

**SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
June 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the June 1, 2010 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, and Roger Hanson. April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Woodbury-Houston Engineering and Dave Hauff – WD Attorney.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**. A welcome was given to the new manager, Scott Balstad.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on May 4, 2010, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for May, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson 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**

**TMDL:** A TMDL meeting will be held with Ericka Johnson of RMB Labs along with PCA and RLWD at the district office on June 16.

**Ditch 55 (City of Fosston permit):** Dave Hauff reviewed the steps that had occurred. The City of Fosston first requested to abandon the ditch and proposed that to the County. Lee Cariveau, engineer for the project presented the initial petition applied for by the City to the County Commissioners. The initial petition does not state the request for an abandonment. The commissioners approved abandoning the area from Slaughter House Lake through the highway and railroad contingent upon the project being completed. Woodbury and Hauff came to the conclusion that the abandonment has not really happened yet as it was based on a contingency that has not happened. Thus, it is not an issue. Only the improvement process was the issue. Hauff did not agree that their initial steps were taken appropriately. The District has no need to argue the abandonment issue. This is not an issue concerning the district. The question of improvement is the question Hauff has been asked to answer. Woodbury stated there will be an increased flow downstream. Based on the information he has been given, this classifies this project as an improvement project according to state statute.

Balstad questioned the impact downstream. He explained that some landowners downstream are nervous about the speed of the flow with the City's proposed culvert change. Woodbury added that an improvement project would provide an opportunity to review the impact on the downstream landowners and address their concerns.

The City of Fosston is very concerned about the cost of proceeding with an improvement process. They believe that the landowners along the entire ditch are not in favor of proceeding with an improvement project on the entire system. The main part of the improvement that is requested rests with the City. The improvement petition would only involve the area the city wants to improve, not the whole system.

Should the district deny the permit, the City of Fosston would have an opportunity to appeal. The City of Fosston also has an opportunity to proceed with the improvement project process and begin with a petition.

It is the opinion of Hauff and Woodbury that the permit is not applicable at this time. An improvement project is the

route that should be taken. Both Woodbury and Hauff could see definite potential issues downstream in the future if an improvement process is not done. Hauff feared the district would be setting a future precedent that does not comply with the statute.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to deny the permit application, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**. The district’s attorney will draft a letter and send it to Swenby to distribute. (i.e. **2010 – 06: City of Fosston – increase pipe size**)

**6. Dan's Monthly Report**

**RRWMB:** The RRWMB met in Ada, Meeting Highlights were given to the managers.

**RRBC Commission:** The RRBC will be meeting on June 2 with a tour of Devils Lake and June 3 board meeting.

**Ditch Improvement in Nielsville area, Project # 24:** The preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Legion Hall in Nielsville.

**Sand Hill Restoration Project:** Wilkens received a call from Garry Bennett. Wayne Gorski, EPA, claimed we were not sending him the requested data. Bennett informed Gorski that he had received the info in a timely manner with the info sent to him at the same time. It was discovered that the info was sent to Gorski’s coworker as requested and he has been on vacation for the past two weeks so it is likely sitting on his desk.

**LID:** The pump screen was put in place and ready to go on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The gage at Climax was 6.49 feet. Bryan Paradis had contacted Garry Bennett, regional hydrologist for DNR. They were flushing the system and were ready to start the pumping operation. When they get this done in the next few weeks, Bryan would like to meet to begin the process of turning the project over to the watershed district.

**Ring Dikes:** Bid openings were held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May at Houston Engineering.

	Rodney Spokely	Jason Voeller	Jeff Voeller
Custom Earth, Inc.	\$34,767.85	\$21,960.20	\$15,534.90
Balgaard Trucking, LLC	\$35,839.50	\$26,964.20	\$19,484.00
Roger Hennen	\$36912.00	\$23,354.00	\$18,853.00
Nanik Construction	\$41,174.75	\$26,321.82	\$20,545.34
Gordon Construction, Inc.	\$42,212.50	\$29,650.00	\$21,379.00
All Seasons Contracting, Inc	\$46,047.00	\$27,715.50	\$19,954.00
Bohlman Trenching Service	\$47,087.44	\$30,308.40	\$26,472.10

Custom Earth was the low bidder on all three projects and were awarded the contract.

Jerry Bentz made a presentation to the City of Climax on May 25<sup>th</sup>. They agreed to move to Step 2.

The Ring Dike Grant Agreements were signed by the landowners, Rodney Spokely, Jeff Voeller and Jason Voeller.

**Mike Wang Crossing:** Mike Wang requested that Wilkens look at a proposed crossing east of Highway # 32 approximately 1100 feet on the north side of Polk County # 12. The crossing is on a sand ridge. No culvert is required by the watershed district.

**7. Other Business:**

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

**Secretary Position:** A **Motion** was made to appoint Manager Balstad as the new secretary by Manager Brekke, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

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

**2010 – 07:** Mike Wang – Build driveway to property – Section 16 Garfield Twp.

**2010 – 08:** Norman County Highway Department - Replace existing Culvert – Section 23/26 Bear Park Township

**2010 – 09:** Paul Burd – extend culvert – Polk County, Section 15 Hubbard Township

**2010 – 10:** Joyce Voxland – clean existing ditch – Section 31 Hammond Township

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on July 6, 2010. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant