

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes-February 8, 1994 Regular Meeting

- 1. Attendance:** Roland Gullekson, President, called the February 8, 1994 meeting to order at 9:00 am. District Managers present were Ray Baatz, Roger Hanson, Francis LaVoi and Dan Wilkens. Peg Ensign-MN Dept. of Jobs & Training, Wayne Goeken-SHRWD Executive Secretary; Jeff LeDoux-SHRWD Consulting Engineer, and Dan Thul-MN DNR Regional Hydrologist were also in attendance.
- 2. Minutes:** Motion by LaVoi and second by Baatz to adopt the minutes of the January 4, 1994 Sand Hill River Watershed District Board meeting as mailed with the following correction: on page 3, 6.f.) change "Gary" Letnes to "Dan" Letnes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens handed out and reviewed the SHRWD's financial reports covering the month of January, 1994. The past month's checking account transactions, investment portfolio and current fund balances were reviewed. Motion by Baatz and second by LaVoi to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the current month's bills as presented below. Motion carried unanimously.

Lois M. Plante-custodial	18.47
Wayne Goeken-secretarial	323.23
Raymond Baatz-meetings & expenses	59.93
Roland Gullekson-meetings & expenses	295.25
Roger Hanson-meetings & expenses	234.35
Francis LaVoi-meetings & expenses	62.68
Daniel Wilkens-meetings & expenses	682.02
Agassiz ELC-Winter Shows booth coverage	250.00
Red River Water Mgmt Bd—stream gaging contract	1,607.00
Otter Tail Power Co.-electric & heat	338.51
Business Agency Inc.-Workers Comp Ins.	1,944.00
Garden Valley Telephone Co.~phone service	105.41
Tony Dorn, Inc.—copy meter & copier supplies	131.00
Olson & Sons-beaver dam removal-Ditch 2-17	60.00
West Publishing Co.-updated statutes	6.39
Freshwater Foundation—membership	100.00
Fertile Bakery-rolls-meeting	7.90
Mac's Cafe—meals-meeting	125.00
Monthly Total	\$6,351.14

4. Project Reports

- a.) Maple Creek/Melvin Slough Project;** LeDoux reviewed a letter that had been sent to Terry Wolfe regarding options for the Maple Creek/Melvin Slough Project. The SHWD will wait for a response.
- b.) Tree snagging:** Costs and benefits of tree snagging along the Sand Hill River were discussed. One purpose of tree snagging is for flood control by keeping the channel open which maximizes stream capacity. Another purpose of the tree cutting program is for stream stabilization which is achieved by keeping the channel open and the water directed in the main channel. It was noted that as trees on the bank begin leaning towards the river, the weight of the tree pushes soil from the bank into the river whereas cutting the tree and leaving the stump takes the majority of the weight off the bank with the stump and roots being left to help stabilize the bank.

c.) **Sand Hill Watershed District Annual Work Plan:** The SHWD Board discussed issues that will be addressed and activities that the District will be involved with over the next year. The following items were identified as things that are on-going or mandated to be done (not listed in priority order):

- 1.) Red River Valley Environmental Assessment
- 2.) Sand Hill Watershed District Overall Plan update
- 3.) Rip-rap Project in Fertile area
- 4.) River Clean-up
- 5.) Beaver Control

Following are additional activities or projects which the Board believes the District will be involved with in the upcoming year as listed in priority order:

- 1.) Education Initiatives
- 2.) Beltrami Diversion
- 3.) Ogaard Impoundment
- 4.) River Monitoring—Quantity/Quality
- 5.) Overhaul Ditch System Records
- 6.) Cattail control in ditches

A brief description of each of these projects/activities will be written and provided to the SHRWD Advisory Committee for review and discussion as the Annual Work Plan is developed.

d.) **STRIDE Program:** Peg Ensign from the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training reviewed ^ the STRIDE Community Work Experience Program (CWEP). The CWEP is designed to provide temporary employment for AFDC recipients in a public or non-profit organization to ease them into the work force. Each worker can work up to 20 hours per week and can work at a single work site for up to six months. A variety of work needs can be met from clerical to outdoor work. The employer provides the work that needs to be done, supervision, and fills in time cards and comment forms. Motion by Hanson and second by Baatz to have Goeken and Wilkens make application to this program for a worker to help with office work at the SHRWD. Motion carried unanimously,

e.) DNR Regional Hydrologist Dan Thul discussed several items with the Board including streambank stabilization, beaver control, irrigation permits from the Sand Hill River and the Valley environmental assessment project.

5. Report on Meetings and Activities during the past month

a.) Wilkens reported on a meeting with MN DNR Regional Fisheries personnel Paul Glander regarding a fish survey that will be done in portions of the Sand Hill River in August of 1994.

b.) Gullekson reported on a planning meeting held for the RRWMB Spring Meeting. Jay Leitch will be the keynote speaker with a presentation entitled, "All That A Watershed Can Be." Moorhead Mayor Morrie Lanning will also talk on what a Watershed can do. Beth Carlson will speak about wetlands and Ron Harnack will review the status of Watershed Overall Plan development. Topics for two panel discussions will be: 1) culvert sizing, and 2) partnerships.

c.) Wilkens reported on a variety of the sessions that he attended at the Rinke-Noonan conference including feedlots, wetland restoration, flood damage prevention, and the future of watersheds. _^ d.) Gullekson noted that he had received a call from the Polk County Highway Department regarding work being done on Highway 201 between Fosston and Lengby. No permit was needed.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business

a.) Gullekson was authorized to attend a GIS training session in Bemidji being put on by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

b.) Hanson and Gullekson were authorized to attend a conference in the Twin Cities regarding "Redefining Progress~MN Future."

c.) LaVoi and Baatz were authorized to attend a "Power and Leadership" workshop being held in Bemidji on March 1.

d.) All members of the Board were encouraged to attend a meeting being conducted by BWSR on February 16 at the SHWD office regarding development of Watershed District Overall Plans.

e.) Gullekson reported that the MAWD legislative briefing and breakfast will be held March 10 in St. Paul. Gullekson and Hanson were authorized to attend.

f.) Goeken reviewed the status of the Red River Valley Winter Shows joint booth display and signed up SHWD Board members to work at various times during the run of the Shows.

7. **Permits:** There was one application for an appropriation permit from Carsten Hoveland that was forwarded to the SHWD from the MN DNR. The application request was to draw 200 acre-feet of water from Kittelson Lake. Due to the large amount of water being requested and the relatively small size of Kittelson Lake, the Board directed that comment be made to the MN DNR that this request be denied.

8. **Adjournment:** To allow time for the township boards to meet on March 8 and to coincide with the SHRWD Advisory Committee meeting, the next regular meeting of the SHRWD was set for Wednesday, March 9th at 9 am. with the Advisory Committee meeting to follow. As there was no further business to come before the Board, motion by Wilkens and seconded by Hanson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Roger Hanson, Secretary

Wayne R. Goeken, Exec. Secretary