

# SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 1, 2017

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Stuart Christian called August 1, 2017 to meeting to order at 8:00 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were Scott Balstad , JJ Hamre, Roger Hanson and Phillip Swenson. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance Harold Olson – Beaver Control Specialist, Gerald Paulson and Glen Paulson– Bear Park Landowner, Gary Reitmeier – Landowner, Zach Herrmann – Houston Engineering, Bill Downs – Landowner, and Joyce Downs – Landowner.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2017 **Seconded** by Manager Balstad, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the treasurer's report for July, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

The managers reviewed their expense reports and reported on activities for the month. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hamre, to approve and pay bills, excluding 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

Climax Ring Dike: A change order (number 2) was presented to authorize Spruce Valley to perform the required work to patch the asphalt pavement on Highway 220. Spruce Valley intends to use ReitRock as a subcontractor. Manager Balstad questioned if this is a change order or part of the original contract. Jeff Langan was called in to clarify. Langan stated that the original contractor (Taggart Excavating) paved it and it wasn't acceptable to MN DOT standards. The district deducted a negotiated amount from the contractor's payment due to substandard work. This change order reflects the increase amount for the new bid to patch the deficient work. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to approve the change order for \$5,845.10 to proceed with the patching of 220, **Seconded**, by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.

There are some drainage concerns at the outlet along Highway 220. An investigation report was completed. Wilkens will tour the area with the engineer and report back to the board next month.

Rock Riffles: Lessard Sams requested some contractual changes, which held up the survey that was scheduled.

BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant Opportunities: Herrmann presented five options for grant opportunities, but the manager agreed that some of the projects presented would not be great candidates. The managers felt Ray Nelson's report of some erosion along the bank near his place and the Nature Center area would be good candidates for grant opportunities to apply for. Swenby will forward the photos submitted by Nelson to Herrmann.

### Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program:

Carlson Coulee: Houston Engineering is developing a preliminary design and is collaborating with the Corp and MN DNR with permitting. Herrmann anticipates a preliminary plan by October.

Sediment Control Basins: East Polk SWCD has scheduled another public informational meeting for August 16, 2017 at 9:30 AM in McIntosh.

Polk County Flood Plain: Wilkens and Herrmann will continue to review the occupied dwellings and present possible LOMA's.

RCP (Upper Detention Sites): A public meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2017 at 1:30 at the Duane Knutson Community Center in Fertile.

Project # 24: Herrmann developed a projected cost for riprap and estimates between \$5,000 and \$10,000. This plan would break out the concrete all the way around, place fabric and place rock (trying to salvage as much existing rock as possible). To do a sheet pile fix, he expects you can add \$10,000 - \$15,000. Bill Brekke states there is seepage going beneath the concrete that was placed on top of the rock around the entrance to the drop structure. The district will continue to monitor what is happening at the outlet, as per Herrmann's recommendation.

Project #5: The viewers have been contacted and will begin the viewing process.

Ditch 80: The survey work has been completed on the additional mile and a profile is completed. As soon as the data is prepared we will schedule another informational meeting with landowners.

## 6. Dan's Monthly Report

**RRWMB:** The RRWMB met on July 18 in at the library in East Grand Forks. Meeting highlights were given to the managers.

Manager Hanson was at the last meeting as our representative and he voted yes on the 2-mill levy which passed. Manager Hanson felt the proposed budget for 2018 was heavy on administration.

Manager Balstad asked what the RRWMB has accomplished. Manager Hanson stated that the RRWMB has been the core in funding and coordinating flood control projects in the basin and lobbying our partners and legislators in obtaining permits and funding for those projects. Also, without the RRWMB legislation our watershed districts would not have any project funding.

**IRRB:** The IRRB meeting is scheduled for August 29 and 31 in Gimli, MB.

**Drainage Workgroup:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 10 at the AMC building by the capitol in St. Paul.

**Beltrami Diversion:** Wilkens will obtain a permit from the Polk County Highway Department to install a crossing 300' north of the substation and purchase a culvert. Paul Engelstad offered to do the dirt work. A trap will be placed on the south end. This will keep the high water from going into the city of Beltrami.

**Vesledahl /Morvig legal system:** A meeting has been scheduled for August 17 at 7 PM at the Winger Community Center to discuss the transfer of the property, cleaning up loose ends, and what it would take to make this a legal ditch system. MNDOT, BWSR and MN DNR will attend. Herrmann presented draft maps that he'd like to display at the upcoming meeting. Herrmann will give Swenby the shapefiles so she can develop a landowner mailing list and Swenby will also put a notice in the McIntosh Times. Manager Balstad asked that the EPSWCD be contacted.

**LeRoy Johnson Site:** A seepage problem on the Vesledahl site was presented to the managers. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to authorize Herrmann to survey the site of LeRoy Johnson to gather information and develop a proposal along with a cost estimate to present to BWSR and MnDOT, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.

**Erosion at Union Lake:** EPSWCD engineer has looked at this and Manager Balstad asked Wilkens to have a conversation with East Polk SWCD. They felt that more damage would occur correcting the problem than curing it. The district has already installed 4 rock dams on the property above this area that have substantially reduced erosion.

**Dave Arends:** Dave Hauff sent a letter by certified mail and the letter was signed by the Danielson Trust as received. Hauff is drafting another letter giving them a timeline to respond or we will have to start the process to take them to court.

## 7. Other Business:

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

**Bear Park:** Harold Olson presented his bill for blowing dams downstream of Rindahl. A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve the submitted bill for \$1,100, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

Olson reported they blew two dams west of Rindahl, close to the Harstad bridge. There was no overland flooding reported. A kayak was taken from Rindahl to the Harstad bridge. A lot of trees were down. Olson did not think the dams that he blew were contributing to the overland flooding that Paulson's are concerned about. There site is to far upstream and at a higher elevation.

Wilkens reported about a phone call of a concerned landowner who was upset she was not notified of people on her land. Olson will check with his grandson if they were on private property or if they used the waterway. Harold Olson expressed concern with Paulson's interfering and "having words" with his crew and felt it was inappropriate. Paulson stated that he feels that the dams are not completely blown and that only the center was blown not the sides of the dam. Paulson agreed that he did "chew out" Olson's crew. He feels that nothing happens throughout the whole month until a day before a meeting and he was steamed up out of frustration. Paulson's and Olson's disagreed about the actual existence of the dam.

Paulson asked Swenson his findings. Manager Swenson reported that thick vegetation is present now that the water is low. Paulson stated that the water is not low, and felt that Manager's Swenson statement was a false statement.

Herrmann presented profiles of the structure using Lidar and the engineers report. According to the engineer's report, a 25-year event, the run off would be about 1.3 inches from the whole drainage area and for a 50-year event the run off would be about 1.6 inches of run off. This was to give the managers a representation of the fall of the land. According to the profiles, the fall on Paulson's land is only a couple feet, about 2' in a couple of channel river miles.

Herrmann stated based on these profiles, water being backed up is not a result of the structure. The structure itself is a flood retarding structure and has an opening to keep water flowing.

Paulson asked if there has ever been a flow study rate. Herrmann stated that the only flow rates

monitored are at the USGS gauging station in Climax.

Wilkens presented photos of the area taken yesterday. Coon Tail and Milfoil is prevalent in the channel in this area. Paulson stated that the scum along the top of the river in the photos is poor river conditions and is presented because there is no flow and water is stagnate.

Paulson stated that the blowing up of dams over the past 20 years, explodes the top of the dam, but possibly not the base of the dam. Paulson questions what is residing in the bottom of the river channel beneath the surface, after the surface of the dam has been blown. He questions the velocity of the river to be able to blow the complete dam beneath the surface.

Manager Hanson asked if this water is causing him an extreme problem. Paulson stated that because of the dry year, it has not come up on their fields, but with any sizable rain, it would. He feels the history of the watershed's position regarding the problem is lax, and Paulson's want a future solution. He feels that there is no flow and the river isn't moving.

Wilkens maintained that many different groups of people have toured the area using kayaks and the district has drone footage on our web site which shows we were unable to find any obstructions. Paulson's stated that they only know the problem, not the solution and it is up to the board to find a solution.

Paulson fears that the board may find that they may have entered into an agreement that legally they cannot honor due to MNDNR and USACOE restrictions.

The district and Houston Engineering will review the FSA maps and communicate with the MN DNR about the rights of the district to clean sediment from the river and possible solutions for the problem. Manager Balstad suggested Herrmann also communicate with the district's attorney regarding the definition of the watershed responsibility of obstructions pertaining to the agreement.

Paulson's agreed that involving the MN DNR is the best possible solution and welcomes the MN DNR to tour the area. The MN DNR will also be able to answer the question regarding removing the beaver dam residue. Paulson felt that the Corp of Engineers will be very interested in the lack of flow in the river. Water quality is being adversely affected by this situation.

Paulson asked if the elevation gauges have been ordered for this project. Paulson feels that this would avoid the semantics of arguing the height of the river. Paulson suggested that the board authorize elevation gauges. The managers agreed to take the steps to communicate with MN DNR first.

Gary Reitmeier suggested another drone footage of the area as points of consideration.

**Budget:** The managers reviewed a draft budget and offered comments. A budget hearing is scheduled for September 5 at 8:30 AM.

**Building Upgrades:** The district discussed the need for carpeting and for new tile in the kitchen area of the watershed. Swenby will get an estimate for the carpeting and the tile.

**Document Management:** Swenby will continue working full time again this fall to proceed with the scanning of historical documents.

8. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Balstad to

approve permit after the engineer reviews the hydraulics, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.

**2017-12:** Norman County, Section 21, replace wooden bridge with concrete box culverts

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting will be held **Tuesday at 8:00 AM on September 5, 2017**. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hamre to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson, **Carried**.

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April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

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JJ Hamre, Secretary