

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

July 2, 2013

- 1. Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called the July 2, 2013 meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke, Roger Hanson, Phillip Swenson and Scott Balstad. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance were Jeff Langan – Houston Engineering, Danny Skanson – Polk County Fair, Joyce Downs – Landowner, and Bill Downs – Landowner.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
- 3. Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the minutes from June 4, 2013, changing the Manager Balstad to Manager Hanson as the manager who seconded the Motion approving the permits, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the treasurer's report for June, **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried**.

The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve and pay bills, with the exception of the SWCD balances which are listed for informational purposes only, **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: The district is still exploring the possibility of the managers meeting with Reiner Contracting in Hutchinson as they were not willing to meet with the board in Fertile. Manager Christian, Manager Swenson, and Manager Hanson will attend the meeting along with Administrator Wilkens and Attorney Hauff.

Mike Buerkley, will be meeting with JC & J Trucking to handle repair work on the channel west of the railroad track and at the project outlet.

TMDL: Limited work was completed this month.

Climax Ring Dike: A copy of the plans were sent to DNR and BWSR for comments

Nielsville Ring Dike: Jerry Bents will be available in August to present the engineers report to the managers.

Redetermination of benefits: The final hearing date was Monday June 17, 2013 and the County is currently in a comment period for the redetermination of benefits.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

Project Team: The project team is currently suspended.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met in Thief River Falls. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

RRBC Commission: The RRBC Commission met June 5 and 6 for a tour and board meeting.

City of Fosston Project: Swenby and Wilkens are working on putting together the bill.

Section 35 Onstad Township: The district received a permit from Polk County. Wilkens will work on this project 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 1:00pm @ U of M Crookston Bernie Youngquist Auditorium for the redetermination of six Polk County Ditches in our watershed district. The hearings went well. Polk County is now awaiting the completion of the 30 day appeal period which should end on July 17th.

Phase # 6: The district needs to spend some time and effort on using the tool to see what the district is able to accomplish. Wilkens is hopeful that the district should be able to have the data to start locating alternative sites sometime in August.

FEMA Grant: Wilkens is working with Aaron Swenby and Rick Miller to install erosion controls on culvert drops and fix sloughs.

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 and stating there are 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: July 8th is an all-day meeting at the RRRRA office. Louis Smith along with almost all of the administrators will attend.

Futuristic Planning Meeting: Meeting was last held on Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:00 am at the watershed district office. Our committee met with the EPSWCD representatives on 27th of June to talk about April's shared position.

7. Other Business:

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

Polk County Fair Request: Dan Skanson presented a formal thank you to the managers for their contribution to the Polk County Fair funding request.

8. Permits: Several permits were brought before the board. A **Motion** by Manager Balstad to approve the following permits, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.

- 2013-12 – Mark Lehman – Liberty Twp. Section 3 & 34, Install erosion control structure & construct new ditch
- 2013-13 – TDS Fertilizer – Garfield Twp., Section 20, Construct new approach with culvert
- 2013-14 – Anthony Engelstad – Onstad Twp., Section 32, clean existing ditch and construct new ditch
- 2013-15 – Craig Engelstad – Liberty Twp., Section 14, clean existing ditch
- 2013-16 – Jim Todahl – Liberty Twp., Section 14, clean existing ditch
- 2013-17 – Jim Todahl & Craig Engelstad – Liberty Twp., Section 14, clean existing ditch
- 2013-18 – Mike Skaug – Reis Twp., Section 8, clean existing ditch and install culvert

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at **8 AM** on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 A.M., **Seconded** by Manager Brekke, **Carried.**

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

Bill Brekke, Secretary