

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
February 1, 2011 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Vice Chairman Roger Hanson called the February 1, 2011 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Bill Brekke, and Stuart Christian. Daniel Wilkens – Administrator, April Swenby – Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Woodbury - Houston Engineering. Others in attendance were Brian Dwight – BWSR, Joyce Downs and Bill Downs - Landowners.
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 Brekke to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular board meeting conducted on January 4, 2011, **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for January, **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. A **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to renew the district's membership to Minnesota Waters, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

The furnace has required fixing three times in the last three months. Swenby will call the company and ask their direction regarding the furnace.

5. Engineer's Report

Project # 24: The EAW comment period continues until February 15. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow in Detroit Lakes with three DNR representatives to give them a better understanding of the project as it relates to the irrigation dam on Manager Brekke's property and the associated wetland issues. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adopt the record of decision (attached) **Seconded** by Manager Christian, **Carried**.

TMDL: PCA is expected to distribute contracts during the month of February.

Sand Hill Restoration: The district needs to acquire proposals from local contractors for work this summer.

Red River Basin Reimbursement: The district has been reimbursed from the RRBC for the 1997 updated modeling.

Boundary: The district met with the Red Lake Watershed District staff, Loren Sanderson, and Houston Engineering personnel, Lawrence Woodbury and Dave Kirkpatrick on January 28th. The adjustments to the boundary map were made. Both districts agreed that using 20 acre tracts instead of 40 acre tracts enhanced the accuracy of the boundary greatly. Brian Dwight will review the statutes, as he felt there was a 40 acre track requirement. Wilkens will contact Polk County to see if 20 acre tracts are feasible. Both districts staff are in agreement with the boundary line that was presented. Woodbury presented the district boundary maps which show the detail of the LIDAR. The new boundary map will be presented to the Red Lake Watershed District Board at their next meeting for approval. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the boundary changes as recommend by Houston Engineering and petition the Board of Water and Soil Resources to make the boundary

change, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Ditch # 122: Gary Lee, SWCD, will pursue funding (using clean water federal funds) for ditch # 122, estimated about \$500,000. Engineering performed now, before grant approval, would not be covered using the grant money. To increase the district's chances of receiving funds, they discussed the option of cost sharing. Because this area is impaired waters, the funding chances are automatically increased. Dwight suggested that the application be applied for through the Sand Hill River Watershed District rather than the SWCD. Dwight suggested listing the City of Fertile as a participant, along with the SWCD. The managers agreed to pursue the grant.

In response to Joyce Downs's questions about the possibility of the project going through their land, Manager Hanson stated, the district is no longer planning on a project on Downs' property. Because of the recent funding possibilities, the district is proposing on taking the water using the existing ditch #122. If this plan should fail, the district will need to revisit the proposal of rerouting this water through Downs' land, along with other alternatives to find a solution to the problem.

Carlson Erosion Site: This is at the Vesledahl Wetland outlet. Gary Lee has suggested applying for grant monies similar to those applied for on Ditch # 122. This is proposed to be about a \$400,000 project. Brian Dwight suggested that the SHRWD apply for this grant, using the SWCD as a participant.

Overall Plan: The managers discussed their involvement with the Overall Plan. Brian Dwight discussed the process of approving the draft. The review period will begin near the end of February. Dwight would like to see the district give a presentation to the FDRWG in the month of April. They continued their discussions from the previous meeting and added their input, along with Brian Dwight and Lawrence Woodbury until late in the day.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

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

RRBC Commission: A RRBC Conference and meeting were held January 18-20 at the Ramada Inn in Fargo.

LID: The district has received a draft petition to turn over the pumping project. Revisions need to be made and our district attorney is reviewing the draft.

Extension of Overall Plan: The district has requested another extension to June 30, 2011. The main item in discussion was the COE purpose and need statement. Woodbury has sent the overall plan for BWSR review. The district will proceed without the COE.

7. Other Business:

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

District Carpet: Carpeting bids were given to the managers. Manager Balstad suggested fixing the roof first. Manager Hanson suggested exploring the possibility of replacing the flat roof with a roof leaning to the west.

City of Fosston: Dave Hauff and John Kolb are coordinating together to resolve the situation. Wilkens will follow up with the attorney's. Manager Balstad would like to see things resolved by spring.

Meeting change: Manager Hanson requested a date change for the next meeting due to a scheduling conflict. A

Motion was made by Manager Brekke to postpone the next meeting date to March 7, 2011, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**. Wilkens will invite Craig Bunes to attend this meeting to discuss the LID pumping project.

Steve Vesledahl letter: Steve Vesledahl would like to do improve drainage on his property which involves cleaning ditches that drain through the Vesledahl wetland. He has contacted MnDOT and they sent him a letter, in your packet that says they see no gain for their purposes. They will allow him to do some drainage if he hires and engineer to design the project and it meets their approval. This would entail a large cost for the landowner. Wilkens will contact Brian Dwight, BWSR, for assistance with this issue.

8. **Permits:** No new permits were brought before the board.
9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on Monday, **March 7, 2011**. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Christian to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 PM, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

Scott Balstad, Secretary