

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 4, 2003 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the March 4, 2003 meeting to order at 8 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Stuart Christian and Gordon Sonstelie. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, Dennis Nikolayson - Red Lake Watershed District Manager, Bethany Bolles – EERC, Wayne Goeken – RRWMB, and Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the agenda with the addition of Bethany Bolles' report – Energy and Environmental Research Center. (EERC) UND, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on February 11, 2003 as mailed, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens distributed the Treasurer's report. A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

Motion was made 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

Garden Slough: Larsen reported that using the Quad Maps and using elevation 1180 MSL that approximately 3600 acre-feet of storage could be accomplished. This would amount to around 6" of runoff on approximately 10.9 sq. miles. A couple of roads would need to be raised. Larsen estimated the dam height at 25'. Larsen will present his report to the project team next week. The board suggested that Dan Grunhvd be contacted about sitting on the project team as part of this project.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

Union Sarah: several attorneys seeking information for the lawsuit with the LID VS. Widseth Smith and Nolting/Mark II have contacted the district. Bradley Lake was discussed at the last project team meeting. Issues such as all landowners need to sign before the lake level could be raised, soil type under the road/dam would need to be researched for safety, fisheries did not feel that raising the lake 4 feet would improve the fishery, would the project have an effect on flood damage on Union and Sarah, and how could a project such as this be funded if it proved worthwhile. Nikolayson suggested that Bill Montaque be contacted when we discuss Bradley Lake at a future project team meeting. The project team suggested looking at multiple storage sites in the upper basin for assistance with flood storage. The district should contact Gary Lee and Roland Gagner to discuss this issue further.

Project Team: The Project Team will meet on March 11, 2003 at 10:30 AM. An update report on Bradley Lake, Union Lake Detention, and Section 17 of Sletten was given to the managers.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Fertile on February 18. A handout was given to the managers. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26 at 1 p.m. at the Northland Inn.

RRBFDRWG: Funding and the future of the group were discussed.

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

PC #41: An informational meeting is scheduled for 1:00 PM at the Climax Community Center today.

Sylvia Hovland Ring Dike: The district has applied for cost reimbursement from the State. We have received cost share from the Red River Watershed Management Board. Gary at Red River Coop has also contacted the district about the power poles. Will wait until late spring to make a decision on whether or not to lower them.

Norman County Field Tiling Task Force: The next meeting is at Ada at the Norman County Highway Dept. at 1 p.m. A handout was distributed to the managers.

Beltrami Request for assistance on a ring dike: Nielsville Request for assistance on a ring dike: Wilkens reported that the status of this program is unknown at this time. We will wait and see if money is available at the end of this season. We will need to make application by June 2003. If we are selected, papers would be signed by September 2003 and at that time you can incur expenses to that project.

Bear Park Bridge Inspection Report: A handout was given to the managers and discussion was held. Larsen will contact the Norman County Highway Department and obtain more information for the next board meeting.

Charlie Balstad request to re-establish ditch 133: Charlie asked the district to look into what is involved in re-establishing ditch 133. Protected waters are involved. What are the implications of protected waters in establishing a new ditch?

River Watch Forum: The Sand Hill River Watch Forum is scheduled for March 12, 2003 at 9 AM at the Rydell Refuge.

Minnesota Drainage Inspectors: The annual meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2003 at Wilmar, MN. Starting at 10:00 AM. Wilkens will attend.

Minnesota Viewers Association: Requested membership dues of \$125.00

MAWD Legislative Breakfast March 13: Chairman Hanson, Managers Sonstelie, and Wilkens will be attending.

March Conference: Chairman Hanson, Wilkens, and Managers Sonstelie and Christian will be attending on March 27.

Don Ogaard Retirement Party: A retirement party is scheduled for Don Ogaard, Red River Watershed Management Board on March 27, 2003 at 5:00 PM at the Northland Inn in Crookston. Chairman Hanson, Manager Sonstelie, & Wilkens will be attending.

7. Other Business:

Bethany Bolles – EERC: Bethany Bolles gave a presentation on the waffle plan on behalf of the EERC. The project started last April with \$700,000 from NRCS. She is hoping for \$1,000,000 in funding this year. They are going out to all the watershed districts and explaining what is going on. They are doing modeling for all the districts in fine detail. They are collecting culvert data and will be building a database. Currently their modeling has shown that during the 97 flood that as little as .3" of water stored could have prevented flooding in Wahpeton. They are focusing on springtime events and will be doing an economic analysis of damage due to storage on farmland. Bolles stated that they have two advisory boards. One is Agency people and the other is a citizen's group. Modeling has started on the Wild Rice Watershed District.

Wayne Goeken's report: Wayne Goeken gave a report on the River Watch program for the coming year. Due to the state budget crunch more of the financial support will need to come from the local district if the program is to continue. Goeken gave an estimate of costs associated with the program and how it would be revised to be more efficient. Due to several board members absent the request was tabled until next meeting. Hopefully more information on the state budget would be available at that time.

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, April 1, 2003. As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

Daniel Wilkens, Administrator