submitted. If there is significant comment, BWSR could hold a public hearing. A special Board meeting date of April 12th at 8 a.m. was set to further review this Plan.
- f.) Krogstad reported on the Watershed Managers Training session that was held in Thief River Falls on March 16-17. There was considerable discussion of the proposed "takings" legislation, beaver control, and how to deal with regulatory difficulties of the MN DNR. Overall it was a productive session as watershed managers were able to have good direct dialogue with BWSR and MN BNR officials in small group sessions. Wilkens also noted that there was much dissatisfaction expressed about BWSR and MN DNR.

- g.) Steve Taylor visited with the Board to clarify the Board's previous action authorizing tree removal via logging along the right of way at the head of where the Sand Hill River channelized segment begins west of Fertile. Taylor expressed his concern that with the limited tree cover that remains in this area, it would be desirable if this stand of trees could be left substantially intact. It was felt that the trees are providing benefits in terms of erosion control which is much greater in the treeless area to the west. Wilkens explained that the erosion to the west was due mostly to the greater fall and velocity of the river in that area. Wilkens further noted that in general the Board agreed with the desirability of tree cover, but they were in a position of being responsible for maintenance of the stream channel and related on-going problems from tree damage and blockage to the river. Removal of the trees in the area in question would put the District in compliance with the Army Corps which may be of significant benefit in the future as assistance is sought in placement of an additional drop structure downstream to help control erosion. Taylor noted that he pastures cattle in this area with fencing running through the area to control the livestock. He asked to be informed of when logging would occur so he could plan a pasture rotation for the livestock to minimize conflict with the tree removal.
- h.) Goeken noted that the training session had been held for the school teachers to be involved in Sand Hill River Watch program with sampling to proceed after final site selections are made. Sites being considered for sampling were reviewed with the Board with sites being selected that are representative of different portions of the Watershed and that are above and below tributaries, cities or other significant features. The option of establishing stream gages at these sampling sites which would be read by the volunteers was also discussed. It was noted that the Wild Rice Watershed District has a volunteer stream gage monitoring program. More information will be gathered on this possibility including costs and be brought up for further discussion at the next Board meeting.
- i.) Hanson reviewed the mail noting information that was available for the Managers to read, however no major items had been received that required Board discussion.

**7.) Permits.** Three permits that came before the Board for review were approved as follows:

- 1995-5 Craig Engelstad Liberty Twp Sec Line between Sec 28 & 29. Extend culvert to allow widening of crossing to gain access to field from west.
- 1995-6 Johnson Bros (Walter Johnson) Hammond Twp Sec 27 NW corner or NE 1/4. Install a 4' culvert to replace a 2' culvert to address flooding problem.
- 1995-7 MN DOT Vineland Twp between Sec 29 & 30 in City of Climax. Replace existing bridge due to poor structural condition of existing bridge.

Craig Engelstad also noted that the Agassiz Recreation Trail (ART) which comes up to Fertile from the south is planning on crossing the Sand Hill River where the old railroad trestle was located. A bridge is to be placed in this location as part of the ART. Engelstad asked what permits may be needed for this type of project and where to initiate the process. The Board noted that initial contact should be made with the MN DNR Waters Division with Deb Ferguson or Bob Merrit from the Detroit Lakes office being the local contacts.

**8.) Next Meeting and Adjournment.** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be May 2, 1995 with the meeting to begin at 7 a.m. Motion by Krogstad and second by Vig to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Jimmie Krogstad, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary