

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** Vice-Chairman Harold Vig called the March 2, 2010 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke and Roger Hanson. Others in attendance were Mick Alm – Norman County Engineer, Nate Dalager – HDR Engineering, Mike Wyatt – CORP of Engineers, Phillip Swenson – Landowner, Jim Ziegler and Cary Hernandez – MPCA, Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, 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 Hanson, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on February 2, 2010, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for February, **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.

Engineer's Report

Garden Slough: Woodbury presented a proposed purpose and need statement to meet the Corps of Engineers concurrence Point Number 1. This will be presented to the project team next week. Swenby will be sending out the invitation for the Project Team meeting today. Woodbury will send the attachment of the proposed purpose and need statement to all project team members so they can review it prior to the meeting.

Dan's Monthly Report:

Project Team: The Project Team is scheduled to meet March 9th at 10:30 am. We will be looking at the work Woodbury and Aanenson have done and try to finalize the Purpose and Need Statement with the COE.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Fertile. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

RRBC Commission: The RRBC will be meeting on March 4 in Fargo at the Ramada Inn.

Ditch Improvement in Nielsville area: The district is preparing for a preliminary hearing in April. The official hearing date will be set at the regular monthly board meeting in April.

Sand Hill Ditch: Garry Bennett was notified by EPA in November that the proposal submitted to DNR by the watershed district will be accepted. EPA will send a letter to the district. As of the date of this meeting, a letter had not been received.

Ring Dikes: The district has received the signed grant agreement.

Project # 20: The district is awaiting spring so final earth work and seeding can be accomplished.

Drainage Records Modernization Grant: BWSR has received a signed grant agreement and the work plan and budget. We have received the grant money.

LIDAR Workshop: Wilkens, Hanson, and Vig will attend the Lidar Workshop on March 31, 2010 in Fargo.

Liberty-Onstad Ditch: JC&J Trucking was awarded the bid. The district will wait until spring runoff is done to begin work on the project.

FEMA Mapping: Myron Jesme e-mailed the district an RFP for flood plain mapping in Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties. The project will start this summer and should be completed by August 31, 2012. The firm has 30 months to complete the project.

Advisory Committee Meeting: The County Board will be making the appointment at their April 6th meeting. We have tentatively set the Advisory Committee meeting for the morning of March 29th at 8:00 am at the Sand Hill Supper Club. Breakfast will be served. Manager Stuart Christian's term is up this year.

7. Other Business:

Public Relations: The managers reviewed possible public relations items. No new information was brought before the board. A newspaper article highlighting an award for the Sand Hill River Watershed District was given to the managers.

Garden Slough / Mick Alm: Alm referred to the permit submitted by Les Krogstad. Alm stated his involvement with the permit and stated his position. He helped with the engineering and had designed the weir to address the frequent flooding concerns Les Krogstad had. The weir would only help with small storm events. Phillip Swenson questioned the idea of the request not holding back enough water. The board questioned what the COE and DNR would have to say. This permit request will be held until the project team meeting to get more input.

Paychecks: Treasurer Stuart Christian, third signee on the District Paychecks is on vacation. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to authorize Wilkens and/or Swenby to be a second signature on their paychecks dated February 28, 2010, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

CORP of Engineers: Mike Wyatt highlighted Section 1135 projects in regards to the Sand Hill Restoration Project (I.E. Fish Passage) as an ecosystem restoration project. An ecosystem restoration project is based on costs per habitat units. To justify a Federal project, the overall number of habitat units created must be maximized. The USACE will provide the project design/technical information, construction contract/management and cost share at 75%. The district is responsible for the 25% cost share, lands and easements necessary, and to obtain the state and local permits necessary for the project. The COE had previously done the above but when the funding needed to be put in place there were no funds available. The COE feels that after the initial part of this project those funds will be available. They were asking the district to give them the go ahead to start the initial phase which is no cost to the district.

Because the DNR has initiated funding for the Texas Crossing and West Mill, it would be the responsibility of the District to seek their approval to proceed along this new route, especially if the design of the project will change. Dalager assured the district that the engineering firm will coordinate with the state, the District, and the USACOE to develop a plan that will suit all of their needs. There was no commitment for the initial work at this time.

There are also bank stabilization issues to consider. It was suggested that two projects be developed separately, as the USACOE cannot help with those issues.

Wilkens will coordinate a meeting with the USACOE, HDR Engineer, Houston Engineering, and DNR to develop a plan to proceed.

MPCA: Ziegler and Hernanson, MPCA, highlighted a presentation focused on TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load – maximum amount of pollution in a body of water). Waters are considered to be impaired if more than 10 percent of the number of samples taken exceed the standard for a given pollutant. The TMDL's process is as follows: They assess the state's waters, list those that do not meet the CWA standards, identify sources and

reductions needed, and implement restoration activities.

Reduced storm water BMP requirements for construction activities with potential to impact impaired waters and funding for dual benefit projects (restorative/FDR) are easier to access are among the benefits of a completed TMDL.

Hernanson introduced The Watershed Approach. Goals of this process highlight the impaired and un-impaired waters. The goal is to use the watershed framework to integrate/coordinate monitoring, assessment, TMDL studies, storm water, wastewater, feedlots and other efforts to manage water quality within the entire watershed. It integrates the TMDL process with non-degradation planning to also protect un-impaired waters. The process for the Watershed Approach is as follows: Develop a description of the existing Watershed conditions, determine additional monitoring/sampling needs, perform additional monitoring/sampling, model the watershed, conduct a Watershed-wide, multi-parameter TMDL study and set pollutant load allocations for sub watersheds, and prepare and finalize TMDL Studies (impaired reaches) and Non-degradation Plans (un-impaired reaches).

MPCA currently has a contract pending with EERC to conduct the SWAT Model for the Watershed. They will conduct intensive watershed monitoring in 2011. MPCA has \$150,000 available for the project through June 30, 2013. On July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, another \$100,000 will be available.

MPCA asked the District if they were interested in participating in the process and/or taking the lead role in the process. The District was given the option to complete the work in-house or hire a contractor. Ziegler emphasized the benefits of coordinating with our engineers in the process. The study will be done regardless of the district's participation. Houston Engineering will bill the District and MPCA will reimburse the Watershed.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to coordinate with MPCA and Houston Engineering to complete The Watershed Approach, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, Carried.

8. Permits: The following two new permits were brought before the board.

2010 – 01: Scott Balstad, install tile, Polk County – Sletten Township, Section # 27

2010 – 02: Richard Balstad, install tile, Polk County – Rosebud Township, Section 20

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on March 2, 2010. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Gordon Sonsteli, Secretary

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant