

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

May 7, 2002 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the May 7, 2002 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Harold Vig, 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 Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on April 2, 2002 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 Vig, Carried.

Motion was made by Manager Vig 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

Vesledahl Wetland Road Mitigation Project: Larsen had made minimum recommendations as to the areas of the ditch system that need cleaning in the project area. Wilkens met with Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) representatives Bill Best and Brian Dwight and they agreed to clean more than Larsen requested. The ditch will be turned over to the watershed district for maintenance when the project is completed. The better condition the ditch is in when turned over to the district the less maintenance that will be required in the future.

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: Larsen is waiting for approval to proceed with the project. The Red River Watershed Management Board will meet on May 21, 2002 and discuss ring dike funding that will be available for fiscal year 2003. As soon as money becomes available after July 1, 2002 the construction will proceed.

Fish Passage: Larson will send the survey crew from Houston Engineering to finish surveying the West Mill Site to gather information to assist in a design that would be compatible with fish passage. He is currently waiting for recommendations from Thomas Raster – U S Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and Luther Aadlund – Department of Natural Resources (DNR), regarding the amount and location of riffles needed to complete the project.

7. Dan's Monthly Report

Project Team: The Watershed District sent a letter requesting the USACOE to begin conducting the feasibility study. The project team will not meet again until more information is available.

RRBC: The RRBC met in Grand Forks on May 2, 2002 to continue with the current activities and the merger process.

LID: The LID Board has retained an attorney to assist them. No additional new information was brought before the board.

FEMA: Kurt Deter has made an appointment to meet with the board on June 4, 2002 at 8:00 AM to discuss the FEMA appeal. He was scheduled to meet on May 7, 2002 but had to reschedule.

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: When funding becomes available, the construction process will begin.

River Watch Forum: The RW forum was held on April 10, 2002 at the Rydell Refuge.

Mark Morvig / Ronald Coffin Lake Level: Chad Konickson is scheduled to meet with Wilkens and Morvig on Wednesday, May 8 to view the problem area and discuss possible solutions to the Tea Lake outlet.

Mark Hagen Lake Level: Chad Konickson, DNR, reported that the OHW has been established for the lake.

River Clean up: Dennis Habeck has completed work on the Sand Hill River for this season.

Bruce and Kory Stromstad Drainage and Road Report: The permits are available and the removal of trees is scheduled.

8. Other Business:

Polk County Blow Dirt Policy: Wilkens met with Jerry Amiot, Polk County Auditor Treasurer, and Jerry stated that Polk County has taken the position that the entire ditch system pays to clean out blow dirt rather than the individual that furnished the blow dirt paying to remove it.

Vesledahl Mitigation Project, Memorandum of Understanding: A memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Polk County and the Sand Hill River Watershed district was distributed to the managers. The memorandum stated the responsibilities of the Sand Hill River Watershed to the Ditch System (Vesledahl Wetland Road Mitigation Project). A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to authorize Chairman Hanson to sign the memorandum of understanding. **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli. **Carried**

Ditch transfer requests: Wilkens met with Jerry Amiot, Polk County Auditor Treasurer, and discussed ditch 17. This ditch was transferred to the Sand Hill River Watershed District in 1979. There remained a balance of \$345, which will be sent to the Sand Hill River Watershed District. They also discussed the balances remaining in ditches 98 and 148. Jerry suggested that the watershed district send a letter requesting Polk County turn over ditches 98 and 148 to the Sand Hill District so these funds could be transferred to the Sand Hill District. These ditches have undergone an improvement process and are currently under the jurisdiction of the Sand Hill River Watershed District as project number 12. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to authorize the chairman to send a letter to the Polk County Board of Commissioners requesting that ditches 98 and 149 be turned over to the Sand Hill River Watershed District. **Seconded** by Manager Vig. **Carried**.

City of Fertile's water treatment facility: A letter from the City of Fertile was given to the managers regarding the City of Fertile's proposed water treatment facility. The letter requested the Watershed's views and comments regarding the project. The district had no comments.

MAWD Summer Tour: A reminder to the board regarding the MAWD Summer Tour, which is scheduled for June 27-29. Registration is due June 19.

Potential Projects: Several townships responded to our request for suggestions of potential projects.

Laptop Computer: A **Motion** was made by Manager Vig approving the purchase of a new laptop for the Watershed office. **Seconded** by Manger Brekke. **Carried.**

9. Permits: 3 permits came before the Board for review:

- 2002-03 Kiril K. Kutsev – Install culvert and crossing in SE ¼ of Section 21 Knute Twp. along PC Hwy. 34
- 2002-04 Scandia Twp – Install 2 culverts and 1 field crossing in Section 27 of Scandia Twp.
- 2002-05 Kory Stromstad – Clean existing ditches, construct new ditches, and re-lay culverts in Section 27 and 28 of Scandia Twp.

Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2002. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant