

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
August 2, 2011 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the August 2, 2011 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Bill Brekke, Stuart Christian, and Roger Hanson. Staff members present were Daniel Wilkens – Administrator. Others in attendance were Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Eddie Bernhardson – Viewer, Edwin Johnson– Viewer, Arvid Thompson – Viewer, Neal Pederson - landowner, and Joyce Downs - landowner.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the minutes from July 12 with one correction, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for July, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad 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

Project # 24: Viewers report is completed. We need to accept the viewers report and set a hearing date, time, and place. The engineers report shows a cost estimate of \$2.6 million with around 10,000 acres in the project area. If interest stays around 5% and the costs stay at the engineer's estimate it would work out to about \$21.20 per acre per year for 20 years. The viewers estimated that this works out to 1 to 4 bushels of wheat, depending on the price, per acre per year. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to accept the viewers report and set the hearing date for 10:00 am on Monday, September 12, 2011 at the Nielsville Legion Hall, **Seconded** by Manager Christian. **Carried**. Woodbury suggested we look at advertising for bids to open at our October 4, 2011 board meeting; Wilkens will contact Dave Hauff to see what he suggests.

Viewers: Eddie Bernhardson stated that the viewers took their oath of office on June 23, 2011. They toured the project area on June 29, 2011. They used Lidar data to help establish the boundary areas. Bernhardson went through the viewers report explaining how they arrived at the benefits and damages numbers. There had been only one recent sale in the project area and that land had sold for around \$2,800-\$2,900 dollars per acre. They set the damage rate at \$3,000. They set the temporary ROW at \$300 per acre for the two year period. (\$150 dollars per year for two years). They also set benefits for Township, County, and State highways and railroads.

City Ring Dikes: Both of the city ring dikes are in Phase II. The bonding bill passed the legislative session so we are moving forward towards construction next year.

Ditch # 55: Blake Carlson reported that the final engineers report has not been submitted to the DNR and BWSR as of Monday evening. Carlson reported that he intends to get it sent by Wednesday of this week. By doing the modeling he has found an area that will have adverse effects from the project. He would like to have an informational meeting with the affected landowners, the City of Fosston, and the watershed district as soon as possible. Wilkens will try to arrange a meeting next week. The board discussed setting a final hearing date. Based

on finalizing the Engineers report and also giving proper notice, a **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad setting the final hearing for September 12, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Fosston Embassy Community Center, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

Boundary Change: BWSR has not received any comments on the proposed boundary change. Brian Dwight has recommended that no hearing be held and that the notice of filing statute be used. If all goes well the boundary change will come before the BWSR full board on their August 23, 2011 meeting. If approved we will be able to contact our county auditors and have them make the necessary changes for the 2012 levy.

Project # 17 Slide: A slide has occurred 500 feet west of Highway # 9 on the south side of the ditch along PC # 41. Woodbury thought that good soils are in this area. We will need to cut out the slide and repack the ground in layers. Polk County Highway Department built this section of the project. There was a concern at the time of construction that the Highway Department was steepening up the side slopes because of extra dirt to waste in the area. Woodbury suggested that when we do the repair, we take a few survey shots up and down the ditch to see if this in fact true. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to repair the slide and take a few survey shots of the ditch, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

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

RRBC Commission: A RRBC Commission meeting will be held on Thursday August 4, 2011 on the LTFS report.

Sand Hill Ditch: The board approved the bid for \$31,000 to complete the work needed on the EPA project on the SH Ditch. Wilkens contacted Garry Bennett and ask his approval on the EPA portion of the project and the extra erosion control work that needs to be done. Garry Bennett gave his permission to do the extra rip rap work to stabilize the side slopes of the by pass channel and the inlet structure bringing water to the low flow channel by phone and email. The e-mail from Gary Bennett was given to the managers. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian accepting the bid that was tabled last month of \$53,350 from JC&J Construction, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Ditch # 73: No word from Bunes on the cleaning of ditch # 73. The viewers resent copies of their reports to Jerry Amiot. Due to his retirement Wilkens will need to follow up on who is going forward on the redetermination of benefits on the ditch systems they were asked to do.

LID: Wilkens has received an email from attorney Dave Hauff that lays out the statute requirements for a description of the project. It requires naming the 40 acre tracts over which the ditch passes and the names of the landowner of said 40's. Wilkens will attempt to use this method as a project description to complete the petition so we can move forward and complete the project turn over to the district. .

Airport Drainage: It will soon be time to request a grant from the clean water fund for ditch # 122. Brian Dwight and Gary Lee are coordinating this effort.

Drainage Records Modernization Grant: Requests for reimbursements have been submitted.

Berhow Property/Liberty Onstad Ditch: Last month the board approved proceeding to acquire the Berhow property. The board discussed what their plans are for the property. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson that upon ownership of the property, the district make it a part of the Liberty Onstad Ditch project (the outlet/drop

structure and most of the property is already part of the ditch system), **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. Manager Balstad voted Nay. He is opposed to the district owning property.

Building Repairs: Wilkens has contacted a contractor for estimate.

Erosion Control Cost Share: Neal Pederson brought in a request for cost share on a sediment basin/grassed waterway project in Bejou Township, section 7.. He requested 25% cost share from the watershed district to help with constructing this project. He was receiving 50% cost share from the NRCS of Mahnommen County and he was providing the 25% remaining. Manager Balstad requested that Wilkens meet with the SWCD's and the NRCS of each individual county and develop a policy for watershed district cost share on erosion control projects. Wilkens wasn't sure of how to approach developing a policy but agreed to work with Manager Balstad to address his concerns. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to table this discussion until next month, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Overall Plan: The comment period ended July 15. We received comments from the DNR and the Department of Ag. The COE said they have some comments and our currently sending them up the chain of command to get approval. We have not received their comments. Brian Dwight is coming after the meeting today to work with Wilkens and Woodbury on addressing the comments that have been received.

7. Other Business:

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

TMDL Billing: Woodbury presented a bill for \$571.50 for work on the TMDL project. Woodbury stated that billing for work done on this project to MPCA is one of the most complicated processes he has ever seen. He gave us the information that is needed to send to MPCA to receive reimbursement. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to include this bill in the bills to be paid, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

8. Permits:

Three permits were brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the following permits, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

2011-18 - Pederson Brothers Farms, Bejou Twp. Section 7, Install tile, erosion control structure and water retention area.

2011-19 - Polk County Hwy Dept., Garfield Twp. Install Culvert

2011-20 - Robert Rude, Scandia Twp. Section 9, clean existing ditch

9. Adjournment:

The next meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Daniel Wilkens, Administrator

Scott Balstad, Secretary