

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

May 12, 1998 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the May 12, 1998 meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Dan Wilkens, Ervin Vigness, Harold Vig, and Jim Krogstad. Others in attendance were Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, Jim Larsen-SHRWD Engineer, Jim Todahl, Roger Ulseth, Ray Christian, Walter Johnson, Wayne Goeken, and Rudy Applequist.
2. **Agenda Review:** No changes to the agenda were noted.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Manager Krogstad to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular Board meeting held on April 7, 1998 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Vigness, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Manager Vigness inquired about funding assistance for the construction of ring dikes. Manager Wilkens explained that state funds of \$1.5 million were made available through the bonding bill passed in the recent legislative session. These funds are contingent upon 50% cost sharing with local governmental units. The RRWMB voted to fund an amount up to half of the local share up to \$750,000 with the recommended cost share percentage apportionment as follows: 50% State, 25% RRWMB, 12.5% landowner, and 12.5% local watershed district. Manager Krogstad suggested that a portion of the checking account be invested in a certificate of deposit. The board concurred that Naomi Jagol should canvass area banks to obtain rate quotes. Motion by Manager Vigness to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.

Payment Made to--Memo	Amount
Naomi Jagol--sec. services & exp. 4/1-4/15 (\$782.97), 4/16-4/30 (\$1,256.87)	\$2,039.84
Roger Hanson--meetings & expenses	180.74
Jimmie Krogstad--meetings & expenses	57.29
Harold Vig--meetings & expenses	141.58
Ervin Vigness--meetings & expenses	174.08
Dan Wilkens--meetings & expenses	990.01
Al & Laura's--Supplies	26.21
American Linen--Rental agreement	13.20
First State Bank of Fertile--Soc. Sec./Med. deposit	590.68
First State Insurance Agency--Commercial Property Insurance	547.00
The Fertile Journal--Meeting notice	2.88
Fertile Bakery--Meeting expense	23.10
Garden Valley Telephone Co.--May phone bill	88.77
Houston Engineering, Inc.--Meetings & Special Meetings, Overall Plan, Project #11-Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion, & Project #12-Co. Ditches 98 & 148	3,551.07
Mac's Cafe--Meeting expense	4.45
Mahnomen County Auditor--Beaver Damage Control Program	13.50
MCI Telecommunications--Long Distance charges	80.78
Northern Paving--Project #11-Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion, Project #13-Reis-Scandia, & Sand Hill Ditch	2,640.00
Northwest Minnesota Viewer's Association--Annual Dues	300.00
Otter Tail Power Co.--May billing	137.12
Polk County Highway Department--1-30" Flapgate, Sand Hill Ditch	658.17
Red River Watershed Management Board--Tax Levy Reimbursement	737.05
Tony Dorn, Inc.—Photocopier (\$6,899.00), Maintenance (3/11, 3/25, & 4/29)	7,024.58
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$20,022.10

5. Project Reports:

- a. Project #12, Co. Ditches 98 & 148: Roger Ulseth discussed with the board certain areas in Section 17 of Hammond township that need attention. Ulseth explained that on the ridge, there is two feet of dirt that catches snow and keeps the ditch from opening up in the spring. Ulseth added that from the ravine going north into the Project, the culvert is too high and needs to be lowered.

Manager Hanson stated that a tour of the area was conducted and discussion occurred regarding installing a larger culvert in the ravine. Jim Larsen, Houston Engineering, stated that he was uncertain as to the amount of dirt that can be brought down from the east. Larsen further explained that the Project was not designed to maintain a constant level of elevated spoil bank. Ulseth added that water flowed in both directions in the culvert at the ravine this spring. Ulseth noted that wherever a low area existed in the spoil bank, the water would run back into the field.

Larsen stated there are two areas that need to be addressed which include: 1) Leveling the dirt from the spoil bank. 2) What size pipe to put in the ravine. Manager Hanson suggested removing the berm on the ridge to fill in the ravine and also installing a 36" culvert in this location. Larsen agreed and the board concurred with this recommendation. Larsen will review the other low areas in this section and evaluate the options available.

- b. Project #11, Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion: Manager Hanson requested Jim Larsen to contact the contractor to do some minor ditch reshaping on the north/south section on the field side of the ditch. Manager Hanson also stated that the new project provided excellent protection for the City of Beltrami this spring.
- c. Ray Christian/Garfield township, Section 17: Christian discussed with the board the possibility of installing a ditch in this location. Christian stated he has been in contact with Polk County seeking assistance with this matter, however, since the new ditch engineer for the County has resigned he no longer knows who to approach for guidance. Manager Wilkens suggested that Christian could petition for the ditch to be a legal ditch system. Manager Vig stated that if a consensus could be reached by the affected landowners, the District would consider this request. Christian added that he would continue to evaluate alternatives.
- d. Ring Dike/Allan Stromstad: Larsen reported that construction is scheduled to begin in a couple of weeks. The contractor is Ziegler Construction. Larsen explained that the dirt required to form a ring dike is obtained from digging a ditch around the outside of the dike.
- e. Polk County #1 and #51 permits: These permits were approved at the previous monthly board meeting and were presented by Jim Larsen to the board to obtain the necessary signatures.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a.) Polk County Ditch Petition: Jim Todahl, Chairman of the Sand Hill Advisory Committee (SHAC), reviewed a petition prepared by the Sand Hill River WD's attorney regarding a request for Polk County to turn over the maintenance responsibility for the county ditch systems within the Sand Hill River Watershed District to the district.

