

## SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 5, 2013

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called the March 5, 2013 meeting to order at 8:20 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Bill Brekke, and Roger Hanson. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance were Jeff Langan – Houston Engineering, Gary Lee – SWCD, 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 Brekke to approve the minutes from February 5, 2013, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the treasurer's report for February, **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 Hanson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### 5. Engineer's Report

**Project # 24:** Reiner Construction stated that they would not sign the final documents needed to pay them the retainage until their claim for additional compensation is worked out. Dave Hauff is in contact with Reiner's attorney on their request for additional payments.

**Project Team:** Zach Herman of Houston Engineering has been assigned to the Sand Hill River Watershed District to evaluate flood holding sites within the district, funded by the RRWMB. Sites will be prioritized throughout the basin. This model, Expanded Distributed Detention Strategy, will give us the accumulative effect of any project we may want to look at on the Red River. Manager Balstad and Manager Brekke wondered if this process was redundant and questioned whether or not this process had been completed using Phase 6. Wilkens explained that the Phase 6 project is a tool for the district to locate potential sites within our watershed district and gain valuable information as to drainage area, amount of storage, etc. The Distributed Detention Strategy will use the HECRAZ modeling recently completed by the COE to model its effect on the Red River of the North at any point along the system as it flows north into Lake Winnipeg.

**Climax City Ring Dike:** Three homes are vacant and ready for sale currently with another being ready by the end of May. Langan suggested having an open house on April 15, opening the bids the end of April. Manager Brekke suggested allowing the top three bidders an opportunity to raise their bid orally at the May board meeting allowing the taxpayers to get the most for their dollar. It was suggested that bidders will be required to have 10% earnest money in the form of a cashier's check accompany all written bids. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to accept Langan's suggestion, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**. Langan will coordinate with the fourth homeowner to determine if we can show their home at the open house along with the other homes. Each house will require their own bidding specifications depending on out buildings and other variables such as salvage vs. purchase.

The landowner to the Southwest corner of the Climax ring dike has requested \$12,000 for the sale of .8 acres +/- farmland for the proposed outlet to the Climax Ring Dike Project. Manager Balstad and Manager Brekke agreed that the district does not want to be setting precedence. Langan stated this request is not only for the purchase of the land which is currently valued around \$8,000 to \$8,600 per acre based on recent sales in the surrounding area but also adds in \$50 per acre for the damages that are occurring to the parcel by making it smaller than it already is.

Manager Balstad felt strongly that the landowners need to be workable because the ring dike itself is going to increase the value of their existing land. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the payment of \$8,000 per acre + damages for the Climax outlet, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. Manager Balstad voted Nay.

The engineers report for the Climax Ring dike is nearly 75% complete. Within the next month, Houston Engineering will focus on selling the homes, quantify ROW acres and dollars, storm sewer design, homeowner sump collection and discharge final design, and final internal storage calculations and limits.

**Nielsville City Ring Dike:** Local comments were presented to Houston Engineering and those comments/concerns are being drafted into the plan.

**Spokely Sediment Pond:** Spokely's reviewed the operations/maintenance plan for the potato wash plant. Spokely's were in agreement. Langan recommended attaching the plan to our permit for the district records.

## 6. Dan's Monthly Report

**Project Team:** Manager Hanson (78) and Manager Brekke (99) agreed that in all their years of service, the Project Team has been unable to be successful in the Sand Hill River WD and have agreed that the Project Team so far has been "a waste of time and money" with no future to be seen in the project team process. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to stop the Project Team meetings until such time as the State and Federal Agencies agree to move forward in a positive direction. **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. Manager Balstad opposed the motion. Manager Balstad would like to see what Manager Swenson thinks regarding stopping the project team meetings. Manager Balstad asked for reassurance that there would not be ill effects for future funding by stopping the Project Team process at this time.

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

**RRBC Commission:** New board member training will be held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks followed by the board meeting. Materials in board packets.

**IRRB:** The IRRB met following the RRBC conference.

**Watershed Planning Meeting:** Wilkens, Balstad, Christian, Craig Bunes and Myron Jesme will meet on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 10:00 am at the Red Lake Watershed District office with Jody Horntvedt.

**Advisory Committee:** The advisory committee will meet the end of March or early April. Manager Christian is up for re-election and is willing to serve another term.

## 7. Other Business:

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

**Gary Lee:** The SWCD board meets next week and additional projects will be approved. It is estimated that the money allotted will be spent. The SWCD has not requested an additional \$10,000 for 2012/2013 but may be doing so. Gary Lee asked the managers if the next projects in the system come in over budget, will the district be willing to pay the additional cost overrun. Manager Hanson suggested that the district will pay the additional, but would like to see it come out of the next years cost share. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve \$50,000 cost share to East Polk SWCD and \$10,000 to the other area SWCD's for erosion control projects for 2013, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

8. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Brekke to approve the following permit, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

**2013-01:** West Central Ag: Replace Railroad Bridge with wide culvert north of Beltrami to facilitate railcar load out.

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

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April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

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Bill Brekke, Secretary