

**PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 13, 2008**

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Maynard Pick – Congressional, Harold Vig – Sand Hill Manager, Bryan Paradis – LID, Paul Wannarka – DNR Regional Operations, Mark Aanenson – Houston Engineering, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Tom Groshens – DNR Fisheries, Lawrence Woodbury – Houston Engineering, Cathy Henry – US Fish, Randy Huelskamp – NRCS, Paige Guetter – West Polk SWCD, Terry Wolfe – DNR, Wayne Goeken – RRWMB River watch Coordinator, April Swenby – SHRWD Administrative Assistant, and Daniel Wilkens – SHRWD Administrator.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda.

**UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL:** Wilkens gave a review of the history of the project. Wilkens reviewed the funding possibilities and explained that the bids for the construction/land purchasing/engineering came in over budget. The LID will cost share with the District to compensate for the overrun. The district attorney is drafting the purchase agreements for the land. Groshens suggested photographing the area before the construction begins. Woodbury will contact Groshens before the contractors are ready.

Wilkens explained to the project team Don Kuntz's position and his request for a walkway to the water.

Bryan Paradis reviewed with the group regarding the Eurasian mill foil issue. Landowners in the area are treating the issue with hopes to control it. Union Lake has been classified as infested waters. A specialized screen needs to be placed on the inlet pump to avoid transmitting the mill foil to other lakes and a new permit has been applied for. Pumping has been placed on hold until the permit is approved. Paradis was not given promise that the mill foil will ever be treated. It is only feasible that the issue can be controlled. Mill foil can be transferred from lake to lake through boats. It is even theoretical that wildlife can transport the plant. The DNR is expected to monitor the sites to avoid the transmission between lakes.

**OVERALL PLAN UPDATE:** Modeling is completed. It is ready to be put to use in analyzing projects. The model is unable to analyze the whole valley, but it is helpful for the affects of the district. The analysis for the whole valley is currently in the making through other organizations (the COE and the Red River Basin Commission), but is not available yet.

Aanenson gave a report on the prior public input meetings and meetings with the SWCD's. The meetings were not highly attended, but good input was received. A draft is in the process of completion by Houston Engineering. Henry Van Offhelen is building the NRE plan. CAC, TAC and the district will approve the draft and give their input. Aanenson would like to have a draft ready to begin the review process by September. His goal is to have the plan complete by December.

A good discussion was held on the areas of issue in the valley that are adjacent to our watershed.

**GARDEN SLOUGH:** Garden Slough was the inspiration behind the overall plan/modeling update. Until the Red River portion is complete, the affects of these projects are undetermined. Woodbury explained that some work can be done on this project, but until the Red River portion is complete, final analysis of the project would be inadequate.

Curtis Borchert and Steve Hofstad were recommended as a resource to determine the possibilities/impossibilities of the area.

The group discussed the definition of a "quality wetland". The plant community and diversity of vegetation to provide food for all sorts of species is required. A general rule is 50/50 of divergent vegetation to water.

Thul suggested looking downstream rather than the particular site due to the complications, i.e. dam safety permit, wetland impact issues/permits, etc. Wilkens argued that this project can be partnered with the Norman County Highway department and that the project is very cost effective using that combination. Thul suggested looking at areas that contain an on channel spot without natural resource enhancements surrounding it. He said that we would need a dam safety permit and that the Points of Concurrence will be necessary with a detailed list of 5 alternative sites. Guetter agreed that WACA would ask for the alternatives explored and suggested exploring other areas.

The groups suggested having a functional assessment of the area and begin the process of determining the points of concurrence. The RRWMB will determine the purpose and need of the project.

The group decided it might be best to explore other alternatives to compliment step 2 on the Points of Concurrence. Woodbury will explore the alternative possibilities and potential sites and prepare a report for the next meeting. The group will tour the areas highlighted by Woodbury.

**FISH PASSAGE:** Two pieces are completed (the two crossings). The design is completed to finish the project and we are currently waiting funding. Groshens will talk with Luther Aadlund about the possibility of additional funding. The four drop structures and additional rock dams are needed to complete the project. The plan is to start down stream and work upwards.

- 3. ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned 3 PM. The next meeting will be held at on July 8, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

**Minutes respectfully submitted:**

**April Swenby – Administrative Assistant**