

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
May 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Harold Vig called the May 3, 2011 meeting to order at 8:05 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, and Roger Hanson. Staff members present were Daniel Wilkens – Administrator, and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance were Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Dave Hauff – Anderson and Bottrell, Greg Ranz – Beaver trapper, Joyce Downs and Bill Downs - Landowners.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson 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 April 5, 2011, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the treasurer's report for April, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve and pay bills **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Chairman Vig has requested that Ultima Bank be notified when new investments are purchased. He gave Swenby the contact information.

5. Engineer's Report

Project # 24: A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to appoint Eddy Bernhardson's crew as viewers, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. The meeting with the Nielsville landowners gave direction to Woodbury to design the final details of the project. The DNR is ready to issue the permit when the fee is paid. The board needs to discuss the option of Brekke's buffer strip.

Sand Hill Ditch: The water is not expected to drop low enough to allow a contractor to begin until fall. The district will obtain quotes from local contractors.

Overall Plan: It is expected to be released this week to be reviewed by other area agencies. Henry Van Offelen determined the natural resource enhancements which exist as an appendix in the Overall Plan.

Boundary: Wilkens will meet with Wild Rice to review the boundary change. Woodbury distributed maps and tally sheets to show the Wild Rice managers.

TMDL Study: Woodbury reviewed the study and recommended that the board proceed.

Ditch # 55: The City of Fosston is planning on submitting the engineers report to the DNR commissioners and BWSR. Woodbury has reviewed the engineers report to verify that it meets the law requirements.

The managers discussed the outlet. At the preliminary hearing, Blake Carlson suggested that wetland storage would be used along the way to ensure that the landowners at the bottom will not be burdened. Woodbury suggested verifying with the land owners to be sure that they are open to using their land, if need be, as wetland

storage.

Rich Sanders suggested that MnDOT standards set the culvert sizes for culverts placed under the railroad and highway # 2. Dave Hauff has verified that watershed law over rides MnDOT and that in a judicial/legal ditch system increasing culvert size requires that an improvement project be established. MnDOT is not making a determination as to how it will affect areas downstream and MnDOT culvert requirements is a policy, not a law.

Wilkins will arrange a meeting with Chuck Lucken to address a maintenance agreement.

The preliminary hearing was re-convened at 9 a.m. Minutes from the Ditch #55 meeting are attached here unto the regular monthly meeting minutes for May.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

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

RRBC Commission: A RRBC meeting was not held in April.

Ditch Improvement in Nielsville area, Project # 24: The district will meet with the core group soon and decide on what option to proceed with. When the final project design is completed, the DNR can approve/disprove the permit and give the viewers the ability to know what to view.

LID: The district has received a draft petition to turn over the Pumping project when a project description is obtained. Dave Hauff is working with Kurt Deter to get a complete description of the project.

Drainage Records Modernization Grant: The grant deadline has been extended to June 30th.

Liberty-Onstad Ditch: JC&J Trucking was awarded the bid. Water has never quit running at near full capacity from the Maple Lake area all last summer.

Fish Passage: Tom Grohans has communicated with COE and is confident that they will receive funds for next year's construction season. The DNR is also pursuing the Clean Water Legacy funding. Nate Dalager will be sending the COE his report this week. The COE was in a fiscal problem which delayed this for about 6 months. They may ask the sponsor to be on the conference call when the report is sent to the head of the COE. Mitch Lenz and Tupper Farms need consent for a cultural resource determination at the two staging areas this spring. The staging areas will be where the rocks will be stockpiled.

Permit Data Base: The permit database is on-line and fully functional. Swenby is working with Brian Fisher to implement maintenance on the database.

Ring Dikes: Update meeting Monday evening in Nielsville. Moving ahead with both Nielsville and Climax on stage two.

7. Other Business:

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

Beaver Report: Greg Ranz reported the beaver conditions to the managers. Weather has provided undesirable

conditions. Ranz has had traps stolen. Ranz will continue for one more week. Ranz appreciated the beaver bounty raise.

Riverwatch Camp: A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson authorizing a maximum of \$400 to aid in funding Riverwatch camp for two students from each school, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

Polk County Fair: The Polk County Fair has requested a donation for \$500 from the Watershed board to bring the Reptile Discover Zoo to the Polk County Fair. This request died for lack of a motion. This will be tabled until a full board is present.

A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to participate in the Polk County Fair and have a booth, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

8. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board.

2011-06 – Liberty Township, Install culvert, Section 19/20 – Liberty Township

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8 AM on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

Scott Balstad, Secretary