

Annual Report

2011



SAND HILL RIVER

WATERSHED DISTRICT

**PO BOX 584
FERTILE, MN 56540**

Before of Branch 1 CD No. 77 looking south from Co. Hwy. No. 1



Project # 24

Project #24 will improve Polk County Ditches #77 and # 166 in the Nielsville area. It consists of approximately 17 miles of ditch improvement, covering about 10,000 acres.

Landowner hearings were held and the project was ordered in by the Sand Hill River Watershed District Managers.

Bids were opened in the fall of 2011

and the project was awarded to Reiner Construction..

Jacking and boring of pipes through Federal Hwy. No. 75 and the BNSF railroad north of Nielsville 2 miles took place in December of 2011. Mobilization began in November of 2011 and project construction will be underway in the spring of 2012. The completion deadline is September 2012.

Boundary Change

The district met with the Red Lake Watershed District staff, Loren Sanderson, and Houston Engineering personnel, Lawrence Woodbury and Dave Kirkpatrick in January of 2011. The adjustments to the boundary map were made.

Both districts agreed that using 20 acre tracts instead of 40 acre tracts enhanced the accuracy of the boundary greatly. Both districts staff were in agreement with the boundary line that was presented. .

Assesments will be made for the 2012 levy.

Ditch # 55

The district received an Improvement Petition on Friday, March 4, 2011 for Ditch # 55 near the City of Fosston.

Sand Hill River Restoration

The district began working with the EPA to restore the upper reaches of the Sand Hill Ditch to accomodate high flows and fish passage issues. The project was completed and EPA placed their stamp of approval on the work completed..

TMDL

The contract for this project is between the District and PCA. Houston Engineering is the engineer coordinating the project.

We are currently in Phase I which goes till June 30, 2013. Five objectives are involved in Phase I and are as follows:

1. develop a description of the current conditions of the watershed and evaluate what data is currently available
2. civic engagement, developed by RMB Environmental (Civic engagement is about listening to the public, engaging others, finding gout the issues, and creating a way to have more people get involved to make improving water quality a shared activity, making everyone's job a little easier.)
3. determine data gaps
4. on-site monitoring and surveying
5. develop an HSPF model to use in conjunction with Houston Engineering

The details of the five objectives were discussed and the process that will follow to obtain those objectives.

After that June 30, 2013, the second phase will begin.

Property Donation

Property near the Liberty Onstad ditch was donated because the owner wanted to make sure that no one builds on this property in the future. The land is 2.5 acres and has a very small area that is out of the flood plain and not in the ditch easement. The county abated the back taxes because they saw no tax value remaining and they agreed that the parcel should be in public ownership.

Beaver Bounty

The district amended the Beaver Bounty program to raise the compensation to \$50 per beaver. New contracts were made and distributed to the townships. The townships are still required to pay \$10 cost share of the \$50 bounty.

District Technology Update

The Sand Hill River Watershed District upgraded their computer system and purchased a server for space and for back-up to help prevent accidental data loss.

Hydrologic Modeling

Hydrologic modeling was completed in the lower part of the Red River by the Corp and HDR Engineering. The RRWMB has offered \$120,000 for the northern part of the watershed area towards the cost of quality assurance. The managers approved Houston Engineering to provide the quality assurance study on the northern part of the Red River, not to exceed the RRWMB's contribution.

Permit Database

The permit database is completed and fully accessible via the web-site. All historical and current permits are entered and searchable.

City Ring Dikes

City Ring Dikes began Phase II.

Fifty-one permits were brought before the Sand Hill River Watershed District Board of Managers in 2011.

Sand Hill River Watershed Future

The future of the Sand Hill River Watershed was collaborated between various agencies, managers, landowners and the SH advisory committee.

Many managers and administration have expressed concerned due to the nearing age of retirement of some key players within our district.

Jody Horndvedt facilitated a meeting

of brainstorming roles and future possibilities of the district and invited conversation as to the future of the district and role it will play locally and regionally.

A futuristic plan of the district is in the near future and the group will continue to collaborate and brainstorm the possibilities

Manager Terms

	Term Starts	Term Ends
Scott Balstad	5/17/10	5/17/12
Robert Brekke Jr.	5/17/99	5/17/14
Stuart Christian	9/23/99	5/17/13
Roger Hanson	5/17/78	5/17/14
Harold Vig	5/17/94	5/17/12

The Sand Hill River Watershed District board of managers meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8 AM. Changes to the regular scheduled board meetings are listed on our web site. Meetings are opened to the public.

The second Tuesday of every month is reserved for Project Team meetings. Currently the Project Team is coordinating with Corp of Engineers on Points of Concurrence # 1. Feedback is being awaited.

The third Tuesday of every month is reserved for the RRWMB meetings. Meeting locations can be found at www.rrwmb.org.



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