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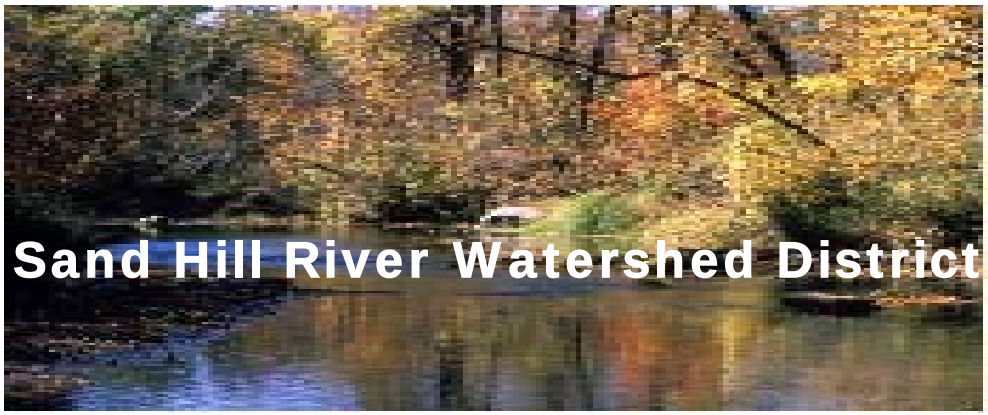
2003 Annual Report



Watershed Formation and Characteristics

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 reappearing as a river which flowed into the Red River of the North. 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. 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.

In 1976 the Sand Hill River Watershed District signed a joint powers agreement with six other watershed districts to form an organization now known as the Red River Watershed Management board. In 1980 the Buffalo Red Watershed District joined and in 1994, Boise De Sioux also joined.

On March 8, 1978 the Sand Hill River Watershed adopted the Rules and Regulations pursuant to Minnesota Statues. They were later amended on October 3, 1978.

The District's south boundaries were hydrologically determined and established at a hearing at the Fertile Community Center June 26, 1984. The north boundaries were established from the old Sand Hill Drainage & Conservancy District. The District encompasses 475 square miles, almost wholly in the south part of Polk County, with a small part in Mahnomen and Norman County. The area includes the entire drainage basin of the Sand Hill River.

The average width of the basin is 8 miles and it is approximately 55 miles long. The Sand Hill River originates in Sand Hill Lake, located about four miles south of the City of Fosston and outlets two miles west of Climax into the Red River of the North. Elevation at the eastern end of the watershed is nearly 1,350 feet above sea level with an elevation of 850 feet at the western end.

Approximately 90 percent of the land in the District is used for agricultural or agriculturally related purposes. The watershed can be divided into three areas as follows:

a.) West End: This is the Red River Valley area, which was the bed of Glacial Lake Agassiz. It is nearly level and almost all cultivated. It extends easterly from the Red River of the North to a point about 6 miles west of the City of Fertile.

b.) Central Region: This area is located from 6 miles west of the City of Fertile to a point about 3 miles east of the City with a major drop of nearly 300 feet in elevation from east to west. This area has considerable wetlands, gravel ridges and scrub tree growth.

c.) East End: The upper reaches of the watershed are glacial in origin and its soils support agricultural uses. It is mostly gently rolling terrain with numerous potholes, the majority of which have been drained

Polk County # 41 (Project # 17)

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

ROW Markers

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Union Lake Flood Control and Erosion Project

This story can fit 150-200 words.

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District Activities

Garden Slough

Beltrami Ring Dike

Project Team

The Sand Hill River Watershed District Project Team is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of each month, depending on the availability of it's members. The current member list is as follows:

Adam	Woltjer
Jenny	Burrack
Dan	Thul
Brian	Dwight
Larry	Stortroen
Jerry	Jacobson
Maynard	Pick
Tom	Groshens
Lawrence	Woodubry
Bruce	Johnson
Wayne	Goeken
Jody	Horntvedt
Danny	Grunhovd
Rolland	Gagner
Greg	Bengston
Don	Buckhout
Gary	Huberty
Terry	Wolfe
Bob	Merritt
Luther	Aadland
Mike	Vavricka
Randy	Huleskamp
Gary	Lee
Penny	Doty
Tom	Raster
Les	Peterson
Roger	Hanson
Harold	Vig

The Project Team is currently focusing on the Fish Passage, Union Lake Flood Control and Erosion, Garden Slough, Lake Sarah Storage, Section 17 of Sletten, and Melvin Slough. These projects are in the very early stages, in fact, much of their research will determine if these projects are feasible.

Sand Hill River Watershed District Staff

Advisory Committee Members

John Balstad-Fosston
Rory Hamre-Beltrami
Helmer Homme-Winger
Rich Johnson-Fosston
David Johnstad-Beltrami
Allen Stromstad-Beltrami
Steve Taylor-Fertile
Jim Todahl-Fertile
Scott Tollefson-Beltrami
Steven Vesledahl-Winger
Roger Ulseth-Crookston
Douglas Burd-Nielsville
DeWayne Engelstad-Nielsville
Gerald Jacobson-Fertile
Jan McWilliam-Winger
Jeff Voeller-Climax

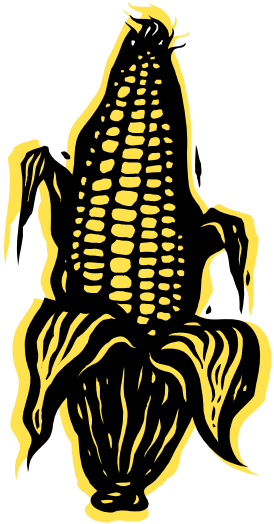
Board of Managers

Chairman Roger hanson—Beltrami
Vice-Chair Harold Vig—Fosston
Secretary Bill Brekke—Nielsville
Treasurer Stuart Christian—Erskine
Manager Gordon Sonstelie—Erskine

Staff

Daniel Wilkens—Administrator
April Swenby—Administrative Assistant

River Watch Program



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.