PROJECT TEAM TOUR MINUTES
May 13, 2003

1. **ATTENDANCE**: Daniel Wilkens – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrator, April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed - Administrative Assistant, Roger Hanson – Sand Hill River Watershed District Board Chairman, Harold Vig – Sand Hill River Watershed Manager, Bob Merrit – DNR Fisheries, Randy Huelskamp – NRCS, Les Peterson – US Fish & Wildlife Service, Penny Doty – West Polk SWCD, Mike Vavricka – MPCA, Dan Grunhovd – Landowner, Tom Raster - US Army Corp of Engineers, Brian Dwight – BWSR, Maynard Pick – Congressional Representative, and Jody Horntvedt – Project Team Facilitator.

2. TOUR AGENDA: The Project Team toured and received a brief history of the following:

- Garden Slough – This area has been given high priority for the Project Team to develop a FDR project by the Sand Hill River Watershed District Board. Jim Larsen, Houston Engineering reported by using the Quad Maps and using elevation 1180 MSL that approximately 3600 acre-feet of storage could be accomplished. This would amount to around 6" of runoff on approximately 10.9 sq. miles. A couple of roads would need to be raised. Larsen estimated the dam height at 25'.

- Bear Park project - The Bear Park Dam project was built in 1981 to replace an inadequate bridge over the Sand Hill River and is important to the Watershed District as a controlled outlet dam to aid in the relief of flood damage in our own District and also in the Red River Watershed Management Board's overall flood reduction plans for the Red River. The dam has a controlled outlet, with a township road as the dam. The road was constructed to provide an overflow for a 100-year flood. The dam has a capacity for 3,800 acre-feet of flood storage. To date there has been no overflow of the road spillway except during the ice storm, which occurred during the 97 flood. The total cost of the dam was $475,000 plus the cost of beaver control, inspections and necessary engineering work for maintenance. Maintenance costs occur primarily for removal of beavers and their dams. The dam has passed all Dam Safety inspections.

- Area northeast of Rindahl - This area has been proposed as a possible holding site. No engineering has been done.

- Section 17 of Sletten - This area was proposed by the board because flooding reoccurs in the area. The driveway just off the site has washed out numerous times. There is a natural draw that goes NW to the next section line. The drainage area is undetermined at this time.

- Bradley Lake Storage – Landowners surrounding the lake have interest in raising the lake level for better fish management and flood control for Union and Sarah.

- Union Lake Detention - The preliminary work has been completed for the Union Lake Detention area. Complications may arise with the topography of the area. Jim Larsen, Houston Engineering stated that the potential holding area is not sufficient to contain the large storms that cause the major erosion problems. Around 400 acres drain through this area. A small holding area, which would act as a silt basin, could be built along with a hardened channel down to the lake to prevent erosion. Larsen stated that a goal for the project was to store water and meter it into the lake rather than having water flow unrestricted into the lake when a heavy rain occurs. Larsen thought maybe this project would be better described as an erosion control project. Larsen thought there might be funds available and suggested discussing funding with the project team. The Sand Hill board of managers agreed that discussing this with the project team would be the next step.

- Maple Creek Diversion (Melvin Slough) - The Watershed Board has looked at this project on two different occasions. The first time the project was designed as an on-stream flood storage project on Kittleson Creek. Water would have been diverted from Maple Creek as it left Melvin Slough and brought south until connecting with Kittleson Creek. This project was envisioned holding approximately 1,500 acre-feet of gated storage. The second time the watershed board looked at providing more water to Melvin Slough at the request of DNR. This project looked at diverting water from going north to Burnham Creek into Melvin Slough and providing up to two feet of flood storage. It also was to provide drainage and control structures on Melvin Slough to provide management tools for the lake. The current proposal could meld both projects together and may be able to provide substantial NRE's.

- Fish Passage - This project is designed to increase fish passage in the Sand Hill River. Currently the USACOE is progressing the project through their system. It could involve removing the Texas crossing to the west, rock rip rap 7-9 new structures below the COE drop structures, rock rip-rap the four drop structures at a 5% grade, and reinstall the 3 box culverts at the west mill dam at a flat grade along with rip-rap to control the fall.

3. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2003.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant