

Annual Report

2012



SAND HILL RIVER

WATERSHED DISTRICT

**PO BOX 584
FERTILE, MN 56540**

Project # 24



Bonds were sold in February and a preconstruction conference was held in March with Reiner Contracting. By June the project was considered 2/3 complete! By the end of 2012, the project was considered complete and a 5% retainage was held as per the contract.

Negotiations began for an additional pay request from Reiner Contracting. Reiner Contracting based their request on the premise that additional costs were incurred with the addition of the 18" CS Pipes and Gates. Houston Engineering has reviewed the contract and the board denied their claim. Houston Engineering felt that support documentation from Reiner Contracting did not justify their claim. There was roughly a \$75,000 retainage (5%) being held by the end of 2012. Negotiations are expected to continue into 2013.

LID Pump

In May of 2012, a petition was received requesting that the pumping project for Union Lake be turned over to the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

In August of 2012, the final hearing was held and an order to adopt the project was received, accepted, and established.

After the 30 day appeal period, the district administration began to work with the LID to establish the levy for 2013.

City Ring Dikes

Funding was received for ROW for the City of Climax Ring dike. Five homes were purchased in 2012 by the district. The district is planning on placing these homes up for bid and removal in 2013 to prepare for the construction of the city ring dike in 2014.

Nielsville Ring Dike did not receive funding for ROW. The final engineers report was presented in 2012.

SWCD Coordination

The district continues to support the area SWCD's in constructing sediment basins. The district cost shares with the landowners and the SWCD's to help reduce the sediment load in the Sand Hill River, giving great water quality benefits.

Gary Lee, East Polk SWCD reported that six sites are yet to be completed. Nineteen sites were surveyed this fall. The engineer will develop a design for each project in 2013. Total spent to date is \$295,000 for sediment basins. In the Sand Hill District, landowners have contributed \$70,000 as their cost share.

New Manager

In May of 2012, after many years of service Harold Vig retired. In his place the Sand Hill Advisory committee recommended Phillip Swenson to the Polk County Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners accepted the recommendation and Phillip Swenson began his first term May 17, 2012 as Treasurer of the Sand Hill River Watershed District. (Stuart Christian was the previous Treasurer and Stuart has succeeded Roger Hanson as the Chair.)

Phillip Swenson farms Southeast of Fertile and during the off season drives school bus for the Fertile-Beltrami School district. He and his wife reside in Fertile and share three sons. Aside from his family, Manager Swenson enjoys driving motorcycle and traveling. As a manager he is looking forward to improving water quality and being involved in drainage issues in the district.

A huge thank you goes out to Harold Vig for his years of service.



Boundary Change

The district coordinated their efforts with the Red Lake Watershed District to create a new boundary. A new boundary map is displayed at the district office to reflect the changes, along with an updated map on the district's web-site.

Phase 6 Implemented

The district was presented Phase 6 and the RRBDIN project planning tool (LiDAR derived products/applications) and discovered how it can be used for decision support and how to use it for guidance for implementing the 20% reduction goal.

TMDL

The Sand Hill River Watershed District continues to participate in the TMDL contract with PCA. A Civic Engagement meeting was held on March 22 at the Fertile Community Center. Phase II is still being planned to be in June of 2013.

Project Team

Houston Engineering reviewed the geo-tech data for the Upper Winger, Bear Park and Garden Slough and obtained soil samples for those areas. They coordinated with Chuck Fritz and Henry VanOffelen using the RBDIN planning tool for the storage sites.

City of Fosston

The City of Fosston has petitioned the district for an industrial park drainage project. The project began and was completed in 2012.

Forty-Five permits were brought before the Sand Hill River Watershed District Board of Managers in 2012.

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

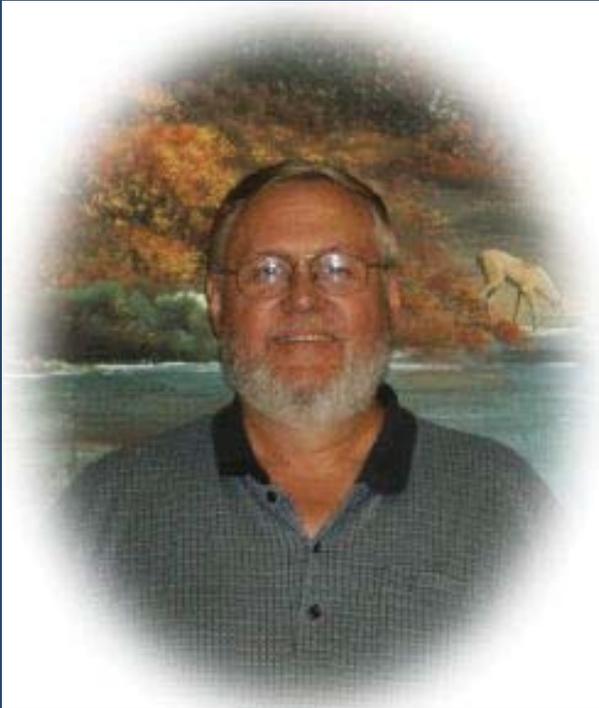
Manager Terms

	Term Starts	Term Ends
Scott Balstad	5/17/10	5/17/15
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
Phillip Swenson	5/17/12	5/17/15

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.



Daniel Wilkens
daniel.wilkens@sandhillwatershed.org



April Swenby
april.swenby@sandhillwatershed.org

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 219 North Mill Street
PO Box 584
Fertile, MN 56540

Telephone: 218-945-3204

Fax : 218-945-3213

Web: www.sandhillwatershed.org