

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 2, 2005 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Roger Hanson called the July 5, 2005 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, Gordon Sonstelie and Harold Vig. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering, Brian Gullekson, Jerry Bennett, and Joyce Downs.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve the agenda, **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 July 5, 2005 with minor changes, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens distributed the treasurer's report for the month of July. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to accept the treasurer's report as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

Motion was made by Manager Brekke 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. Engineer's Report:

Ditch # 46: The survey crew is scheduled to begin surveying Ditch # 46 in September. They will continue the process this winter and hope to begin construction in the spring of 2006.

Beltrami Slough: Chairman Hanson informed Woodbury that the river has less than a foot of water passing through the Texas crossing. This is probably the lowest point of the season. Woodbury will inform the contractor of the current river situation in that area.

Ditch # 122: Downs asked if the Managers understood the coulee had a 50 foot drop to the river and she wondered if that would make the project unfeasible. Chairman Hanson told her that it would not make it unfeasible but that factor would have to be taken into consideration in the design of the project. The project is currently still in the "investigation" stages. Hanson said that nothing has been decided and alternatives are still being looked at. The objective of this project is to try to solve the severe erosion problem on ditch # 122. The project has currently been placed on hold.

Downs expressed her concern regarding the removal of trees. Wilkens recollected conversations about the possibility of removing trees should the project go through using the first alternative brought before the board; however, it has not been decided, nor discussed further to remove trees.

Downs asked who would benefit from project. Hanson informed her that the benefit goes to the people who live on ditch # 122 and the people who use the township road.

Downs was given a copy of the second survey taken by Houston Engineering of the elevations of different points in the proposed project area.

Highway # 75: Houston Engineering intends to survey this area this week. Brekke will be available for assistance if needed.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

Watershed Boundary between Russia and Onstad Twp: The Red Lake Watershed District has held a meeting with landowners on their portion of the project. The landowners have agreed to do their portion this fall and have applied for a permit from the Red Lake Watershed District. A meeting will need to be scheduled inviting adjacent landowners to develop a plan of action for the Sand Hill River Watershed District's portion of the project..

Project Team: The project team is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 9.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met on July 19 in Ada. Chairman Hanson attended. The RRWMB meeting packets were distributed to the managers. Hanson suggested that each board member attend at least two RRWMB meetings per year.

RBFDWRWG: The RBFDWRWG met on June 15 in Detroit Lakes.

RRBC: The RRBC will meet on August 3 and 4th in Gimli, MB for a tour and board meeting. Information regarding this tour and meeting was distributed to the managers.

PROJECT 17: A landowner has requested four separate payments for a parcel of land, even though the County Assessors office has only one name listed. Wilkens stated that our attorney directed us to make the payments exactly as listed on the counties tax statements. The managers agreed and suggested we send a letter to the landowner explaining the process.

LID: The LID annual meeting will be held on August 12th at St. Mikes park at 7:30 PM. A meeting notice was given to the managers. Wilkens, Kramka and Gagner are planning to meet to review the interconnect and what can be done to correct it.

Jeff Broadwell: Wilkens sent Broadwell a letter of support. The manager reviewed the letter that was mailed.

Section 15, Hubbard Twp.: Wilkens has not received an update from the Sheriff's office.

Polk County # 46: Petitioners presented a bond at the June meeting. The Sand Hill River Watershed District Board accepted the petition and directed Houston Engineering to proceed with developing the preliminary engineers report.

Abandoned Ditch # 133: Balstad, Wilkens, and Konickson met at the site. Konickson will speak to his superiors regarding this issue. Balstad's largest concern is the protected water issue and what issues could arise if they proceed with a petition to establish a new ditch.

Ditch Spraying: Ditch 17-2 and Projects' 5, 11, 12, and 13 are in the process of being sprayed for cattails.

Manager Compensations: The manager per diem is currently set at \$25 per hour with a maximum daily total of \$55.00 as prescribed by State law. Recent legislation has increased the maximum daily manager compensation to \$75 per day as of August 1, 2005. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to increase the Sand Hill River Watershed District manager compensation to the maximum allowable state rate of \$75, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli **Carried**.

Set Budget Hearing: The budget hearing has been scheduled for September 6, 2005 at 8 a.m.

Web-site- The minutes from 1975 – 1991 are being scanned and typed as needed. The minutes will be uploaded to the Sand Hill River Watershed District web-site. Versdahl has also been hired to type the permits prior to 1990 into a database so they can be searched via the web-site.

Chad Qualley and Brian Fischer of Houston Engineering have recommended that we place the mapping system on hold for viewing, until all permits are entered.

7. Other Business:

Jerry Bennett: Bennett reminded the board that his consulting services could provide an additional alternative for the Sand Hill River Watershed District regarding engineering. His company operates from the city of Gary. He suggested that the managers consider his services for ditch maintenance, surveying or permits needs.

Section 36 Onstad Township: Wilkens distributed a letter from Onstad Township. The township has made demands directing water that are contrary to our rules and state law. The managers agreed to have the watershed district attorney draft a letter to the township board if needed.

Mowing: Chairman Hanson requested reimbursement for mowing thistles on Project #13 (Reis/Scandia). A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke reimbursing Chairman Hanson at the allowable state rate for mowing on Project # 13, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

8. Permits: The following permits were approved:

2005-32– Verna Orendorf – Section 6, Liberty Township – clean existing ditch
 2005-33- Gelene Gullekson – Section 7, Liberty Township – clean existing ditch
 2005-34 – Leona Gullekson – Section 12, Reis Township – clean existing ditch

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at **8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005**. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m., Seconded by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant