

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

April 1, 2014

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Christian called the April 1, 2014 meeting to order at 8:15 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad, Roger Hanson and Phillip Swenson. Managers Absent: Bill Brekke. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance were Bill Downs – Landowner and Jeff Langan - Houston Engineering.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson 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 the March 4, 2014 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the treasurer's report for March, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **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

Project # 24: Mediation is scheduled for April 23 at 9:00 am in Minneapolis. Wilkens and Langan are required to attend. Hanson and Swenson will also attend. Langan presented a cost scenario if we go to court. Our attorney asked the board to appoint Wilkens to be able to sign on the board's behalf if an agreement is reached. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad authorizing Wilkens to sign on behalf of the district if an agreement is reached, with the guidance of our board members, attorney and engineer, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**. If a settlement cannot be reached, litigation will begin in June.

Nielsville Ring Dike: The EAW is ready to be submitted to the state and will be done this month.

Climax Ring Dike: Langan is optimistic for funding for Phase II in 2014-2015.

TMDL: The public meeting was held March 28 at the Fertile Community Center at 1:00 pm.

One Watershed/One Plan: The One Watershed/One Plan grant application will be submitted by Gary Lee on behalf of the partners. If the grant is received and we are selected the process could take a couple of years. Wilkens has written a letter requesting support to the Polk County Commissioners. The district will also be submitting a letter of support. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to contribute up to \$5000 to prepare the grant with funding shared with local SWCD's and Counties, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Biannual Budget Report (BBR): Langan will submit a BBR that includes all possible projects the district needs funding for the next several years. BWSR will use these numbers to propose funding requests from the legislature into the future.

5. Dan's Monthly Report

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

RRBC Commission: Next meeting is June 4-5 in Roseau with a tour.

Vesledahl/Morvig: The district is waiting on Vesledahl and Morvig to do the paperwork to clear up the boundary issue. Wilkens met with John Jaschke at the MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Jaschke asked Wilkens to send a letter from the district to BWSR requesting approval to use the ditch maintenance funds BWSR gave us years ago towards establishing a legal ditch system. If BWSR approves the district using these funds for this purpose a legal system would be established that would be able to maintain the ditch system into the future. Wilkens will send off the letter to BWSR.

Fish Passage: The district has signed the Letter of Intent and self-Certification Form with the COE. The DNR is looking for funds to match the COE. The COE has 1.7 million dollars in this biennium available. As soon as DNR comes up with the match the project is a go. The DNR is also looking at an additional proposed 19 drop structures below the west dam to aid in bank stabilization. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson authorizing Wilkens to sign the DNR agreement on behalf of the district, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Legislative Breakfast: Wilkens, Manager Hanson, and Manager Swenson attended the legislative breakfast in St. Paul.

SHAC/Watershed District Planning: The Advisory committee met on Thursday, March 27th at 5:30 pm at the Smokehouse. They recommended that Manager Hanson and Manager Brekke be reappointed to the board for a 3 year term. Wilkens summarized the meeting for the managers.

Envirothon: A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to give \$25 to support the Envirothon, **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

Polk County Fair: A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to participate in the 2014 PC Fair, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Spokely Potato Washing: Wilkens will tour the area and check on the control structure and culvert.

LID Easement: Wilkens will work with our attorney to explore permanent easements for the area.

Building Plans: Manager Hanson reminded the managers that the building is not handicapped accessible. Hanson requested Wilkens work on developing plans to address the current roof issue and the handicap issue and storage needs of the district.

6. Other Business:

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

PC # 41: Manager Swenson was approached by a landowner regarding a slough on Project # 17. Langan and Wilkens toured the site last fall, and they suspect a sand vein may occur in this area that is causing the problem. There are looking at some options to solve this slough.

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

9. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 A.M., **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

Bill Brekke, Secretary