

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
December 5, 2000 Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the December 5, 2000 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, Gordon Sonstelie, and Harold Vig. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, and Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering.
2. **Agenda Review:** No additional items were added to the agenda.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting held on November 6, 2000 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens distributed the Treasurer's report. Motion by Manager Vig to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Seconded by Manager Brekke, Carried.

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

5. Project Reports:

- a. Randy Hamre Ring Dike: Larsen stated that the project is complete except for the dormant seeding which would be done by the contractor next spring. He noted that he had researched a question of the township regarding the width of the road on the ring dike. He concluded that the top width of the ring dike portion of the road is wider than the rest of the road in this area. Manager Hanson stated that he would discuss these findings with the Scandia Township board.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a. Project Team Report (Surveying): Larsen explained that the surveying crew would try to survey the Texas crossing and the four drop structures in the upcoming week. They will use a small boat and drill through the ice where necessary to obtain the needed information.
- b. Randy Hamre/Hydraulic Study: Larsen explained that he continues to analyze the data to establish culvert sizes at various locations.
- c. Polk County #41 rebuild: The board requested an update on the project. Wilkens reported that at the last steering committee meeting, the participants decided that the main issue remaining was to obtain information on the legal aspects of the project. At that time, members from the county board agreed to schedule a meeting with the steering committee and Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan law firm, to assist in answering the questions regarding the continued development of the project. To date, this meeting has not yet been scheduled. Wilkens stated that at the last meeting he attended with the Polk County commissioners, he updated the county board on the information developed by the engineering firm as to the possible costs associated with the construction of the project. An estimate of \$400,000 was developed which included the purchase of extra right-of-way, moving power lines, providing the legal and engineering, repairing the erosion at the downstream end of the project, and constructing the diversion system at the upper end of the project. Wilkens estimated that the project area includes approximately 60

square miles not including the Maple Creek portion. He explained that dividing the costs by the project area would equal a cost of

approximately \$10.41 per acre. He noted that should the 15 square mile Maple Creek area be included in the project area, the average cost would decrease to approximately \$8.33 per acre.

Larsen noted that Rich Sanders, Polk County engineer, stated that he would like to receive a petition prior to next spring should the landowners desire the project to be constructed in conjunction with the road rebuild. He stated that some of the legal questions of the steering committee included whether the county could sign the petition on behalf of the landowners to eliminate the bond requirement, and how much work could the county do on the ditch system while rebuilding the road system without having a petition.

Following discussion, the board determined that constructing the project would be the most cost effective opportunity to establish a major artery for water flow in this area. Currently, the Norman-Polk Project at the south boundary of the District and the Sand Hill Ditch in the middle of the District have been constructed but no significant projects have been constructed at the north boundary. The proposed project would offer a major improvement in the northern portion of the District presently and into the future. Manager Hanson stated that the project should be considered part of a complete package of water management in the District and also that the District should consider sponsoring a meeting to answer the legal questions. Manager Sonsteli stated that if the District sponsors a meeting to follow up on the legal aspects of the project and it does not progress, then at least the managers could be satisfied knowing they provided the opportunity and necessary information to the participants involved in decision-making.

- e. Staff Evaluations: Wilkens explained that the performance reviews for the staff positions are scheduled to be conducted in December. The board scheduled staff evaluations for December 12, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting would be a closed meeting.
- f. Polk County Bridge Sizing: The District has been requested to establish the drainage areas for two bridges by the Polk County Highway Department. One bridge is in Liberty Township, Section 36 on the Sand Hill River, while the other bridge is south of Winger. The board requested Larsen to develop this data and forward it to the Polk County Highway Department.
- g. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Convention: Jagol distributed handouts from the convention that she received at the sessions she attended. Manager Vig also reported on the sessions he attended and suggested that the board should consider authorizing a more detailed report for the budget included in each monthly treasurer's report. Following discussion, the board requested the staff to develop a similar report for the board to review at the March meeting.
- h. Sloughing at Beltrami: Wilkens reported that he had met with the Beltrami City Council and they were very concerned with the sloughing by the bridge on Highway #9 south of town. He stated that should the area fail during the spring flood, water would enter the town and cause severe damage. The District engineer had previously estimated a cost of \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the District to cut back the slopes in this area. Wilkens noted that should the banks be repaired with a 4:1 side slope, Glen Gullekson's home would be in the way. Following discussion, the board requested Wilkens to contact Glen Gullekson and discuss this issue to determine whether remedial action could be accomplished. The board determined that no work could be constructed this year except to haul in fill or sandbag this spring if the need arises. Wilkens noted that he discussed the idea of constructing a ring dike around the city with the council should funding become available. He added that the council responded that they did not feel a dike was necessary at this time.

i. The International Coalition (TIC) and Red River Basin Board Conference: The Conference is scheduled for January 16-18, 2001 at Grand Forks, ND. All board managers and staff were encouraged to attend.

j. **Permits:**

- a. One permit came before the Board for review and was approved as follows:
-2000-46 DuWayne Engelstad/Raymond Baatz – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 22.

8. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2001. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant