

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 6, 2001 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the April 3, 2001 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Gordon Sonstelie, and Harold Vig. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering, Rod Mosher, Wayne Goeken, Molly MacGregor-MPCA, and Lorrie Jerde.
2. **Agenda Review:** No additional items were added to the agenda.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Manager Vig to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on February 6, 2001 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Sonstelie, 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 Sonstelie, 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/Hydraulic Study: Larsen distributed the final report to the board for review. He explained the various design parameters used in the initial calculations and presented a design drawing showing culvert sizes and ditch grades. Larsen explained that he asked Rich Sanders, Polk County Highway Department (PCHD), to review the design parameters used in the calculations. Larsen stated that Sanders agreed with the parameters. Larsen noted his concern about the number of culvert changes needed in size and elevation and also the dirt work involved. Wilkens explained that the county commissioners requested that the District seek a solution to this problem and that they would be open to the recommendations. Wilkens added that the local landowners would need to move the required material. The board suggested that a representative from the PCHD and local landowners be invited to the next board meeting to review the proposal.
- b. Polk County #41 rebuild: Wilkens reported that he contacted Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan law firm, and Warren Strandell, Polk County Commissioner, and scheduled a meeting for March 22, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Climax Community Center with the Polk County Commissioners, Polk County Highway Department, Sand Hill River WD Board of Managers, and interested landowners. The purpose of the meeting is to address the legal questions prior to making a decision on whether or not to proceed with an improvement project. A meeting notice will be forwarded to all interested participants.
- c. County Ditch No. 122: Lorrie Jerde inquired about the length of time a permit is valid. Manager Hanson responded that permits are valid for one year and should the work not be completed during that timeframe, an extension may be requested. Jerde noted that he had applied for a permit last year to construct a ditch west of his farmstead but could not begin last year due to the wet conditions. He stated that he may have to apply for an extension.

Jerde also noted his concern about the restrictor placed in Polk County Ditch No. 122 to control the flows leaving the swamp east of the Jerde farmstead. This system is only 2.5 miles long but has a drop of 100 feet. Wilkens explained that the township would lower the restrictor should it force water to flow north across the Jerde driveway. A major washout had occurred in this area and had been repaired downstream. The board agreed that the restrictor would assist in preventing damages in this area from reoccurring. Wilkens stated that he would monitor this area and, if needed, will contact the township to have it lowered.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a. City of Beltrami: Rod Mosher, City of Beltrami council member, discussed the council's concern about the bank sloughing at the Highway No. 9 bridge. Should this area suffer more damage during a flood event, the water would spill out from the Sand Hill River and flood Beltrami.

Wilkins explained the history of the problem area. As soon as the bank started to slough, the District requested the engineer to analyze the problem and develop a solution. The engineer recommended that the bank be cut back to at least a 4:1 slope thereby taking weight off the bank, which would stop the sloughing. To do this would require moving a residence that is in close proximity. The cost was estimated at \$50,000 for the bank stabilization plus an unknown amount to move the residence. The resident would also need to agree with this option. The cost would probably have to be born by the ditch system. Wilkins stated that he had discussed this option with the resident, and he is agreeable to discussing this option. The ditch system does not have the capability to financially handle a project of this size.

Mosher stated that when the highway bridge was constructed during the 1980's, a temporary crossing was built in this area and that could be part of the reason for the unstable soils in this area. Larsen stated that he would contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to discuss the various possibilities. Should problems occur this spring, temporary measures would need to be taken. The Board of Managers determined that a more permanent solution should continue to be sought. Larsen inquired whether the city had considered constructing a ring dike. Mosher responded that this issue had been discussed, however, the city is not pursuing this option at this time.

- b. River Watch Update: Wayne Goeken conducted an in depth presentation of the previous 6 years of water quality data that was collected as a result of the River Watch program on the Sand Hill River. The program started as a pilot project in the Sand Hill River WD and has now expanded to 18 schools extending as far north as the Canadian border. The program will be conducting a forum involving the Sand Hill River WD schools. Goeken requested funding assistance from the board to help sponsor this event.

Motion to fund the cost of the River Watch Forum lunch by Manager Vig, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli. **Carried.**

- c. 2001 MAWD Legislative Breakfast & Day at the Capitol: The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for March 15-16, 2001 at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN. Managers Hanson, Sonsteli, and Vig along with Administrator Wilkins indicated they plan to attend the meeting.
- d. Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors: The Drainage Inspectors meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2001 at Willmar, MN. Wilkins is the designated drainage inspector for the District and was approved to attend.
- e. Third Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group: The conference is scheduled to be conducted on March 29-30, 2001 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. All managers and staff from all the watershed districts were requested to attend.
- f. Personnel Meeting: The Board of Managers agreed that a personnel meeting would be held in conjunction with the April board meeting.

g. Presentation of Governing Documents: Wilkens stated that Don Ogaard, Executive Director of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), is attending all of the individual watershed district's regular monthly meetings to present the Governing Documents publication of the RRWMB to the individual boards and answer questions that may arise. The board agreed to ask Ogaard to attend the April meeting and make the presentation to the board.

7. **Permits**: Two permits came before the Board for review:

- 2001-01 Polk County Highway Department. Install culvert in Russia township, Section 34. Board approved based on the recommendation of the District engineer.
- 2001-02 Polk County Highway Department. Install culvert in Garden township, Section 32. Board approved based on the recommendation of the District engineer.

8. **Adjournment**: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2001. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant