

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 8, 2002

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the January 8, 2002 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, and Gordon Sonstelie. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby-Administrative Assistant, and Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Agenda Review:** No additional items were added to the agenda.
- 3. Minutes:** Motion by Manager Christian to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on December 4, 2001 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Sonstelie, Carried.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens distributed the Treasurer's report. A Motion by Manager Brekke to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Seconded by Manager Sonstelie, Carried. After board discussion, a Motion was made by Manager Christian to transfer \$10,000 from the Construction fund to the River Clean-up fund and to transfer \$3,809.00 from the construction fund to the Ogaard Imp. Fund which will zero out that account. Seconded by Manager Sonstelie. Carried.

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

5. Jim Larsen's Report

Fish Passage: Jim is still trying to set up a meeting with Luther Aadlund, DNR Fisheries, regarding the amount and size of rock riffles to construct in the erosion area downstream of the drop structures. As soon as an agreement can be reached Jim will develop plans to present to the Project Team.

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: Mike Buerkley, Houston Engineering, has met with Sylvia and Dan on site located 2 miles north and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Beltrami in section 8 of Reis Township. Mike developed two alternatives based on the site and owner objectives. A map was presented to the managers, which provided a detailed description of both options. Option 1 is to build the north dike close to Sylvia's house. This would involve the septic system and drain field. Cost estimate is \$29,000. Option 2 is to use the driveway and extend the north dike out to the road right of way. This option is more expensive but eliminates the problems associated with the septic system and reduces the impacts to the shelterbelt. Cost estimate is \$35,000. Larsen recommends using option 2. Dan will meet with Sylvia and decide which option she would prefer. The Sand Hill River Watershed District will need to find out when the next round of ring dike funding from the State of Minnesota (Flood Damage Reduction) and Red River Watershed Management Board is available before work can progress.

Other Business:

FEMA Appeal: FEMA recently turned down funding of ditch repairs that they previously approved. Their decision will not only affect the current funding but future funding as well. The district has sent in an appeal to that decision and a copy of the letter was given to the Managers. Also given to the managers was a letter from Kurt Deter detailing the strategy to try to reverse this decision. A Motion was made by Manager Brekke to authorize the chairman to sign the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sand Hill River Watershed District, as Drainage Authority for public drainage systems, under Minnesota Statutes 103 E, requests that the Federal Emergency Management Agency reverse and change their recent policy change that denies payment of disaster relief benefits to Public Drainage Authority for the repair of disaster damaged drainage systems as a result of what we, as Drainage Authority,**

believe is a misinterpretation of Minnesota Drainage Law and the Stafford Act. Dated this 8th day of January, 2002. Also included in the motion, that the Sand Hill River Watershed District joined in a unified appeal with other Watershed Districts and Counties with the law firm of Rinke Noonan with a sum of \$2,500 authorized toward the appeal of this decision. **Seconded** by Christian, **Carried**.

River Watch Forum: River Watch will be putting on a program for the students in late February at the Rydell Refuge. Wayne Goeken asked if the Sand Hill WD would sponsor the dinner as we have done in the past. Estimated costs is less than \$300.00. A **Motion** to sponsor the River Watch Forum up to \$300 was made by Manager Brekke, **Seconded** by Sonstelie, **Carried**.

7. Dan's Monthly Report

Project Team: The PT is waiting for the engineering data on the fish passage issue and the feasibility of a holding site in the Maple Creek area.

RRBB: The RRBB met in Grand Forks on December 13, 2001. Board packets were distributed to the managers.

LID: The pump was shut off on the 21st of August, 2001 at 2:00 PM. Union Lake is at OHW. Lake Sarah is currently 2 tenths of a foot above OHW. The LID is still in the process of negotiations with WSN to bring the project to completion. A copy of a letter from Widseth, Smith, & Nolting was given to the Managers.

Mark Hagen Lake Level: Waiting on the DNR OHW team to look at the lake and make a determination as to the OHW mark.

Mark Morvig Lake Level: Dan has been trying to contact Chad Konickson to arrange a meeting to look at the proposed project north of Tea Lake. (No new information)

Bill Brekke's Erosion Site: Board report.

River Clean up: Dennis Habeck is working on the Sand Hill River and other WD projects where needed.

2001 Audit: The audit is scheduled to start on January 29, 2002

RRBB-TIC Conference: Gordon, Dan, and Roger plan on attending January 16,17,18.

Compensation Package: A **Motion** to give Dan a 1.5% increase on his base salary and a \$25 increase on the benefit package effective January 1, 2002 was made by Manager Sonstelie, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

8. Permits: 1 permit came before the Board for review:

-2002-01 Dennis Brekken- Install culvert in SW ¼ of section 28 Hammond Twp. into ditch # 90

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2002. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.