

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

November 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Roger Hanson called the November 13, 2007 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, and Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A Motion was made by Manager Vig to approve the agenda, Seconded by Manager Brekke, Carried.
- 3. Minutes:** A Motion was made by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on October 7, 2007 with one minor correction, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A Motion was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for October, Seconded by Manager Sonstelie, Carried.

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

5. Engineer's Report

Project # 20/Polk County # 46: Woodbury presented a pay request for \$97,000 from Zavoral Construction and recommended payment. A Motion was made by Manager Vig approving the pay request, Seconded by Manager Brekke, Carried. A 3% retainage will be held through the winter. Change order amounts were discussed, but final numbers were unavailable.

The field side of the spoil bank along Sharon Lenz's property in section 9 of Reis Township has raised some issue. Gene Billing has a similar issue in section 14 of Reis Township. The temporary easement area has been over excavated in several areas causing ponding of water after storm events. The managers felt it was not appropriate to leave the land in this condition after the project. Mitch Lenz, who farms both of these parcels is agreeable to fix the problem himself and will charge the project at an hourly rate. Lenz has a Versatile tractor and Caterpillar 70 scraper and has done part of the project already. Vig was concerned about the cost. The managers agreed to pay Lenz up to \$125 per hour for his equipment.

Wilkens has been researching the flowing well location in section 18 of Liberty Township. Paul Engelstad did not know exactly where the well was located but thought it was approximately 200 feet at an angle in line with his building site. We need to locate the well and dig it up so the well sealing contractors can bid on sealing the well. Wilkens needs to locate the end of the PVC pipe that drains into the ditch. This involves removing the rocks that were place over the pipe end. Because the pipe is PVC he will need to push a wire into the pipe and then call Garden Valley Telephone Company who has agreed to use there equipment to locate the wire. This hopefully will lead to the well casing.

Project # 17: MN Northern Railroad asked for a review of a couple of railroad bridges on project # 17. Houston Engineering met with Northern Railroad along with Chairman Hanson to review their concerns. The railroad was concerned that during construction of Project # 17, the bridge along Polk County # 41 had been excavated underneath which they feel could contribute to an instability issue. Woodbury explained that our construction plan did not include any work under the bridge and in fact our project turns and heads southeast approximately 100

feet before the bridge. Wilkens has photos of before construction showing the bridge. Hanson and Woodbury could not dispute that a backhoe had been cleaning under the bridge, but Woodbury concurred that it was not our authorization and there was not a change order indicating that that additional work was done.

Woodbury discussed alternatives for the bridge providing the crossing at County Ditch 9. The railroad is concerned that their bridge will have future problems with the amount of water flowing. It appears that the south end has slipped and needs slope flattening and the rip rap repositioned. This will also assist in the water flowing through the bridge. Woodbury suggested doing this work in the spring of 2008.

Woodbury will draft a letter explaining the watershed's position regarding each issue to Minnesota Northern.

The area that Nelson Contracting over excavated in the upper reaches of ditch # 9 is an issue for the county because Nelson's would not sign the waiver stating that they have been paid as a sub-contractor. It was also discovered that Sabrinski Contracting, who was sub-contracted by Nelson's, has also submitted a bill referring to Project # 17 that Nelson's have not paid. Rich Sanders has asked for a position statement from the watershed district which would be a sufficient resource for the county's requirement to be able to pay Kern and Tabery. Kern and Tabery has written us a letter asking us to state our position on the issue. Woodbury has drafted a statement stating the watershed's position and analysis of the situation. The managers reviewed the letter and agreed that Woodbury's statement is accurate.

Texas Crossing: Davidson fixed the southern end of the crossing and has also did work on the northern end. The contractor smoothed the rocks and grouted the area to leave it in a relatively smooth condition, but Woodbury is unsure if it will be sufficient. Woodbury is not ready to prepare a final pay request.

Overall Plan: The overall plan meeting for Region 4 is scheduled for November 14, 2007 at 9:30 at the Fosston Community Center.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Wheaton on Oct 16. The next meeting will be held in Ada on November 20.

Union Lake Improvement District: Eurasian Milfoil topics were discussed. Wilkens was asked by the LID to contact the DNR and arrange contact between the LID and DNR officials to address the issue of pumping next spring. Brian Paradis has been contacted and future meetings are coming up to work on the issue.

PC # 44/Section 35 Onstad: Wilkens has met with the landowners and they have requested more information. Another meeting will be held.

Boundary Issue in Section 23 of Russia Twp: The project is complete. The spoil bank has been leveled and the disturbed areas are dormant seeded.

MAWD: Manager Vig and Manager Sonsteli will represent the district as Delegates, Chairman Hanson will represent us as an Alternate and Wilkens will represent us as the media spokesman. Manager Christian and Manager Brekke will be unable to attend. MAWD resolutions were distributed to the managers for their review.

7. **Permits:** Three permits were brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Vig approving the following permits, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

- 2007 - 22 Donald Dale-Install crossing in section 20 of Godfrey Twp
- 2007 - 23 Joel Stola-Install a crossing in section 32 of Scandia Twp

8. Other Business:

Auditing firm assessment: Dahl, Hatton, Muir and Reese will no longer be able to do our audit due to a death in their organization and resulting realignment. They thanked us for the years working together and recommended Brady Martz out of Grand Forks.

Ditch Levies: The board went over balances and projected needs for all the ditch systems. The balances in project # 12 and the Sand Hill Ditch were low. A **Motion** was made by Manager Vig to send a maintenance levy on project # 12 and the Sand Hill Ditch as presented to Polk County Auditor, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteliie, **Carried.**

- 9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at **8 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2007.** As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Vig to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 a.m., **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried.**

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant