

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 13, 2017

1. **Attendance:** Vice-Chairman Scott Balstad called March 13, 2017 to meeting to order at 8:14 AM at the District Office. Other managers present were JJ Hamre, Roger Hanson and Phillip Swenson. Managers Absent: Stuart Christian. Two staff members were present: Daniel Wilkens – Administrator and April Swenby – Administrative Assistant. Others in attendance: Zach Herrmann – Houston Engineering, Bill Downs – Landowner, and Joyce Downs – Landowner.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda as presented, **Seconded** by Manager Swenson, **Carried**.
3. **Minutes:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Swenson to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2017 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the treasurer's report for January, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **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, except for the SWCD balances which are listed for informational purposes only, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Engineer's Report

Nielsville Ring Dike: The district is currently waiting funding during this bond session.

Rock Riffles: Swenby will meet with the SWCD to write the reimbursement request for the MN DNR. The district is expecting this project to be closed out this spring.

BWSR Funding – Sediment Control Basins: Herrmann met with Dave Marshall to collaborate and determine the prioritized listing of areas for sediment basins.

FEMA flood plain map: Manager Balstad questioned if a LOMA can be done at any time throughout the process and can the results of the flood plain maps be appealed. Herrmann will have these conversations with the FEMA specialists.

PL566: Herrmann met with NRCS staff to discuss the opportunity and did a site visit of the watershed area. A work plan will be presented next month.

Project # 24: Houston Engineering is working on a plan for sheet pile structure and concrete slab to reinforce the outlet structure.

Mike Buerkley inspected the area last week. Water is running around the north side of the sheet piling. The concrete rip rap will need to be excavated and good packed clay placed in the area, followed by filter cloth covered by rip rap. This should solve the problem.

There are no new updates on the Spokely wash plant.

ROW: Wilkens would like to send a reminder letter to the landowners where the ROW markers were placed to keep them informed of the restrictions for ROW use.

6. Dan's Monthly Report

Hovland Marsh: Wilkens had a conversation with Sidney Fjerstad on February 25, 2017, who stated he will be on vacation and will contact Wilkens when he returns.

Beltrami Diversion: Herrmann and Wilkens measured and it is an arched concrete; it will be difficult to put a trap in. Wilkens will contact Paul Engelstad to discuss options.

RRWMB: The RRWMB met on February 21st at TRF. Meeting highlights were given to the managers. The FDRWG met following the RRWMB meeting. The RRWMB asked for each watershed districts to submit their suggestions of services that the RRWMB can provide to the districts and Swenby submitted the list the managers approved last month.

RRBC Commission: The board and retreat was held at Canad Inn on Mar 1-2, 2017.

DWG: The next meeting will be on June 8, 2017.

Maple Creek Project: Elliot Solheim completed the north section. Dave Johnstad did not get started on the south section.

Web Site Upgrade: Swenby is hoping that the new software and site can be launched this month.

Union Lake Easements: Herrmann has made a map that shows land ownership, permanent easements, temporary easements, and filter strips that need to be purchased. When complete we will work with the LID, landowners, and Dave Hauff to finalize the easements and ROW issues.

Erosion at the Union Lake Erosion Control Site: The lower stretch still needs addressing. The SWCD is working on this. The district is waiting for an area NRCS Engineer to schedule time.

Building upgrades: Wilkens has been in contact with the local building center for a new roof design and cost estimate.

MAWD Bylaw changes: A Motion was made by Manager Swenson requesting a special meeting to update the bylaws at the Summer Tour meeting, Seconded by Manager Hanson, Carried.

Slough along Polk County # 41 near Highway # 9: Herrmann called Jody Beauchane about the slough near Highway #9 and Beauchane is planning an on-site spring meeting with Wilkens and Houston Engineering to determine possible solutions that have worked for them.

RRWMB Conference: Swenby will register Wilkens and Hanson for the conference. Houston Engineering is preparing a poster for the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

7. Other Business:

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

Bear Park Beaver: When the Bear Park project was established the court system stated that the watershed district keep the beaver and their dams in the project area under control. The district has hired Greg Ranz who tours the area every spring while trapping beavers and lets the district know of any issues. The district has hired other beaver trappers as well. If we have an exact location, we can

use either backhoes or explosives to remove the dams. In an effort to locate the dams, Houston Engineering will develop a cost estimate to create a video of a couple of projects using their drone for PR use to show the benefits of the projects in an aerial and animated view. Herrmann will keep Bear Park in mind as one of the first projects, should the board decide to proceed. This spring Greg Ranz will continue to trap beaver in the project area and let us know if he finds any dams that need attention.

8. **Permits:** One permit was brought before the board. A **Motion** was made by Manager Hanson to approve the following permit, pending Wilkens making a site visit and making recommendations based on potential issues, **Seconded** by Manager Hamre, **Carried**.

2017-02: Red River Valley Co-op Power, Hubbard Twp, Section 26, bury powerline across ditch

9. **Adjournment:** The next regular meeting will be held **Tuesday at 8:00 AM on April 4, 2017**. As there was no further business to come before the board, a **Motion** was made by Manager Hamre to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 AM, **Seconded** by Manager Hanson **Carried**.

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant

JJ Hamre, Secretary