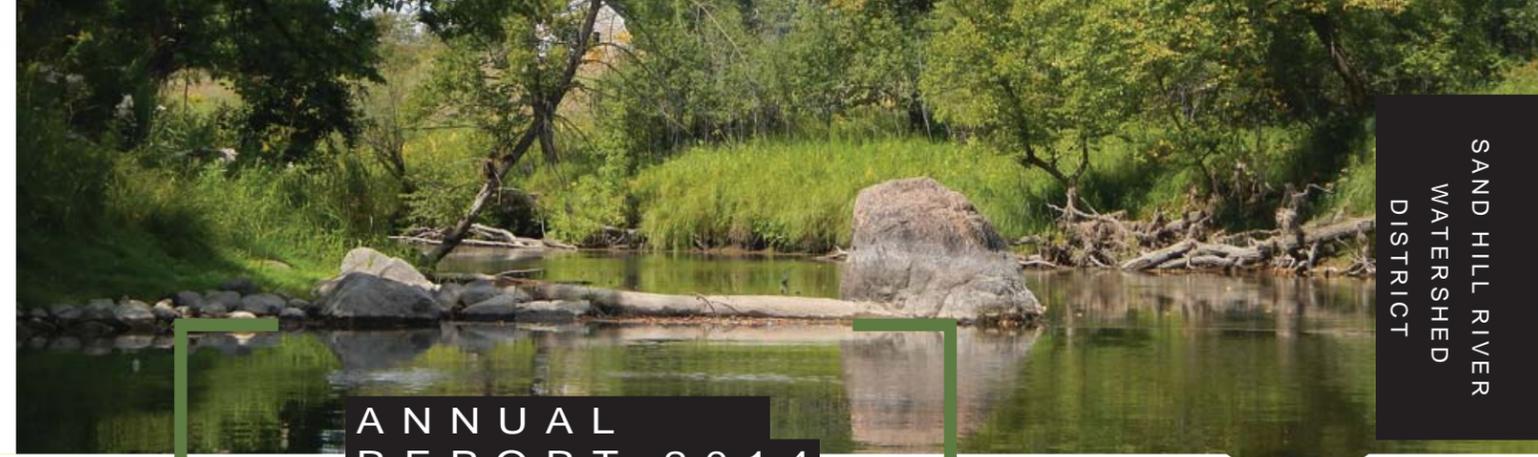
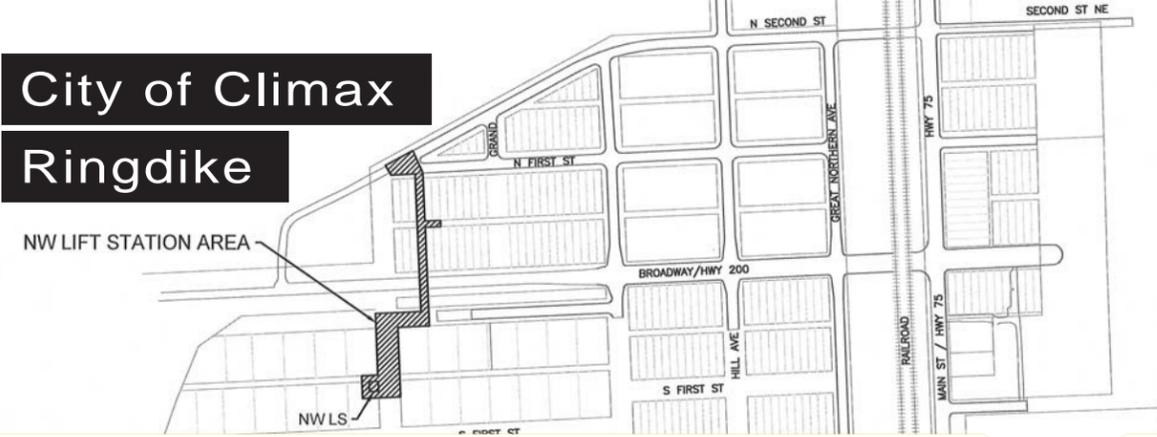


City of Climax

Ringdike

NW LIFT STATION AREA



SAND HILL RIVER
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

“MnDNR (Flood Hazard Mitigation Funding) granted an extension of funding that would allow for project completion by December 2015.”

Jeff Langan - Houston Engineering

CLIMAX RINGDIKE PLANNING

Plans and specs for Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Relocation were completed and the district was hopeful to begin construction of Phase 1 during the fall of 2014.

Unfortunately, the project construction was postponed until the summer of 2015.



Structure Site Prior to Demolition for Future Levee Alignment

PHASE II BIDDING

Because the low bid was 30% over the engineer's estimate (approximately 41% over) the bids by law must be rejected. The DNR granted an extension for the purpose of rebidding this project during the winter of 2015. It is the hope of the district that construction of PHASE II can begin in the summer of 2015.

HOME DEMOLITION

The Westman home located in the area of the ringdike underwent demolition during the summer of 2014. The project was awarded to A & S Construction of Climax.

The structures left on location were sold by bid for relocation and were removed in the spring of 2014.

Nielsville Ring Dike

An EAW was submitted. The board found no significant impacts and agreed that an EIS is not required. This project will remain idle pending 2015 state FDR funding determination.

HISTORY

The Sand Hill River in its natural state passed north of the City of Beltrami in a poorly defined channel and dispersed into marshes which extended westerly for over ten miles before re-appearing as a river which flowed into the Red River of the North by Bygland.

In an effort to confine the Sand Hill River in a fixed channel, two state ditches were constructed during 1894-1898, substantially along the course now occupied by the present channel.

The improvements were not adequate and additional construction was completed in 1917.

As drainage and flood problems persisted, the Corp of Engineers began a study of the river in 1942.

SAND HILL RIVER

As a result the Sand Hill Drainage and Conservancy Board was established by an order of the District Court of Polk County, State of Minnesota, on the 18th day of May, 1949 to carry out the Corps project to improve the main channel. The overall purpose of the Board was for “flood control and improvement of the Sand Hill River channel.” Construction work was completed in the fall of 1954. The process to establish the Sand Hill River Watershed District was a Court Hearing at Crookston, MN on August 28, 1974. The place of business of

the Sand Hill River Watershed District was determined to be at Fertile, MN. The duties and responsibilities of the old Sand Hill River Drainage and Conservancy Board were given to the new District on May 28, 1975 in accordance with the Minnesota Watershed Act.



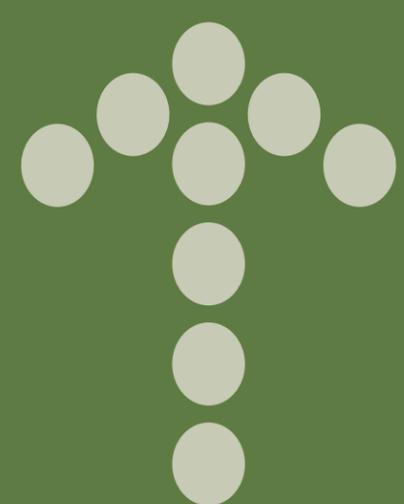
CONTENTS

1
History

2
News & Highlights

3
Fish Passage
Board of Managers

4
Climax Ring Dike
Nielsville Ring Dike





Zach Herrmann
Houston Engineering

Zach Herrmann began transitioning as the Lead Engineer for the Sand Hill River Watershed. The district began their relationship with Herrmann in July of 2014.

Zach Herrmann is a Civil Engineer with Houston Engineering and currently serves as the Sand Hill River Watershed District Engineer. He has considerable experience in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS. He has worked as a design engineer on a variety of water resource projects in the Red River Basin.



two installed water and sediment basins

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

TMDL

Houston Engineering continued to work on objective four and five of Phase I. They also worked on objectives one and two of Phase II. Mark Deutschman took over as the new project manager for the TMDL project for the Sand Hill Watershed District.

A public meeting was held on March 28 at the Fertile Community Center.

By the end of 2014, the district was about 35% complete of Phase II.

SEDIMENT BASINS

The board of managers approved \$30,000 for Mahnomen and \$50,000 for East Polk for the sediment basin cost share program for the upcoming 2015 year. There were 61 water and sediment basins installed in the Upper Sand Hill River Watershed in 2014. A total of \$46,784.27 was contributed towards these projects by the Sand Hill River Watershed. Clean Water Funds spent in 2014 for projects totaled \$154,479.16.

DFIRM PANELS

Draft county flood plain maps vs. the existing maps (from 1966) were presented to the managers in August. The district has submitted comments based on the new maps and Houston Engineering researched the presented models and submitted their findings. The board believes that the new flood plain map has serious errors and if left as is will cost our constituents a lot of money into the future. The district hopes to correct the new proposed flood plain maps.

PROJECT # 24

In 2013 Reiner Contracting, the contractor for Project # 24, began negotiations with the district regarding their additional pay request for costs incurred for the addition of 18" CS pipes and gates. Mediation was held on April 23 in Minneapolis. In 2014, an agreement was made to distribute funds in the amount of \$67,500, ultimately settling the case.

PERMITS

Fifty-eight permits were brought before the board in 2014.

FISH PASSAGE

Good News!

The West Polk SWCD applied for a Clean Water Fund grant for rock riffles below the drop structures.

&

The DNR and the SHRWD, from the US Army Corp (the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council) was successful in receiving \$990,000 of the requested 1,666,800. The MN DNR has found an additional \$120,000 which will be forwarded to the US Army Corps to continue with designing to prepare for the 2015 construction season.



MANAGERS AND TERMS

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------|----------------|-------------------|
| Stuart Christian, Board Chair | Erskine, MN 56535 | Polk | (218) 687-3570 | Term expires 2016 |
| Scott Balstad, Vice- Chair | Fosston, MN 56542 | Polk | (218) 435-2173 | Term expires 2015 |
| Phillip Swenson, Treasurer | Fertile, MN 56540 | Polk | (218) 945-6223 | Term expires 2015 |
| Robert Brekke, Secretary | Nielsville, MN 56568 | Polk | (218) 946-2875 | Term expires 2017 |
| Roger Hanson, Manager | Beltrami, MN 56517 | Polk | (218) 926-5770 | Term expires 2017 |

We thank our board of managers for serving!

Board Anniversary Date

The board anniversary date of the board of manager terms was changed in 2014 to end with the calendar year. The Sand Hill Advisory Committed met December 29, 2014 and recommended Scott Balstad and Phillip Swenson to serve another term.