

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 4, 2000 Meeting Minutes

1. **Attendance:** Chairman Hanson called the January 4, 2000 meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office. Other managers present were Bill Brekke Jr., Stuart Christian, Jimmie Krogstad, and Harold Vig. Others in attendance were Daniel Wilkens-Administrator, Naomi Jagol-Administrative Assistant, Jim Larsen-Houston Engineering, Inc., Jim Todahl, Vernon Floan, Rudy Applequist, Randy Hamre, Bill Best, and Maynard Pick-Congressman Peterson's office.
2. **Agenda Review:** No additional items were added to the agenda.
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Manager Krogstad to approve the minutes of the SHRWD regular Board meeting held on December 7, 1999 as mailed, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilkens handed out and reviewed the Treasurer's report. Wilkens explained that the TVA bonds which were purchased as an investment had been called and were reinvested in certificates of deposits with Edward D. Jones. Motion by Manager Brekke to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried.

Wilkens reviewed the monthly bills received. Motion by Manager Krogstad to approve and pay bills, Seconded by Manager Vig, Carried. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Project Reports:

- a. Project #15, Ring Dikes: Larsen stated that the application for final payment regarding the Farmstead Ring Dike program had been forwarded to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for reimbursement to the District. Jagol added that reimbursement had been received from the DNR, and the RRWMB payment should be approved at their January meeting.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Other Business:

- a. Phone System: Wilkens stated that at the previous monthly meeting, Manager Hanson requested that a proposal be presented for discussion regarding the various options available for a new phone system. Jagol distributed a handout which compared the current phone system to the proposed phone system. The new system would include 2 Caller ID-Compatible Lines equipped with two 12-button display speakerphones. An additional phone line would also be included along with a voice mail option. The total monthly charge for the new system is \$106.35 compared to the current monthly charge of \$47.90. Following discussion, the board tabled the request until the next monthly meeting.
- b. Tilden Township: Rudy Applequist discussed the potential for a holding area in the west ½ of Section 35, Tilden township. The proposed area is in the Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) and is part of Tilden Farms. The area is very flat and could possibly control 13 sections. It is also close to Ditch #65 which could be diverted to this site. Manager Vig inquired how the SHRWD could be involved since this area is located in the RLWD. Applequist responded that 4 sections could be diverted into this site offering relief to Ditch #65 flooding problems at Highway #102. Manager Hanson suggested the District review Applequist's map with the engineer and discuss it at a later date. Larsen stated that he would contact Brent Johnson, RLWD

engineer. Wilkens stated that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) wanted to look at options where Ditch #65 meets Highway #102 and also at the recent raising of the township road going east from the NW corner of Section 36, Onstad township. Wilkens stated that MnDOT is concerned that the road raising may force water over Highway #102 during flood events.

- c. Polk County #14-Scandia Church: Randy Hamre stated that he attended the Scandia township meeting to discuss the water problem in his area. The town board suggested he review the possibility of running water straight north into the Sand Hill River ½ mile east of his buildings. There is a gas pipeline in this area and a substantial rise at the north ¼ mile which would not appear to make this a feasible alternative. The water presently goes north ¾ mile and then west ½ mile to Hamre's field road, and then north ¼ mile into the Sand Hill River. The culvert was upgraded from an 18" to a 36" this fall. Hamre also discussed installing a culvert under PCHD #1 to divert water off of Section 25, Scandia township to the north so it could be brought to the Sand Hill River rather than going west to the Scandia Church where it drowns the crops when it backs up against PCHD #14. Hamre stated that he believed there was a culvert running west at the Scandia Church years ago which would allow the water to go west. Manager Hanson stated that the District should identify areas where water can be diverted into the Sand Hill River rather than let it run west across farmland. Wilkens asked Hamre if he would consider constructing a ring dike around his building site. Hamre responded that he would consider this alternative. This would provide protection for his buildings during spring floods. Manager Hanson requested Wilkens review the area with Hamre prior to the next meeting.
- d. Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) Update: Bill Best, Board Conservationist-BWSR, discussed the Water Plan 2000. He explained that the State Water Plan is a 10-year framework, which includes objectives and targets to measure the results of state and local policies and programs by river basins. He stated that it is prepared under the direction of the Minnesota Planning-Environmental Quality Board. He noted that the next state water plan is titled "Water Plan 2000" and its focus is to:
- provide policy direction for the legislature,
 - identify funding initiatives,
 - give direction to agency efforts,
 - and measure the state's progress in meeting environmental goals.

Best stated that major watershed plans are also being conducted. He noted that, under this level of planning, the focus is to:

- create sub-basin plans,
- establish specific water related goals, objectives and priorities for:
 - individual environmental pollutants (i.e. phosphorus, sediment, etc.)
 - flood damage reduction
 - natural resources management
 - and restoration, enhancement, or protection areas.

Wilkens inquired about BWSR sponsoring a symposium for rules and regulations for the nine watershed districts within the jurisdiction of the RRWMB. Best responded that he would discuss this suggestion with other BWSR staff.

- e. Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Flood Protection Project: Christi Stonecipher-City of Grand Forks and Gary Sanders-City of East Grand Forks conducted a presentation regarding the Flood Protection Project proposed for the cities of Grand Forks, ND, and East Grand Forks, MN. The project will consist of a series of levees and flood walls that virtually surround Grand Forks and completely surround EGF in two separate segments. The levees will be approximately 30 miles in length. The project will also include two coulee diversions.

The project is estimated to cost \$350 million, with approximately \$174 million coming from the federal government. The remaining \$176 million of project costs must be paid for by the two cities as the local sponsors, and both states will be assisting in the local costs.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2005. During the current year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be working on the following items:

- Making modifications to Riverside Dam.
- Removing the downtown walkbridge (tentatively scheduled for August).
- Bank stabilization in some areas.
- Finalizing the levee alignment in June.
- Conducting final plans and specifications for the English Coulee and Hartsville Coulee Diversions (scheduled for construction in 2001 and 2002).
- Starting plans and specs for the first levee reaches.

Wilkins referred to the McCombs-Knutson study funded by the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). He noted that the study conducted during the 1980's analyzed USACE data and determined that the spring runoff event from the Sand Hill River enters the Red River during the peak period 100% of the time. Sanders added that holding back water on the tributaries is really the answer to solving the flooding problems on the Red River.

f. Personnel Meeting: The Board discussed scheduling a meeting with Administrator Daniel Wilkins regarding an annual review of his position. The Board agreed to schedule the meeting at 8:00 a.m. on January 7, 2000 at the District office.

g. Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCMR) Grant Proposal: Wilkins stated that Gale Mayer-DNR and Paul Swenson-Regional Director, DNR had notified the District that the DNR would be submitting a grant proposal on behalf of the District to assess the Sand Hill Watershed drainage ditch system for hydrologic modeling purposes and to define impacts to agricultural lands and fisheries and wildlife habitat.

Future benefits of the project will include a more accurate determination of flood protection potential for proposed projects, accurate modeling of ditch systems and their effect on the hydrology of the area, more efficient operation of the watershed district, and an enhanced ability to make decisions regarding land use to provide the maximum benefits. This would include recreational uses and the protection and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife habitat. It is expected that this project would be used as a model for projects in the other watershed districts in the Red River Basin and would eventually become part of the watershed planning process.

h. Hubbard Township: The Board requested that a letter be forwarded to township officials in Hubbard township regarding a dump ground in the SW corner of Section 10, Hubbard township. The township needs to be notified that they should contact Polk County Environmental Services (218-281-6445) in Crookston, Minnesota to obtain assistance in cleaning up this dump site along their township road.

i. 17th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference: "*Our Basin Home: Managing Our Society Within Nature*," is the theme of this year's conference scheduled for January 11-13, 2000 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB.

7. Permits:

- a. Thirteen permits came before the Board for review and were approved as follows:
- 2000-01 Polk County Highway Department – Install culvert in Rosebud township, Section 5.
 - 2000-02 Oliver Sorenson – Construct new ditch in Vineland township, Section 9.
 - 2000-03 DuWayne Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 7.
 - 2000-04 DuWayne Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Vineland township, Section 35.
 - 2000-05 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 29.
 - 2000-06 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Vineland township, Section 10.
 - 2000-07 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 16.
 - 2000-08 DuWayne Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Vineland township, Section 25.
 - 2000-09 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 21.
 - 2000-10 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 27.
 - 2000-11 James Bowling – Clean existing ditch in Vineland township, Section 15.
 - 2000-12 James Bowling – Clean existing ditch in Vineland township, Section 11.
 - 2000-13 Darin Engelstad – Clean existing ditch in Hubbard township, Section 15.

- 8. Adjournment:** The regular monthly meeting of the SHRWD was recessed at 10:00 a.m. to be reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2000. The next regular meeting of the SHRWD will be 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 1, 2000.

Robert Brekke, Jr., Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol, Administrative Assistant