

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

July 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the July 7, 2009 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Roger Hanson, Gordon Sonstelie and Stuart Christian. Others in attendance were Gene Billing – landowner, Gerry Bennett – DNR Hydrologist, Ray Christian – landowner, Daniel Wilkens-Administrator and Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Gene Billing's land request, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Sonstelie to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on June 2, 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for June, **Seconded** by Manager Sonstelie, **Carried**.

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

5. Engineer's Report

Ditch # 20: A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to install a ditch plug between Hwy # 9 & the railroad on the south side of Polk County Highway # 51 2 miles North of Beltrami, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

Ring Dikes: Woodbury reviewed three ring dike program options.

1. The original program with the state 50% and Red River Watershed Management Board at 25% along with the local district at 12.5% and landowner 12.5%.
2. The NRCS program, which is 75% cost share, and 25% split between the district and landowner.
3. The Minnesota Recovers program, which is a 50 % state with the RRWMB 25% and split between the district and landowner. Wilkens will contact the cities of Nielsville, Climax and Beltrami to seek their interest in a city ring dike program which is under the Minnesota Recovers Program. The deadline for the NRCS program is July 15th and the Minnesota Recovers program is July 9th.

Fish Passage: Woodbury reviewed the proposed plans and projects a 3.5 million dollar completion cost. Manager Hanson expressed his concern over the cost increase and the redesign of the rip rap structures. Originally the rock structures below the last drop structure were designed to let the water down in one foot increments. They would then fill in upstream of the structures with sand and help stabilize the banks. The plans now are for many little rock dams in this same area. Woodbury stated that these plans are what DNR would like to see for fish passage as they are the prime funder. The board asked Woodbury to set up a meeting with Luther Aadland, fish specialist with DNR, for our next board meeting, to see if we can redesign this project to meet both of our needs.

6. Dan's Monthly Report:

Draft Audit: The district reviewed the draft audit. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the audit and sign the representation letter, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Thief River Falls. The next meeting is July 21st at 9:00 AM at the Blue Moose in EGF and will be a joint meeting with the North Dakota Board followed by a tour. Meeting highlights from the previous meeting were given to the managers.

RRBC Commission: The next RRBC meeting is August 6th at the Ramada Inn in GF.

Ditch Improvement in Nielsville area: A bond requirement was set at \$75,000 for the ditch improvement petition. The petition is being distributed for signatures of which currently most have signed. The bond requirement needs to be addressed and then the petition will be brought to the board.

Sand Hill Ditch: The district received a response from EPA on Monday, July 6, 2009. Wilkens will send a letter to the EPA asking for a meeting to present evidence that we believe has been overlooked.

Goldsmith Erosion site: Update

Gene Billing (Project # 20): Gene Billing spoke to the board about the removal of topsoil when the contractor was leveling the spoil. Billing asked that the dirt be put back as it was prior to construction. The managers agreed to hire Mitch Lenz to take dirt from the back slope and fill in the areas that were over excavated as soon as the edible beans are harvested.

Liberty-Onstad Ditch: Upon recent inspection it appears that the ditch needs cleaning. Laser shots showing the water depth in each culvert were distributed. Most are holding a foot to a foot and a half. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve ditch cleaning on Liberty-Onstad ditch, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

7. Other Business:

Public Relations: The managers reviewed possible public relations items. No new information was brought before the board.

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

- 2009-10 James Todahl, install tile, Liberty Twp. – Section 3 & 4
- 2009-11 Hubbard Township, install culvert, Hubbard Twp. – Section 14 & 15
- 2009-12 Craig Engelstad, install culvert, Liberty Twp. – Section 15
- 2009-13 King Township, install culvert and clean ditch, King Twp. – Section 26 & 27
- 2009-14 Paul Swenson, install culvert, Garden Twp. – Section 14 & 15
- 2009-15 Paul Swenson, install culvert, Garden Twp. – Section 14
- 2009-16 Larry Lenex, re-permit for existing MPCA site, Rosebud Twp. - Section 7

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on August 4, 2009. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

Gordon Sonsteli, Secretary

Daniel Wilkens, Administrator