

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

November 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the November 4, 2008 meeting to order at 8:05 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, Roger Hanson and Gordon Sonstelie. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, Julie Espeseth – Union Lake landowner, Jack Erickson – Union Lake landowner, Terry DeMars – Union Lake landowner, Bryan Paradis – Lake Improvement District (LID) Chairman, Union Lake Landowner, and Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** Wilkens informed the board that the LID is planning on attending the meeting. A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve the agenda and add the LID to the meeting agenda, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on October 7, 2008, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **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 Christian to approve and pay bills **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Engineer's Report

Drainage Records Modernization grant proposal: The legislature appropriated \$500,000 last year at the request of the Drainage Work Group to begin to preserve old ditch records and update them to digital applications. The money flowed to BWSR who has recently developed guidelines for the program. The grants are available for all watershed districts and counties who have ditches under their jurisdiction. The application period came after our last meeting with the deadline for application being last week. Wilkens and Woodbury developed a grant application following the guidelines and mailed it in. The BWSR will provide a 50% cost share furnishing an estimated \$13,000 state funds that our district is eligible for. Initially the district will start with a foundation of preserving all our old records and will have the option to build on that. The board agreed to go forward with the grant application.

Project # 17: The railroad has asked Zavoral Construction to wait a week or so before they begin construction on the ditch # 9 project due to needing to keep the railroad open for the critical harvest season.

Overall Plan/Hydrologic Model: Woodbury presented results of the modeling and the effects of Bear Park Dam, Winger Dam and Garden Slough on reducing the peak flood flows on the Red River of the North. The group discussed the options that will be presented at the next project team meeting.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: The next project team is scheduled for December 9th. Woodbury will present the modeling information he has created.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met at MRSRWD in Warren. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

Project # 20/Polk County # 46: The district has applied for reimbursement of State Aid Bridge funds now that project is complete. The district needs to address the flowing well. The managers agreed to raise the berm on ditch # 9 and ask Ray Christian to haul fill for the project.

MAWD: The MAWD sent out the information on providing resolution for the annual meeting and the awards program. Manager Sonsteli and Chairman Vig will be Voting Delegates and Manager Hanson will be the alternate Delegate.

Vesledahl Project: Gary Lee has received funds and has completed mowing thistles. Lee will authorize spraying after the frost. He has received approval and has hired Ricky Miller to clean the remaining ditch. Miller will try to complete the job in the next several weeks.

7. Other Business:

Watershed Benefits: Polk County Commissioner Affeldt spoke at a township officers meeting about watershed activities in the basin. His talk centered on many negative topics relating to watershed districts. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke authorizing Wilkens to attend a County Commissioner meeting to speak to the commissioners about these topics and try to give the commissioners more information about the positive things that the watersheds are doing, **Seconded** by Manager Sonsteli, **Carried**.

First State Bank: A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson allowing the First State Bank of Fertile to use the Sand Hill River Watershed District office as a back up location to conduct business in the event of a disaster or emergency. **Seconded** by, Manager Christian, **Carried**.

Union Lake Pumping/Screen: Paradis presented estimates for the screen along with installation at the pumping station on Union Lake to address the Eurasian Milfoil issue. Paradis asked for financial assistance from the district to purchase and install the required screen. DeMars suggested half the project cost, not to exceed \$125,000, from the district. The group noted that the people of Union Lake pay taxes into the district. To control the milfoil this year, the people of Union Lake have already paid \$38,000. Controlling the weed is going to be an ongoing issue. Currently the people of Union Lake and the LID have maintained the burden of controlling the weed.

Wilkens explained to the present LID members that the district currently has not been asked to take over the control of the pumping operation on Union Lake and it is not currently a watershed project as previously agreed upon.

Manager Christian suggested if the project was turned over to the district that a new assessment area may come out of the viewers report with the possibility of redetermining the benefited area. The upstream area is definitely contributing to the flooding on Union Lake. If the pumping project is turned over to the district, the benefits will be redetermined. Chairman Vig pointed out that the people upstream may not be supportive of the redetermination.

Manager Sonsteli expressed concern about the coming spring runoff because pumping has not been allowed until the milfoil issue is addressed. The water has begun to rise this fall.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to assist the LID with funding the screen project at a 1/3

share of up to a maximum project cost of \$250,000 contingent on the County and LID association matching the district on the installation/purchase of the screen, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

8. **Permits:** Two permits were brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the following permits, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

2008-13 MnDOT: Repair and Relay 10 culverts and Replace 1 culvert along Hwy # 102

2008-14 Craig Engelstad: Clean ditches and move and install a new crossing in the east ½ of section # 2 in Liberty Twp.

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on December 2, 2008. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

Gordon Sonstelie, Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant