

# SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 8, 2013

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called the January 8, 2013 meeting to order at 8:13 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 Jeff Langan – Houston Engineering, Joyce Downs – Landowner, and Bill Downs – Landowner.
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 Hanson to approve the minutes from December 4, 2012, Seconded by Manager Balstad, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A Motion was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for December, 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:** Houston Engineering continues their negotiations with Reiner Construction to finalize payment. Communications have not been received regarding the culvert cost increase he requested and the 30 days response period has been exceeded according to the contract. A verbal claim has been made by Reiner for the salvage and installation of culvert riprap near the outlet. Houston Engineering has asked for a written claim and when one is received an evaluation of the claim will be given to Reiner per contract documents.

**Project Team:** A project team meeting was held. Langan is confident that an excellent hydrologic model is being made and that Bear Park Project is being evaluated appropriately.

**TMDL:** A bill was submitted for TMDL expenditures this month.

**Spokely's Washing Plant:** Langan developed a draft of an operating and maintenance plan and suggested attaching it to the permit. The conditional plan outlines the maximum discharge and duration times. The managers debated the option of reevaluating the plan every 5 or 10 years. Who is going to supervise the permit conditions in the future was discussed. Langan questioned the option of requiring a fence to avoid liability issues and discussed the alternatives of a fence during the cleaning process. Alternatives such as temporary barricades or warning signs vs. a fence were discussed.

**Climax Ring Dike:** All the homes have been purchased and requests to the DNR have been submitted and all are current. The next step will be selling the homes that have been purchased as the owners move out.

## 6. Dan's Monthly Report

**Project Team:** The project team met on December 11, 2012 at 10:30 AM. They put together a subcommittee to determine possible holding sites using Phase 6.

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

**RRBC Commission:** The RRBC Commission conference is scheduled for January 22-24 2013 at the Alerus Center.

**Section 35 Onstad Township:** The district has received a permit from Polk County. Wilkens will work with the landowner. The contractor asked to do the project in the spring.

**Fish Passage:** The COE has received funds to finish the update. They need a new letter of intent in their file. The COE likes to have letters of intent no less than 2 years old. The board agreed to send a new letter of intent so the project can proceed forward. This does not obligate the district in any way at this point.

**Redetermination of Benefits:** Polk County approved using Houston Engineering and our viewers.

**7. Other Business:**

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

**Landowner Concerns:** Phillip Hamre has the option to petition out of project # 24 for future maintenance assessments if he so desires. As the statutes clearly state, once the final hearing is completed and the 30 day appeal period passes the assessments are final.

**Futuristic Planning Meeting:** Wilkens has contacted Jody Horntvedt. Notes from the futuristic planning meeting were given to the managers. A meeting will be scheduled this winter.

**Wetlands Pond:** Manager Balstad was reading the Wild Rice minutes and it shows that the Wild Rice Watershed District requires a permit for implementing a wetlands pond. Manager Balstad suggested that the Sand Hill implement the same policy. Manager Balstad suggested reviewing the Wild Rice's rules and regulations and possibly adopting their policy for Ag wetland banking. He is concerned that a neighbor's property could be affected by seepage.

**8. Permits:** No permits were brought before the board.

**9. Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 P.M., **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.

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April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

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Bill Brekke, Secretary