

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2004

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Wilkens – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrator, April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrative Assistant, Randy Huelskamp – NRCS, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Mike Vavricka – MPCA, Dan Grunhovd – Landowner, Gary Lee - East Polk SWCD, Adam Woltjer – NRCS, and Russell Kleinschmidt – Crookston NRCS (Student Trainee).
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda. Wilkens gave an overview of the minutes from the May 11, 2004 meeting. The May 11, 2004 meeting minutes were approved with minor changes.
3. **FISH PASSAGE:** No new information was provided on this project. Wilkens will call Maynard Pick to see if there has been any progress on legislation.
4. **UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL:** Gary Lee and Adam Woltjer visited the site yesterday. They reported receiving authorization for a 350 foot buffer on each side of the channel. They will confer with the landowner to see if he is interested in putting this area in the CRP program. Huelskamp reported that a 75% cost share is available if the landowner is interested in doing more than CRP. EQIP can possibly run on CRP land. Constructing a sediment basin was discussed. Woltjer will contact the landowner to discuss the possibility of sediment basin. Hopefully something could be started as soon as the crop is off. Many possibilities for funding were discussed. It was decided to proceed with the project as currently planned with hopes for outside funding in the future (319, EQIP, etc.)

The group would like to explore the option of raising the township road and use the upstream area as a sediment basin. Wilkens will contact the township after the engineering design is developed. Dam Safety issues need to be considered in the design of the township road.

5. **SECTION 17 OF SLETTEN:** No action was taken at this time.
6. **LAKE SARAH WATERSHED STORAGE:** Huelskamp reported that some of the lake landowners will not commit to a permanent easement. The project will be placed on hold until Dwight completes the mapping and overlay of potential storage sites in the upstream areas. When information is received on potential storage sites the Project Team will assess their potential.
7. **MELVIN SLOUGH –MAPLE CREEK DIVERSION:** Wilkens reported that Jon Schneider would like his name taken off our project team list. Schneider has been given additional duties and cannot commit the time to our project team. He would be available for consultation as the need arises.
8. **GARDEN SLOUGH:** No new information has been received from Henry VanOffelen. The group discussed the value of modeling for this particular project. The group asked Thul for his opinion on this project. He expressed concern for the natural resources in this area. He said that various questions need to be answered before an operating plan is developed. Funding depends on the installation of a gate. Thul suggested looking at options that minimize impacts to the environment. He said that the impacts need to be proven that they are worth the tradeoff. Huelskamp reported that mitigation could be costly. Thul suggested we look at additional aspects such as erosion control to make the project reflect a broad spectrum of benefits. Wilkens agreed by suggesting we look at a sediment basin in the draw bringing water into the basin. Huelskamp will approach the owner to see if there is interest.

Grunhovd reported his conversations with the Ada NRCS. He said they were unable to tell him exact numbers, but that expanding to 300 animal units should be okay.

It was also reported that the township road one mile south of Rindahl is scheduled to be rebuilt by Norman County in the near future. This is one of the alternative dam sites. Discussion was held on putting a holding structure there. Wilkens will contact Mick Alm to discuss this possibility.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Project Team Workshop Report: Several members commented on the workshop.

10. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held August 10, 2004 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant