

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

February 3, 1998 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** In the absence of Chairman Hanson, Manager Vig called the February 3, 1998 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Dan Wilkens, Jim Krogstad, and Ervin Vigness. Others in attendance were Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, Jim Larsen-SHRWD Engineer, Tim Olson, and Donnie Larson.
2. **Agenda Review:** No changes to the agenda were noted.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Vigness to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular Board meeting held on January 6, 1998 as mailed, Seconded by Krogstad, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Bills that had been submitted for payment were then reviewed. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented by Krogstad, Seconded by Vigness, Carried.

| Payment Made to--Memo | Amount |
|---|--------------------|
| Naomi Jagol--sec. services & exp. 1/1-1/15 (\$507.21), 1/16-1/31 (\$809.34) | \$1,316.55 |
| Roger Hanson--meetings & expenses | 907.64 |
| Jimmie Krogstad--meetings & expenses | 501.43 |
| Harold Vig--meetings & expenses | 545.27 |
| Ervin Vigness--meetings & expenses | 133.08 |
| Dan Wilkens--meetings & expenses | 833.85 |
| Al & Laura's--Supplies | 73.37 |
| American Linen--Rental agreement | 12.57 |
| Anderson & Bailly--Phone calls, draft audit letter | 95.30 |
| Fertile Bakery--Meeting expense | 5.50 |
| Fertile Journal--Meeting notice | 47.50 |
| First State Bank of Fertile--Soc. Sec./Med. deposit | 590.66 |
| Garden Valley Telephone Co.--February phone bill | 64.64 |
| Dennis Habeck--River Clean-up | 2,160.00 |
| Houston Engineering, Inc.--Meetings & Special meetings, Project #11-Beltrami Diversion, Project #12-Cty Ditches 98 & 148, and Project #13-Reis Scandia | 3,620.78 |
| Hovde Snow Removal--Removed snow on 11/22 & 12/5 | 30.00 |
| Mac's Cafe--Meeting expense | 28.65 |
| MCI Telecommunications--January phone bill (Long distance charges) | 33.55 |
| Otter Tail Power Co.--February billing | 337.12 |
| Polk County Auditor-Treasurer--Beaver damage control program (Knutte township) | 75.00 |
| Project #12-Cty Ditches 98 & 148--Permanent and temporary damages paid to the following landowners: Donald S. & JoAnn Andringa, Marion DeBoer, Donna L. Ulseth, Roger & Donna Ulseth, Centennial Farms, Inc., J. Evans, Victoria Irwin, Wayne Sorenson, Burton E. & Kathleen Bredlie, Debra DeBoer, George Campbell, Karen Suldahl, C. Darlene & Fern D. Letnes, Emma Skrivseth, Donald Dragseth, Douglas Chandler/Chandler Farms, Inc., Lawrence & DeEtta Gunderson, | 68,383 |
| Tony Dorn, Inc.--Copier maintenance | 120.87 |
| Linda Widrig--Cleaning after carpet installation, storage containers for file vault | 225.39 |
| MONTHLY TOTAL | \$80,141.72 |

5. Project Reports:

- a. Project #12, Co. Ditches 98 & 148: Jim Larsen reported that he had received the final quantities of yards moved. There was an approximate 5 1/4% increase from the original amount estimated. All that remains to be completed is minor slope reshaping and seeding. The north/south township road will also need to be reshaped when easements are obtained. No new information has been received as of yet on power line relocation or road easements.
- b. Project #13, Reis-Scandia Township Ditch: Jim Larsen informed the Board that the viewer's report has been delivered to the Polk County Auditor.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a.)Overall Plan: Manager Wilkens inquired to Jim Larsen as to the current status of the completion of the district's Overall Plan. Larsen responded that Mark Deutschman, the engineer responsible for preparing the plan, is still waiting to receive a response from the DNR before making the final revisions.
- b.)Computer Upgrade Discussion: Manager Wilkens was instructed at the previous meeting to analyze the district's computer needs and obtain cost estimates. Wilkens visited with Rick St. Germain, the computer specialist at Houston Engineering, to discuss present and future computer needs of the district. St. Germain recommended purchasing a computer that would have sufficient memory and hard drive space to support mapping, permit, and culvert location programs that require a significant amount of each to operate efficiently. **Motion** by Krogstad to approve spending in the \$3,500 range for computer needs, **Seconded** by Vigness, **Carried**.
- c.)319 Grant Application: Manager Wilkens updated the Board on a grant application that the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District (WPSWCD) is applying for with the Environmental Protection Agency to restore the stream banks along the Sand Hill River lower reaches. The grant requires cost share funding of 60/40. Nolan Baratono, MPCA-Basin Coordinator, is helping with the grant application.
- d.)Sand Hill Advisory Committee (SHAC): After discussion, the Board agreed to ask the advisory committee to meet the morning of the March board meeting. Topics to be discussed will include Manager reappointments, turning Polk County ditches over to the SHRWD, a summer tour of the district, and appointing an additional member to the advisory committee. A breakfast for the SHAC will be planned, with the committee updating the Board on their discussion afterwards.
- e.)Red River Basin Board (RRBB): A retreat is scheduled for February 4th & 5th at the Red River Inn, Moorhead, MN. The retreat was organized in order to educate the Board of Directors on the flooding mechanism and possible solutions for the Red River Basin. Manager Wilkens, an alternate on this Board for Don Ogaard representing Minnesota Watershed Districts, informed the Sand Hill Board that the RRBB has approached Naomi to assist them with recording and administrative services. Wilkens stated that Naomi has agreed to do so, and the SHRWD will be reimbursed for her services in the same manner the RRWMB does currently.

f.)Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB): Manager Wilkens updated the Board on various activities of the RRWMB. Wilkens explained that a communications committee has been established consisting of three representatives from the RRWMB and the DNR to discuss controversial issues of concern to each party in an effort to resolve them by achieving a better understanding of each other's viewpoints. Wilkens added that both parties have been pleased with the progress achieved thus far.

Wilkens discussed the mediation committee for the RRWMB. Wilkens explained that the RRWMB entered into litigation with the DNR on behalf of the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) concerning a project within the WRWD. The RRWMB received resolutions from each district within the RRWMB showing their support in this litigation. The issue at hand is the concept of storing water on a wetland. The COE has issued the permit, however, stipulating the WRWD mitigate 80 acres of wetlands. The WRWD feels the COE has no basis in law to require this mitigation and is therefore challenging this decision in a court of law in concert with the RRWMB. At present, this lawsuit is on hold, thereby preserving WRWD's position to seek relief through court action. The RRWMB feels the decision is of national significance. In 1997, the legislature appropriated \$100,000 to engage a mediation firm to explore the possibility of mediating this issue and others between the RRWMB and the DNR. The firm selected was CDR, of Boulder, CO, and they recently finished the assessment phase of mediation which included interviewing parties from the RRWMB, DNR, and the environmental community. The mediation firm concluded that mediation could, in fact, serve to resolve the issue at hand and recommended the process move forward to the second phase of actual mediation and negotiation.

g.)Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC): Manager Wilkens stated that the district has applied for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 through the Minnesota Recovers Program to study alternatives for the high water problems on Union Lake and Lake Sarah. No word has been received as of yet on the status of the grant.

h.)Kurass Lake: The district received a portion of the bills associated with the lowering of Kurass Lake. At the December meeting, the Board voted to fund up to a maximum of \$5,000 watershed share on an 80% watershed, 20% township split, to include work already performed in an effort to lower the lake two feet to bring it back to its former level. After discussion, the Board decided to issue no funds for the costs incurred to date until easements have been obtained from the landowners involved.

i.)Boundary Change: The Managers agreed to meet with landowners this spring to watch the spring runoff event to determine any modifications that should be made to the current proposed boundary. Jim Larsen presented a map with anticipated, preliminary changes.

j.)Plan Holders: Manager Wilkens stated that on January 20, 1998, he picked up a plan holder at Houston Engineering. The used plan holder will cost approximately \$600.00 compared to that of a new one valued at \$4,700.00. The holder will store all the maps and plans of the District in a more efficient, retrievable manner.

k.)Ring Dike Application: The district presently has one ring dike application from Allen Stromstad. Manager Wilkens added that state cost sharing funds may be available to interested parties. The State of Minnesota at its August 19, 1997 special session, provided \$900,000 in grant money for the construction of individual farmstead ring dikes within the Minnesota portion of the Red River Valley. These state funds were contingent upon 50% cost sharing with local governmental units. The total estimated maximum cost of the ring dike program was therefore established at \$1,800,000. Currently, watershed districts within the Red River Valley administer the program and develop the local cost share of \$900,000. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will administer and disperse the state portion. The cost share percentage is apportioned as

Page 4 February 3, 1998. Sand Hill River Watershed District Board Meeting Minutes follows: 50% State, 25% RRWMB, 12.5% local watershed district and 12.5% landowner. Construction of the average ring dike has been costing between \$25,000 and \$30,000. Interested individuals should contact the district to obtain further information as it is anticipated that additional funds will be made available in 1998.

7. Permits:

a.) No permits came before the Board this month for review.

8. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 1998. As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Jimmie Krogstad, Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant