

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 7, 1999 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the December 7, 1999 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Harold Vig, Jimmie Krogstad, and Stuart Christian. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering, Inc., Charles Gustafson, Rudy Applequist, and Randy Hamre.
2. **Agenda Review:** Charles Gustafson requested that discussion regarding the Sand Hill River Watershed District boundaries in Onstad township be added to the agenda.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular Board meeting held on November 9, 1999 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Motion by Manager Krogstad to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Seconded by Manager Christian, Carried.

Wilkens reviewed the monthly bills received. Motion by Manager Brekke to approve and pay bills, Seconded by Manager Christian, Carried. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Project Reports:

- a. Project #15, Ring Dikes: Larsen stated that the application for final payment regarding the Farmstead Ring Dike program has been forwarded to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for reimbursement to the District.

According to the amended Grant Agreement, the DNR agreed to reimburse the District 50% of the total project costs, or \$22,180.44, whichever is less. Since 50% of the total project costs is \$21,082.46 ($\$42,164.92/2$), the reimbursable amount from the DNR would be \$21,082.46 minus the \$15,000.00 received previously, or \$6,082.46. The RRWMB's cost share amount for the project is 25% or \$10,541.23. The remaining 25% of the project costs are shared equally between the District and the landowner.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts: The MAWD meeting was conducted on December 2-4, 1999 in Alexandria, MN. Managing high water, obtaining grant money for water management projects, and erosion control were just some of the topics discussed at the recent meeting.
- b. 17th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference: "*Our Basin Home: Managing Our Society Within Nature*," is the theme of this year's conference scheduled for January 11-13, 2000 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB. Wilkens encouraged the Board members who plan on attending to notify the district office as soon as possible.

- c. The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Annual Watershed Management Conference: Wilkens stated that the conference is scheduled for December 9th and 10th, 1999, at the Best Western Inn in Thief River Falls, MN. All board members and staff were encouraged to attend.
- d. North Boundary Revision: Charles Gustafson and Rudy Applequist, Onstad township officials, discussed revising the north boundary of the Sand Hill River WD. Gustafson stated that the current boundary line runs through his property and he is currently being assessed for the Burnham Creek project of the Red Lake WD, however, his property is actually located in the Sand Hill River WD. Manager Hanson responded that the boundary line could be revised, however, once a landowner is assessed into a project it is very difficult to change their assessment. Following discussion, the board members agreed that the District should meet this winter with the various town boards to discuss potential revisions to the north boundary. The current north boundary was established by the District court in the 1940's and needs to be updated.
- e. Polk County #14-Scandia Church: Randy Hamre discussed with the Board the water problems that occur in the Scandia Church area. Hamre stated that the spring runoff seems to be increasing each year and noted that buildings on his property are being threatened. Manager Hanson inquired whether Hamre had considered constructing a ring dike around his farmstead. Manager Hanson explained that the District has an excellent ring dike program available. Hamre responded that he felt opening up a downstream culvert could alleviate the problem. Manager Hanson stated that a permit was issued on October 16, 1984 to block the culvert. Hanson further noted that several landowners and their attorneys were involved, at which time everyone involved agreed that the culvert should be plugged. Wilkens stated that the District has a policy to prevent, wherever possible, water running across farmland by keeping it confined to grass waterways, such as township and county ditches. Wilkens added that it is also a District policy to direct water into the Sand Hill Ditch wherever possible. Wilkens stated that by plugging the culvert and diverting the water north to the Sand Hill River, the District accomplished both of these longstanding goals. Wilkens noted that keeping the culvert plugged has worked well for many years. Manager Hanson referred to Permit #1999-34 approving Hamre to construct a ditch east of his building site directing water north to the Sand Hill River. Manager Hanson stated that this would substantially reduce water which was previously flowing west to County Road #14. Manager Hanson stated that the District would review the problem area prior to the next board meeting.
- f. New Phone System: Wilkens stated that several individuals have stated that it is difficult to reach the staff of the District with the current phone system. He explained that currently there is one phone line for the office, and one phone line shared for both the fax machine and the Internet. He stated that he had visited with Garden Valley Telephone Company, with which the District leases the current phone system, regarding various options. Manager Hanson requested that a proposal be presented at the next board meeting regarding the various options available.
- g. Office furniture: A bid was distributed for the purchase of a new office chair from Gaffaney's. Following discussion, the board approved the purchase of a new chair. **Motion** by Manager Christian to approve the purchase of a new office chair, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
- h. River Clean-up: Wilkens stated that snags needed to be removed by Harvey Helgaas' and Mickey Scott's along the Sand Hill River. Wilkens noted that he would visit with an individual regarding the specific areas that needed to be cleaned.

- i. Polk County Hwy #41 Re-build: Wilkens stated that should the landowners desire a project to be built in conjunction with the re-build of Polk County #41, the planning should be done during the winter months. Manager Hanson suggested that Wilkens should contact those individuals that volunteered to participate with the committees developed during 1998 and inquired whether they would be interested in scheduling a meeting in January.

7. Permits:

- a. Four permits came before the Board for review and were approved as follows:
 - 1999-34 Randy Hamre – Clean existing ditch and install a culvert in Scandia township, Section 23.
 - 1999-35 Roger Tollefson – Install culvert in Scandia township, Section 10.
 - 1999-36 Dwain Tollefson – Install culvert in Hammond township, Section 25.
 - 1999-37 Bruce Stromstad – Clean existing ditch in Onstad township, Section 31.

- 8. Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 4, 2000. As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant