



1. ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Stuart Christian called the July 30, 2024, education and outreach session to order at 1:00 PM at the Knutson Community Center in Fertile. Other managers attending were Don Andringa, Craig Engelstad and Shawn Brekke. Staff members present included April Swenby – Administrator. Consultants in attendance included Zach Herrmann - Houston Engineering, Bryan Murphy – H2Over Viewers, and John Kolb – Rinke-Noonan. Audience members included Paul Reese, Rich Sanders, Keith Berndt, Rick Herbel, Shirley Herbel, Arlen Paulsrud, John David Swanson, Amanda Riegert, David Balstad, Everett Balstad, Grant Balstad, Floyd Balstad, Ken Pederson, Aaron Werpy, and Liz Brainard.

The meeting is recorded and is available the district web-site. All attendees were notified in writing via the meeting notice and the newspaper, that recordings would be available online.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Christian welcomed the audience and introduced a quorum of board managers of the Sand Hill River Watershed District. He addressed a Polk County Commissioners in attendance and Polk County staff before turning the session over to the presenters.

3. PRESENTATION BY JOHN KOLB:

John Kolb presented education regarding drainage law statute for redetermining benefits on public drainage systems and the obligations of any drainage authority. Kolb took questions from the audience as they were presented.

4. PRESENTATION BY BRYAN MURPHY:

Bryan Murphey presented education regarding the viewing process, how benefits are determined, and specific information relating the benefit area on the Sand Hill Ditch. Murphy took questions from the audience as they were presented.

3. HISTORICAL AND UPCOMING FUNDING – STAFF REPORT:

Zach Herrmann and April Swenby presented to the audience several historical enhancements that were either directly on the Sand Hill Ditch or upstream and provided an enhancement/benefit to the Sand Hill Ditch. Swenby explained that all a total of \$3.2 million+ was received through grants and partnerships. Under \$10,000 was spent locally using an ad valorem tax towards these projects. Of the local share, \$0 was spent by the assessed area of the Sand Hill Ditch. Upcoming funding was also presented to the audience and who the partners are for the upcoming funding available. Staff also gave a review of the obstacles that the channel faces.

Swenby explained that the purpose of this education session was because the Sand Hill River Watershed District board of managers was seeking landowner input on their perspective regarding a redetermination of the Sand Hill Ditch. She invited the audience to complete either a paper copy or visit the district web-site for an online version to provide their feedback on the presentations today. All feedback would be permanently placed for the record and Swenby stated they'd be accepting feedback until September 30. The board would be reviewing all comments at the October 3, 2024 board meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned.

April Swenby, Administrator

Shawn Brekke, Secretary