Ray Christian, Mayor of Fertile, inquired as to who was the current individual in charge of the ditch systems in Polk County. Jim Larsen, Houston Engineering, responded that a new county engineer had been hired by Polk County to replace Blake Carlson, however, the new engineer recently left Polk County to join Houston Engineering's staff.

Hanson inquired of the managers whether the petition prepared met with board approval. The managers agreed the petition included all necessary information. Manager Wilkens inquired what time frame the SHAC needed to circulate the petition to obtain signatures before presenting it to the County Board. Todahl stated that he felt a one-month time frame would be adequate. Discussion was held regarding publishing an informational news release prior to the presentation of the petition to the County Board. Todahl concurred with this recommendation. Ray Christian suggested including the names and phone numbers of the SHAC members in the news release as possible contacts.

- b.)Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB): The second phase of the mediation process between the RRWMB and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) is scheduled to begin on May 27, 1998, at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Members on the RRWMB mediation panel include Don Ogaard-Executive Director, Daniel Wilkens-Sand Hill River WD, Jerome Deal-Bois de Sioux WD, and Vernon Johnson-Red Lake WD.
- c.)River Watch Program: Wayne Goeken, River Watch Coordinator, gave a slide presentation to the Board on the data obtained in 1997 through the River Watch program. The data will serve as a baseline with which to monitor water quality fluctuations that may occur. Goeken reported that overall the water quality of the river was quite good. The pilot project, established in the Sand Hill River Watershed District, is currently expanding to include several schools within the Red Lake Watershed District. Goeken stated that several schools throughout the Red River Valley have expressed an interest in this program. Manager Vig inquired on the possibility of Goeken preparing a display of River Watch information at the Polk County fair. Goeken agreed that he would be available to prepare display information and added that perhaps students participating in the program could volunteer time to spend in the booth. Goeken added that the SHRWD has contributed \$3,000 to the River Watch program thus far which averages to \$1,500 per year for the two years the program has been in existence. The Board discussed providing additional funding for the program. Manager Hanson recommended tabling the issue until a full board could be in attendance to vote. Due to a manager leaving the meeting early for another commitment, a full board was no longer in attendance.
- d.)Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: A meeting is scheduled with several representatives from MPCA-Detroit Lakes and Manager Wilkens and Wayne Goeken, River Watch Coordinator, on Wednesday, May 13, 1998 at the District office. Discussions will include the standardization of water quality programs in the valley and also the potential for MPCA to assist in the promotion of the River Watch program in the Red River Valley.
- e.)Overall Plan: Manager Vig commended Manager Wilkens on the excellent presentation given to the north region of the Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding the 10-year update to the overall plan. The District received notice that the full BWSR board approved the update. Mark Deutschman, Houston Engineering, has requested the board to decide on the desired number of copies to be printed. Deutschman also stated that the board has the option of providing the plan in a format to be included on the District's home page on the Internet. Deutschman added that by making the plan accessible on the Internet, interested individuals would be able to download the plan and thereby saving the District considerable printing costs.

f.)Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Manager Wilkens updated the board on the proposed MOU between watershed districts and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Wilkens explained that in 1995, MnDOT had made a decision not to apply for watershed permits. Several meetings were held with MnDOT in an effort to resolve the permitting issue. When attempts failed to negotiate a settlement, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) proposed legislation that would require MnDOT to comply with watershed districts' rules and regulations which was passed in the 1996 legislative session. During passage of the legislation, it was suggested that a MOU be developed between the two agencies to improve working relations in the future. **Motion** by Manager Vig to approve the MOU and authorize the District to sign, **Seconded** by Manager Vigness, **Carried**.

g.)Carl Gronberg/Climax: Manager Vigness stated he was contacted by this individual regarding sloughing problems he is experiencing on property located along the Sand Hill River. The board discussed possible solutions to alleviate this problem.

h.)Murray Gast/Beltrami: Manager Hanson stated this individual contacted him regarding the installation of a crossing on property located along Project #11-Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion. Manager Wilkens noted that Polk County Highway Department would be responsible for the installation of such a crossing.

7. Permits:

a.) Five permits came before the Board and were approved as follows:

- 1998-06 Michael Skaug & Marvin Skaug – Remove accumulated sediment in Maple Creek in Reis township, Sections 11 & 12.
- 1998-07 Walter Johnson – Clean existing ditch in Bear Park township, Section 6.
- 1998-08 City of Beltrami – Clean existing ditch in Reis township, Section 21.
- 1998-09 Polk County Highway Dept. – CSAH No. 51.
- 1998-10 Polk County Highway Dept. – CSAH No. 1.

8. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, 1998. As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Jimmie Krogstad, Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant