

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 6, 2013

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called the August 6, 2013 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Bill Brekke, Roger Hanson, and Phillip Swenson. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance were Gary Lee – SWCD and Joyce Downs – Landowner.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of Gary Lee's presentation, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the minutes from July 2, 2013, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the treasurer's report for July, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **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, with the exception of the SWCD balances which are listed for informational purposes only, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Engineer's Report (Langan was absent: Report given by Wilkens)

Reiner Contracting Dispute: Our attorney, managers, engineers and Wilkens met with Reiner Construction at their office in Hutchinson on July 9, 2013. An agreement was not met. The next step will be arbitration if both sides agree.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

Project Team: The project team is currently suspended.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Roseau. Manager Hanson attended. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

RRBC Commission: The RRBC Commission June 5 and 6 tour and board meeting was cancelled.

Project # 24: The district is currently working on fixing the outlet structure, cutting the channel to grade from railroad west, and adding rip rap to some inlet pipes.

LID: Manager Balstad inquired about the easement issue. Neither Wilkens or Chairman Christian was able to attend the LID meeting.

Vesledahl / Morvig: Wilkens, Manager Hanson and Manager Swenson met on August 1, 2013 at McIntosh.

Section 35 Onstad Township: The contractor is working on Project # 24 and will work on Section 35 of Onstad Township after completion of the FEMA work.

Fish Passage: The COE has received funds to finish the update. We sent a new letter of intent on January 31, 2013.

Redetermination of Benefits: The final hearing date was Monday, June 17, 2013 at 1:00 PM at the U of M in Crookston (Bernie Youngquist Auditorium) for the redetermination of six Polk County Ditches in our watershed district. Polk County is now awaiting the completion of the 30 day appeal period which should end on July 17th.

FEMA Grant: The contractors completed the work by the deadline. Completion paperwork has been submitted.

Vesledahl / Morvig: Wilkens met with Brian Dwight and with John Jaschke at the DWG meeting on June 13. Jaschke is researching why the local SWCD was left out of the requested meeting with Morvig. Wilkens has sent an email to Dwight to get Feedback. Dwight asked Dave Weirens to call the district. Weirens called on Monday with two questions and are as follows: Is the area to wet to crop because of the wetland ponds developed on the site? Are there encroachment issues on Vesledahl/MnDOT property? Wilkens explained the districts position on leaving the SWCD and Watershed District out of the negotiations. Weirens understood and said he would send out a letter next week trying to set up a date for all of us to meet to try to settle this issue. The wetland bank is supposed to be 50-50 between BWSR and MnDOT to be used in the NW region.

Rules and Regulations: Wilkens met on July 8th at the RRRRA office with the administrators of area watersheds. Louis Smith along with almost all of the administrators attended. We went over the standard items gathering input and then discussed some of the optional items. Louis Smith will take the input and send out for review.

Futuristic Planning Meeting: Gary Lee did not have new updates about coordination sharing administrative assistants. Their next meeting is scheduled September 12. Manager Balstad will coordinate with the SWCD board to develop a plan for proceeding.

7. Other Business:

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

Gary Lee: Gary Lee reported that the money allotted is encumbered and should be spent this fall. Grants are in the process to cover the potential projects and the SWCD is looking for another \$50,000 commitment from the district. Several projects are on the burner and several grant applications are being planned. A **Motion** by Manager Swenson committing to another \$50,000 cost share as done in the previous years for each of the 2 years of the grant application for the sediment basin project and \$100,000 for the Carlson project grant, if the grants being applied for are successful, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**. Lee will update the managers as he hears about the grant applications approval.

Gary Lee reported that the airport project is not a project that rates highly for grants. We should probably be looking for some other method of funding this project.

The SWCD has a Soil and Water Conservation Cooperator of the Year Award. The Sand Hill River Watershed District was selected for this award and they would like us to attend their annual conference held in Bloomington. The conference is in December. Lee will let the district know more details as the date gets closer.

Wilkens and Kenny Pederson will try to attend the City of Fertile council meeting to discuss a grant application for the erosion project near the Nature Center.

Dale Berhow: Berhow submitted a bill for seeding and mulching in the amount of \$2,350.00 for the FEMA work. Managers approved this invoice and included it with the bills to be paid.

Budget Hearing: The budget hearing was set for September 3, 2013 at 8:30 AM at the district office.

8. **Permits:** Several permits were brought before the board. A **Motion** by Manager Balstad to approve the following two permits, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**. Manager Balstad suggested not signing a permit from the City of Fosston until the culvert size is known.

2013-19 – David Arends – Hubbard Twp., Section 35, install culvert

2013-20 – West Central Ag – Reis Twp., Section 16, Abandon 2- 36 RCP

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at **8:30 AM (NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)** on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 A.M., **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

Bill Brekke, Secretary