

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2005

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Brian Dwight – BWSR, Marvin Gunderson – Norman County Commissioner, Curtis Borchert – Norman County SWCD, Les Krogstad – Landowner, Danny Grunhoyd – Landowner, Mike Vavricka – MPCA, Maynard Pick – Congressional, Roger Hanson – SHRWD Chairman, Gary Huberty – DNR, Gary Lee – East Polk SWCD, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Daniel Wilkens – SHRWD Administrator, and April Swenby – SHRWD Administrative Assistant.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda.
3. **MINUTES:** The August 9, 2005 minutes were approved with minor changes.

FISH PASSAGE: Wilkens informed the project team that the Sand Hill River Watershed District Managers approved Houston Engineering to complete a State EAW if required. Dan Thul affirmed that a State EAW is required. It is likely that the Corp of Engineers completed a Federal Environmental Assessment Worksheet, (EAW), and Houston Engineering could use those findings as a reference. Thul informed the Project Team that the St. Paul office will advertise our EAW for 30 days for other agencies' (ex: Environmental Quality Board) input and comments. The Watershed District will assess the report and comments to make a determination of whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS), should be completed. The Watershed District acts as the responsible governing unit, (RGU), making the determination if an EIS is required. The State EAW is mandatory and is required before any state permits can be issued.

Sand Hill River Watershed District board Chairman Hanson was discouraged and believed that knowing this requirement earlier would have been beneficial to the completion of the project this winter.

Wilkens informed the board that Houston Engineering was unable to connect with Luther Aadlund to discuss the final plans for the West Mill Site and the Texas Crossing.

UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL: The work plan and budget were submitted on August 9, 2005. Dwight has forwarded it on. The process for funding has begun. A grant application will be forwarded to Wilkens for his signature. After the application has been submitted, Dwight will disburse the funds.

Wilkens gave a brief report on the tour conducted last month: The landowners would like to keep the last 100 feet mowed, preventing cattails and willows and suggested building a channel for the water to be contained in – possibly using one or two lines of tile to dry the area. Dwight expressed concerns of the “wetland” title and thought that the cattails and willows could act as a filtering system eliminated some sediment into the lake. He suggested discussing with the landowners the benefits of leaving the cattails, willows and shrubs. Lee suggested hiring a design landscape specialist to enhance the appearance of the filtering system. The project team suggested a new design be prepared for the last 100 feet of the project.

Lee was unable to update the CRP portion of the project on behalf of Adam Woltjer.

After Dwight disburses the funds, Woodbury will be authorized to do more engineering.

GARDEN SLOUGH: Mick Alm was unavailable. Marvin Gunderson reported on his behalf about the county meeting and grant money expansion possibilities for the Digital Elevation Mapping of Norman County. Next spring, FEMA will coordinate developing topographical maps via airplane. Norman County is the first county to be accepted in this process, in hopes of other counties and agencies to follow. Five-hundred thousand dollars has been awarded for this project and the county is contributing \$20,000.00. This will be a great tool to use with the district's modeling plan.

Wilkens reviewed the plans and purpose of this project. Dwight suggested speaking with the Corp. to determine the purpose and need. Wilkens will ask Buckhout to encourage the Corps involvement at this time to discuss the "Points of Concurrence." – (i.e. purpose and need, establish alternative analysis, and preferred alternative). Dwight will have a "Points of Concurrence" document for the next meeting to distribute to the Project Team for their review.

The group reviewed the three sites in question. Copies of the sites were given to Les Krogstad. Site one is on Krogstad's land.

MODELING: Wilkens stated that Woodbury would like to converse with Dwight to determine the information needed regarding the work plan and budget. Dwight will converse with Woodbury next week.

Dwight informed the project team that money has been received from the DNR for the modeling. After the work plan and budget is completed, Dwight will disburse the money. Dwight will present this to the RRWMB on behalf of the district. The Sand Hill River Watershed District will pay 25% of the cost for the modeling.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

CREP: The previously identified CREP areas were approved at the September 6, 2005 board meeting.

WEB-SITE: The group submitted their ideas for additional permit links for the Sand Hill River Watershed District website.

5. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held October 11, 2005 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant