

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

February 5, 2002 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the January 5, 2002 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, Harold Vig, 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 Sonstelie to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on January 8, 2002 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Christian, 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.

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. Jim Larsen's Report

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: A letter was distributed to the managers from Sylvia Hovland which stated her request to proceed with Option 1. Option 1 uses the driveway as part of the dike alignment and has the North dike located adjacent to the highway right of way. This option does not involve relocation of the septic system and has the least affect on the trees. Jim will prepare the necessary documents needed for application for funding and construction in order to be ready as soon as funding becomes available. This project could be completed this summer.

Fish Passage: A meeting was held with Luther Aadlund, DNR Fisheries, Jim Larsen, Houston Engineering, and Dan Wilkens, Sand Hill River Watershed District on January 10, 2002 in Detroit Lakes to discuss solutions to the fish passage and erosion area downstream of the last drop structure on the Sand Hill Ditch. This area has eroded up to 9 feet below grade. Jim distributed information on the four options that Luther requested the district to analyze.

Option 1: Involves putting in four rock riffles downstream of the drop structures. Putting in four rock riffles and bringing them up to original grade would require 4100 cubic yards of rock riprap.

Option 2: Involves putting in nine rock riffles and would require 10,700 cubic yards of rock.

Option 3: Involves putting in 14 rock riffles and would require 14,600 cubic yards of rock.

Option 4: Involves putting in 20 rock riffles, which would require 20,600 cubic yards of rock.

The Texas crossing west of Highway 9 would need to be addressed. Box culverts sized to match the flow in the ditch would solve the problem at the Texas crossing.

The three box culverts at the West Mill would also need to be addressed as they were put in with an 8-foot drop. The culverts would need to be re-laid and rock riffles installed to handle the grade. Larsen has acquired survey information from the Polk County Highway Department to use to develop options to resolve fish passage in this area.

The managers requested that this information be sent to the project team to determine the best alternative and to find funding for the preferred option.

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 Red River Basin Board met in Fargo on January 16, 2002.

LID: The pump was shut off on the 21st of August 2002 at 2:00 PM. Currently Union Lake is 3" above Ordinary High Water (OHW). Lake Sarah is 5 tenths of a foot above OHW. The Lake Improvement District is still in the process of negotiations.

FEMA Appeal: FEMA turned down funding of ditch repairs that they previously approved. The district has sent in an appeal to that decision to FEMA. The district has also sent in the resolution asking FEMA to reverse their decision. Deter has sent us an update on the challenge which is in your packets.

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: The funds that might have been available from this fiscal years ring dike program have already been allocated. We will need to apply for funds from the next round of funding in order to proceed with construction.

River Watch Forum: River Watch will be putting on a program for the students in late February or early March at the Rydell Refuge. The visitors center is currently undergoing remodeling.

Mark Hagen Lake Level: The DNR OHW team has completed their evaluation. They will be completing their report in the near future.

Mark Morvig Lake Level: Chad Konickson and Dan will meet after spring melt to investigate options relating to the north outlet on Tea Lake.

River Clean up: Dennis Habeck has completed work on the Sand Hill Ditch and the Sand Hill River from the end of the Sand Hill ditch to the Red River for this season. If weather and time allow, Dennis will work in other areas of the district as needed.

2001 Audit: The audit was conducted on January 29, 30, and 31, 2002.

Other Business:

Health Insurance: A letter from the RRWMB was discussed regarding a group health plan allowing participants to obtain a lower rate based on group coverage. Board members and district employees who may be interested in checking into group health insurance should contact Naomi Erickson, Associate Director. April will check with Bakke Insurance to see if the Sand Hill managers would qualify for group coverage under the RRWMB. Hanson asked April to find out what the criteria were for continuing coverage after leaving the board.

Construction Fund: The board discussed developing a program to assist the board in locating potential projects. The board agreed to dedicate an amount each year to projects that address flood damage reduction, erosion, and water quality in the Sand Hill River WD. This amount would approximate the annual levy for the construction fund, which is currently in the \$60,000 range. To obtain a list of projects the board requested Dan to send out letters to all citizens and area governmental units on our mailing list and ask their assistance in developing a list of potential projects. This list would then be prioritized and the highest-ranking projects would be constructed as funding allowed. This letter would be sent out with the next meeting notice in time for township annual meetings. Advertising in local papers should also be done.

Ditch Systems: The board would like more information on the law passed last year which allows outside funds being spent on ditch systems.

8. Permits: No new permits came before the board.

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

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant