



Board of Managers

Bill Brekke, Jr.-Nielsville Stuart Christian-Erskine Roger Hanson-Beltrami Gordon Sonsteli-Winger Harold Vig-Fosston Daniel Wilkens-Administrator April Swenby-Administrative Assistant

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2002

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Wilkens – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrator, April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed Administrative Assistant, Roger Hanson – Sand Hill River Watershed board Chairman, Maynard Pick - Collin Peterson representative, James Larson – Houston Engineering, Les Peterson – US Fish & Wildlife Service, Randy Huelskamp – NRCS, Gary Huberty – DNR Fisheries, and Gerald Jacobson – Polk County Commissioner.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda. Wilkens gave a review of the minutes and the current status on the projects. The minutes were approved as mailed on March 12, 2002. Wilkens gave the group an update on Union/Lake Sarah. Dan reported that Union Lake was 4 inches above the ordinary high watermark during the week of September 30, while Lake Sarah was 30 inches over OHW. He also reported that the County had a meeting with the landowners to review the assessment. Jerry Jacobson reported that he checked the pump and thought there was excellent flow.
3. **FISH PASSAGE:** Much discussion was held regarding the fish decline in the Sand Hill River. Huberty stated the decline is likely due to the stream being small to midsize. The fish are unable to move up and down stream for spawning and do not have shelter for winter. During low flow, the oxygen levels are real low. He also stated that in 1993 we experience very dry weather with little rain to augment stream flow.
4. **POLK COUNTY # 41 IMPROVEMENT:** Wilkens gave a status report on the Polk County #41 highway upgrade. He explained that plans and specifications would be worked on very soon with construction possibly commencing next summer. Wilkens explained to the group what could legally be done with the ditch system without a petition and with a petition for an improvement project. There are significant differences. Wilkens explained that without a petition the county legally couldn't deepen the ditch or enlarge the culverts. With an improvement petition they can build the ditch to whatever the watershed district requests and can also enlarge the culverts to what ever is deemed necessary. The improvement petition gives the county the legal right to improve the ditch and crossings. The landowners have decided to present a petition for improvement to the district. A steering committee met on September 3, 2002 at the Polk County Courthouse. Kurt Deter gave a presentation on the petition process. Deter agreed to assist the committee by writing the petition.

Wilkens opened the floor for questions or concerns regarding this project. No concerns were brought forth; however, the group suggested speaking with Terry Wolfe to get his opinion on the project.

5. **PROJECT TEAM FORMS:** The forms provided to the Watershed by Jody Horntvedt were given to the project team members. Changes were made to the Project Team List. It was requested to have the members' e-mail addresses on the list. It was also requested that all project team meeting notices be sent via e-mail.
6. **POTENTIAL PROJECT DISCUSSION:** Wilkens opened the floor for discussion on the future direction of the project team. Wilkens explained that up till the present time the project team has focused on Union Sarah. Wilkens explained that the engineering tools are coming in place in the near future to help analyze potential projects. The district will be doing the next generation overall plan in a year which will give a lot of direction to the project team and also make available the modeling needed for alternative analysis. The Red River Basin Commission is using the Flood Damage Reduction Team, the Hydrology Team and the Drainage Task Force to develop Flood Damage Reduction Goals for the individual districts. Discussion was centered on funding for potential projects and the actual purpose of the project team. In summary, the project team's purpose is flood damage reduction. Wilkens brought forth some potential projects for the project team's review. Houston Engineering will bring restorable wetland maps to the next project team meeting and information on the Maple Creek Diversion Project south of Melvin Slough.
7. **ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM. The next meeting will be November 12, 2002 at 10:30 am at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant