

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Vice-Chairman Roger Hanson called the March 3, 2009 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke and Stuart Christian. Others in attendance were Wayne Goldsmith – Mahnomen County Landowner, Bob Bezek – DNR, Garry Bennett – DNR, Jim Courneya – PCA, Gary Lee – East Polk SWCD, Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, and Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on February 3, 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for February, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **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

Nienville Ditch Improvement: The managers reviewed a 2nd draft of the improvement petition. The district is awaiting final approval from the district's attorney and engineer. The county has scheduled a hearing for April 2nd at 11 AM at UMC Auditorium based on a request from area landowners to turn over several ditch systems in the Nienville area to the watershed district.

Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: The next project team meeting is tentatively planned for April. The Project Team plans to coordinate with the CAC and TAC committees.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in St. Paul. Meeting highlights were given to the managers. The next meeting is in Fertile.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast: Manager Hanson, Chairman Vig, Manager Sonstelie, and Wilkens plan on attending.

RRBC Commission: The RRBC Commission will meet on Thursday, March 5 in Fargo.

6. Other Business:

Wayne Goldsmith: Mr. Goldsmith lives in Section 16 of Mahnomen County – one mile south of the Sand Hill Lake. Goldsmith stated that a few years ago, several wetlands were created and now to date, severe erosion has occurred. Currently the sediment runs into Allen Lake – which is now severely eroded along the shoreline and what used to be a sand bottom is now a mud bottom. The crossing that used to be there has disappeared. The ditches and waterways are being farmed. Goldsmith has spoken with Vig and Neil Freborg, DNR about the situation. Jim Steiments and Nathan Sweep own the land. Wilkens informed him about the programs offered from East Polk SWCD. Goldsmith insists that this water needs to be slowed down.

Gary Lee's jurisdiction is not in Mahnomen County. Lee suggested Goldsmith contact Aaron Neubert – Mahnomen SWCD. Lee will coordinate with the two after Goldsmith contacts Neubert, if needed.

Sand Hill River Restoration: Bennett has spoken to the EPA who is planning on coordinating a conference call to address the restoration plan. Bezek expressed the three main concerns with the area in question: recreate the stream length that was cut off, delineate the wetland impacts and mitigate them if any are found, and fish habitat. Bezek assured the group that the DNR would be very reasonable when addressing the issues and plans to coordinate with the district to come up with an adequate plan to address the areas of concern. Wilkens reminded the group that this is a legal ditch system and as a legal ditch it has an assessed area and costs for the these issues will be need to be assessed to the landowners in the area. Wilkens also explained that the work was done under emergency provisions due to the critical nature of the area relating to overland flooding.

Woodbury presented aerial photos of the area from the present to the year 2003. He also presented a quad map from the 1960's that is based on aerial photos. Woodbury will draft plans to accommodate their three concerns. The DNR said they would need to bill the District for the surveying they were requested to do by the COE. It was suggested to create a package containing the aerial photos and send them to the EPA. Bennett will e-mail the original file to Woodbury that he received from the COE including the survey data.

Gary Lee – 2009 Projects: Lee gave a status report on the current projects pertaining to the previous agreement made with the district.

Rich Johnson: Johnson asked the district to review the outlet at the Sand Hill Lake. Wilkens asked that Bennett and Bezek try to resolve the issue. Bennett will e-mail the fisheries agency again and ask for a response.

Union LID: Gary Bennett is involved with the pumping issue for the Union Lake Improvement District.

Polk County Fair: A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to participate in the Fertile Fair for 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke contribute \$500 to the Amphibian Reptile Discovery Zoo for the youth at the fair, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

SHAC: A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve adding Joey Gieseke and Jessica Voeller to the SHAC, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**. Swenby will coordinate with Chairman Todahl to schedule the upcoming SHAC advisory committee meeting for the end of March or early April.

7. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the following permit, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

2009-04 MN DOT – culvert replacement north of Fertile on Hwy # 32

8. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on April 7, 2009. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

Gordon Sonsteli, Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant