

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2006

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Danny Grunhvd – Landowner, Tom Groshens – DNR, Maynard Pick – Congressional, Roger Hanson – SHRWD Chairman, Don Buckhout – DNR, Les Peterson – US Fish and Wildlife, Bryan Paradis – LID, Bill Baer – US Corp of Engineers, Brian Dwight – BWSR, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Terry Wolfe – DNR Wildlife, Don Buckhout – MN DNR, Gary Huberty – DNR Fisheries, Penny Doty – West Polk SWCD, Mandy Erickson – DNR Fisheries, Heather Baird – DNR Shoreline Habitat, Bruce Solberg – Landowner, Donald Kuntz - Landowner, Kevin Kuntz – Landowner, Sheldon Trandem – Landowner, Paul Proulx – Landowner, April Swenby – SHRWD Administrative Assistant, and Daniel Wilkens – SHRWD Administrator.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda.
3. **MINUTES:** The December 13, 2005 minutes were approved.

GARDEN SLOUGH: The group discussed the importance of a purpose and need statement and exactly what that needed to entail. The statement needs to include the problem area and establishes the purpose and together they will give a range of alternatives to examine and potentially carry forward. The group reviewed the district map and discussed the area in question.

Baer questioned whether or not the Garden Slough project would have a measurable affect on reducing flooding to the Red River. The group explained that this project as a single piece, does not have a sizeable affect; however, it is a piece that will contribute and all watershed's in the basin are working together to reduce flooding on the Red River. They explained that if all watershed's do their part, a measurable affect will be the result. Woodbury added that even though this project will reduce flooding on the Red River it will have other measurable affects in the Sand Hill River Watershed District. Tom Groshens and Penny Doty added that the Garden Slough may be a possible project that should be directed from the Red River Watershed Management Board and asked if the corp would have more support for the project if it came from the Red River Watershed Management Board rather than the Sand Hill River Watershed District. Groshens suggested getting documentation from the other districts that will contain their plan to participate in reducing flooding on the Red River. Baer will bring that question to his colleagues and prepare an answer at the next Project Team meeting.

Based on the information gathered, namely the EIS, there may not be enough to justify a need for the project. Groshens asked Baer what was needed to justify the project. Baer will ask his colleagues for more guidance to answer that question. Baer believed that modeling may help; however he had strong concern that the damage to the wetlands may not outweigh the public benefit.

Buckhout suggested that Houston Engineering draft a purpose and need statement using the information that has been gathered, if Baer concludes that this project should be directed from the Sand Hill River Watershed District rather than the Red River Watershed Management Board. The statement could then be given to the Corp. for their concurrence of purpose and need. Buckhout presented an example of a purpose and need statement from the Wild Rice District and distributed it to the project team. Buckhout gave this statement as an draft for the need of the project:

“The need for projects in the Sand Hill River watershed is based on the contribution of spring runoff flood events on the Sand Hill River to flood peaks on the mainstem Red River according to existing information of the timing of tributary flood flows to mainstem flooding, the Sand Hill River peak flows must be managed to avoid coinciding with mainstem flood peaks.”

UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL: Heather Baird – Shoreline Specialist filling in for Lindy Ekola, Shoreline Habitat Specialist in Glenwood, MN, gave a presentation on Shoreline Habitat. A 3:1 DNR

project partners match grant is available. A minimum cash match of \$1000 is required. For private properties they require 75% of frontage be restored with an adjacent buffer zone that is at least 25 feet deep/wide. The restored shoreline will need to be appropriately maintained for 10 years. Baird displayed pictures of past projects which include lakes, rivers, and streams. The goal of this program is to provide technical guidance to landowners and assist with other DNR projects.

This program examines plants native to the county and tries to match them. A CD is available to guide landowners in their decision as to which plants will grow best in their area.

Baird was given background information on the Union Lake Erosion Control Project. Don and Kevin Kuntz express their concerns regarding their limited lake access and the responsibility of maintenance issues. Baird suggested a bridge which would gain them access to the lake. Kuntz agreed that would create a walking path, but they launch boats on that side. He explained that he purchased this property for that reason – to have lake access. He questioned who would be responsible for cleaning the sediment (although greatly reduced – still there) in 10 years? He feared that when it is not draining in 10 or 15 years, other landowners will believe he is responsible for the cost and time of cleaning this because it is on his land. He believes that plants will hold water permanently, and right now he can use the access in the dry times. If shrubs are planted, he believes it will always be wet. He also expressed concern about the CRP in 15 years and questioned the possibility of the landowner not renewing the CRP.

Wilkens offered other alternatives, such as raising the road or creating a floodway.

It was decided to visit this area in the spring and invite shoreline specialists to offer their suggestions.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held April 11, 2006 at 10:30 AM at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby – Administrative Assistant