

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2005

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Wilkens – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrator, April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrative Assistant, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Dan Grunhovd – Landowner, Mick Alm – Norman County Engineer, Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Mike Vavrika – MPCA, Brian Dwight – BWSR, Henry Van Offelen – MN Center for Environmental Advocacy, Rolland Gagner – Union LID, Les Peterson – US Fish and Wildlife Services, Penny Doty – West Polk SWCD, Don Buckhout – DNR, Jeff Lansink, Houston Engineering, Gary Huberty – DNR, Gary Lee – East Polk SWCD, and Maynard Pick – Congressional Representative.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda.

FISH PASSAGE: Woodbury presented slides containing information regarding the West Mill Site. Houston Engineering plans to review this data with Luther Aadlund, in addition to the plans of the Texas Crossing. A revised plan will be available for the September Project Team meeting.

Don Buckhout and Dan Thul will research the requirements for a State Environmental Review and report back at the September meeting.

UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL: Dwight suggested that Houston Engineering should develop a work plan and budget. Dwight and Doty will assist Woodbury with the contents of the work plan.

Adam Woltjer was unavailable to report the progress putting the land into CRP.

A tour of the site was given. Landowners and Project Team members met at the site. They discussed permission for access and alternatives that would be acceptable to all parties.

GARDEN SLOUGH: Alm did not have further information to report; however he did state that if the county proceeds with a partnership with the watershed that the county would only be able to fund the road portion of the project. The watershed district would need to fund the remainder. Alm invited the project team to a county meeting which will highlight mapping to be held on August 23rd. Alm will forward more information to Wilkens regarding this meeting. Alm will report the highlights of this meeting to the project team in September.

After the last meeting, Dwight, Buckhout and Thul toured this site. They suggested included the USACOE in on these discussions. They would like to see information comparing the sites as the USACOE will require an alternative analysis process. It was decided to develop cost information on site one, three and site four before including the USACOE.

The project team discussed the importance of modeling where this project is concerned. Dwight reported that they are currently waiting for funding. When funding is available, a work plan and budget from Houston Engineering will need to be prepared and submitted. Dwight will then present the information to the RRWMB on behalf of the Sand Hill River Watershed District asking for their cost share of 25% of the planning costs. Houston Engineering will have the work plan and budget prepared on behalf of the Sand Hill River Watershed District for their next regular board meeting. Dwight plans to attend a Sand Hill River Watershed District regular board meeting to inform the managers of the process that will take place. Van Offelen will attend the same meeting to explain the natural resource side of the process. The modeling will coincide with the NRE/inventory assessments which will report the natural resources currently there and what can be restored – identifying where the enhancements could/should go.

Dwight suggested inviting the landowners to the future project team meetings. Grunhovd will supply Swenby with the addresses of the landowners in the area.

3. **LAKE SARAH STORAGE:** This project was declared unfeasible at this time.
4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

CREP: Target CREP areas were identified and are designated as the following:

- Maple Creek (most likely riparian signups) from Melvin Slough to CD 9
- Garden Slough project from the Sand Hill River (riparian, wetland restoration, FDR signups)

- Drainage northeast of Rindahl (wetland restoration, riparian signups, FDR)
- Drainage to Union/Lake Sarah (riparian, wetland restoration signups)
- Section 17 of Sletten (most likely FDR signups)

Houston Engineering displayed a map showing these target areas.

Main stem target areas as follows:

- Sand Hill River: improved reach from Section 21 of Liberty Township to Red River (Riparian signups)
- Red River: all of reach adjacent to Sand Hill River Watershed District (riparian, wetland restoration signups)

Riparian areas impacted directly (delivering sediment) from water erosion of C slopes 6% or greater impacting water quality (riparian signups AND riparian of any identified impaired bodies of water or river reach by MPCA (TMDL (riparian signups) would meet the criteria.

The project team decided to bring this information to the Sand Hill River Watershed District board of Managers in September. After their approval, this information will be submitted to the area SWCD for their marketing efforts.

WEB-SITE: The group was asked to review the Sand Hill River Watershed District web-site and give input regarding a page offering information for agency's that may require a permit.

5. **ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held September 13, 2005 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant