

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
February 11, 2003 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the February 11, 2003 meeting to order at 8 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Robert Brekke and Gordon Sonsteli. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby-Administrative Assistant, Jerry Jacobson – Polk County Commissioner, Wayne Goeken, River Watch Coordinator, and Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** **Motion** was made by Manager Sonsteli to approve the agenda with the addition of a river watch report by Wayne Goeken, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on January 7, 2003 as mailed, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens distributed the Treasurer's report. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**. Swenby informed the managers that check numbers 7679 through 7685 were not approved at the December meeting. She stated the reason for paying prior to approval was to avoid late fees due to the mid-month February board meeting. The managers approved the checks as written.

**Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve and pay bills, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

A bill from Midwest Helicopters was specifically addressed. Wilkens explained that the county had accidentally authorized Midwest Helicopters to spray our ditch. Although we did not request the spraying, Wilkens said it would have needed to be done next year. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to pay the bill and send a letter to the Polk County ditch authority asking them not to authorize spraying of our ditches in the future, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.

**5. Jim Larsen's Report**

**Ronald Baatz Ring Dike:** Larsen confirmed that Ronald and Tammy Baatz have decided to withdraw their request for a ring dike. Larsen asked if he should pursue other farmstead ring dike requests. Concern was expressed that funding may be limited for farmstead ring dikes by the new Governor Pawlenty. The managers agreed to postpone the search for farmstead ring dike applicants until state budget cuts have been made.

**Union Lake Detention:** The Union Lake Detention project was brought before the Project Team. The Project Team suggested bringing this project before the Soil Conservation. The managers feared that with new state budget cuts; the Soil Conservation would not have funding available for a project like this. The managers agreed that funding for this project would be a local effort.

**Garden Slough:** The Project Team has asked for approval from the board to investigate Garden Slough. Larsen said that at this time, surveying the area is unnecessary. By using topographic

maps, Houston Engineering will be able to determine the storage area available. A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonsteli to authorize Houston Engineering to pursue Garden Slough investigation, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

**Polk County # 41 Rebuild:** A meeting was scheduled for today at 1 p.m. but due to the severe weather conditions it was postponed. Larsen will inspect the areas needing surveying prior to the next meeting to see if surveying can be started soon on the areas not already done by the county. Larsen informed the board that Polk County has asked for a recommendation for the bridge waterway area for the crossing on the township road upstream of the outlet of this project. Wilkens distributed a letter stating the county's request to the managers. Larsen explained to the board that the county's request would be met when the project is near completion. Chairman Hanson asked Larsen if he prepared information explaining the \$70,000 bond. Larsen said he has the information available for the meeting.

The county also asked for a hydraulic study across the Sand Hill ditch in Section 30 of Liberty Township located west of Shawstads. The district recently did a study for the county upstream one-mile of this location. Larsen will use that information to prepare a hydraulic study.

## 6. Dan's Monthly Report

**Project Team:** The Project Team did not meet in February but is scheduled to meet on March 11, 2003 at 10:30 a.m. Wilkens reported to the board the Project Team's opinion on Bradley Lake. He said that the DNR Fisheries stated that by adding depth to the lake would not keep fish from dying out. Also, the Project Team did not think that adding water storage to Bradley Lake would prevent flooding on Union Lake because after it fills up the water would continue to drain through. Other complications include a requirement that **all** landowners would need to give permission for a project to raise the lake levels and there would be problems with obtaining a dam safety permit.

Wilkens also distributed an E-mail from Thomas Raster, United States Army Corps of Engineers, (USACOE), regarding the progress on the Section 1135 funding for the Fish Passage.

**Section 17 of Sletten:** Wilkens will meet with Manager Sonsteli in the spring to review the site located in Section 17 of Sletten township.

**RRWMB:** The RRWMB met in Thief River Falls on January 21. Election of officers was held and John Finney was elected President, Farrell Erickson Vice President, Robert Wright Secretary, and Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer. Meeting highlights were given to the managers and reviewed. The next meeting is at the Sand Hill River WD and is schedule for February 18.

**RRBC:** The RRBC will meet in Grand Forks on March 6, 2003.

**LID:** The Sand Hill has had requests from two Law Firms for our notes and minutes of all project team meetings that were held on the LID project.

**Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike:** The Sand Hill has applied for cost reimbursement from the State. We have received cost share from the Red River Watershed Management Board.

**Earl Pederson, Dahl Brothers, and James Dahl Tiling Permit:** We have received a letter from Norman County requesting that the Sand Hill River WD attend the February 19, 2003 Norman County Field Tiling Task Force meeting in Ada. A handout was given to the managers. Wilkens has been asked to attend the meeting.

**U of M Extension Ag Drainage Conference:** An Ag drainage conference is scheduled for February 27, 2003 in Crookston. The managers decided it would be beneficial to attend the conference. Chairman Hanson, Manager Sonstelie, and Wilkens will be attending.

## 7. Other Business:

**Wayne Goeken Sand Hill River Report:** Wayne Goeken, Red River Watershed Management Board Monitoring Coordinator, reviewed preliminary monitoring results from the 2002 sampling season on the Sand Hill River. The heavy rainfall events had a dramatic impact on sampling results with turbidity levels especially being elevated due to the June 9-11<sup>th</sup> heavy rainfalls throughout the District. Turbidity levels on the Sand Hill River in the Climax area on the June 11<sup>th</sup> sampling date were the highest recorded levels for any site in the basin in 2002 and also were the highest of any year since monitoring began in 1995. This is largely due to the timing of the samples being taken near the peak of the runoff from this rainfall event. Thus, while not typical of "average" conditions on the Sand Hill River, it does illustrate the tremendous impact that major rain and runoff events can have on the Sand Hill River and soil being carried downstream. Based on the flow rate and total suspended solid concentration on that date, it is estimated that the Sand Hill River through the Climax area was transporting nearly a ton a minute of soil.

Goeken also noted that there continued to be low dissolved oxygen levels during the summer months between Winger and Rindal with levels dropping below five milligrams per liter on four of the six sample events during the year. Five mg/l is considered a low threshold for a healthy aquatic ecosystem. The low DO in this area could be due to various factors including the low slope of the river through this area, little to no physical mixing, and decomposition of organic matter from neighboring adjacent wetlands. For the upcoming sampling season the RRWMB Monitoring Program intends to monitor more frequently at the U.S. Highway 75 crossing of the Sand Hill River where the USGS flow gage is located. The remaining sites that have been monitored in the past by schools need to be reviewed for ongoing monitoring.

8. **Permits:** No permits were brought before the board.

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2003. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

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April Swenby, Administrative Assistant