

President's Message: A New Partner, a New Era

Dear friends -

As I promised in our last newsletter, we have some exciting news to share with you, our valued clients and friends. Beginning on January 1, 2010, our Lead Designer, Steve Emery will become a partner at Floan-Sanders, Inc.

Steve got his degree in Civil Engineering from NDSU and has 13 years of surveying and engineering experience. He started with Floan-Sanders in 1996 and has been the lead designer on most of our projects in regional communities, including Warroad, Fertile, and Greenbush. Partner Brad Bail and I have watched him grow into a confident engineer and experienced project manager and are excited to offer him this opportunity to help us lead Floan-Sanders into the future.

As you know, our company is

committed to serving the communities and counties of northwestern Minnesota for all of their civil engineering needs. We understand the unique situation of local decision-makers with tight budgets and aging infrastructure and have prided ourselves in providing no-nonsense, practical solutions for our smaller, regional communities. Steve shares our commitment to this region and our values and we are pleased to have him take on this leadership opportunity.

Please join me in congratulating Steve on his new role in our firm!

- Greg Boppre, President

At right top: Steve presents an aerial photo of the City of Greenbush to its mayor Scott Waage in honor of the community's 100 year centennial in 2005. Below: Steve reviews the plans for the reconstruction of 23rd St. NW with Floan-Sanders Inspector Tom Stenseth earlier this year.



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Clearer (Water) Days Ahead for Greenbush Residents

It's the beginning of a new era for the citizens of Greenbush, MN. A new Water Treatment Plant, designed by Floan-Sanders, Inc., Obermiller Nelson Engineering, and EAPC Architects, will be under construction this fall and will put an end to stained fixtures and clothing, the result of years of high iron levels in the area's water supply.

Although not considered a health issue by the Environmental Protection Agency, high iron levels are definitely a quality of life issue. In 2002, a pilot study was completed in Greenbush to determine the iron levels of the area's water supply. The results? 1.4 milligrams of iron per liter of water. That is over 350% higher than the EPA's recommended level of .3 milligrams per liter.

The City of Greenbush has been exploring various options for cleaning up their water for several years, with the help of Floan-



This 3D rendering of the new Greenbush Water Treatment Plant from EAPC gives an idea of what the front of the building will look like when completed. The Greenbush City Council is still discussing the color of the metal exterior.

Sanders, Inc. FS staff assisted with test wells several years ago in the hope of finding a new aquifer with lower iron levels. Although another aquifer was found, it did not have the capacity to serve the community's water needs.

The construction of the LifeCare Greenbush Manor - a new nursing home in the community - gave the issue an added level of importance and also opened up financing options for the City to consider. A

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EGF Growth Requires Reconstruction of 23rd Street NW

Increasing development on the north side of East Grand Forks is requiring the reconstruction of a major roadway there.

A one-mile stretch of 23rd Street NW, from River Road to Highway 220, will be changed from a rural road to an urban section. Floan-Sanders completed the design for the \$4 million project and is overseeing construction, which began in early September.

The first phase of construction involves the construction of a drainway and extension of stormsewer to improve drainage in the area as well as the extension of other utilities. The utilities are located in the ditches or berms so closure of the road will not be necessary except for the watermain replacement, which is almost complete. Curb and gutter and

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new Water Treatment Plant could be financed through a Public Facilities Authority (PFA) loan. The City of Greenbush will raise user fees to pay back the loan.

Approximately \$1 million in water system improvements have already been completed as a part of the project. Parts of the existing watermain were replaced and then looped to improve water quality and pressure. Floan-Sanders completed the environmental assessment,

"There is a lot of iron buildup in the waterpipes after all these years, so it will take awhile to flush them out. But eventually, residents will see a big difference in the water."

- Steve Emery, PE
FS Project Manager

preliminary engineering report, and design for the entire project. Spruce Valley Contracting completed that work in August of 2009.

The new iron removal water treatment plant was bid in August and Norther Plains Contracting was the successful bidder. Some sanitary sewer work and other site prep work will be completed this fall and construction of the building itself will start in the spring of 2010.

"After construction of the plant is completed, it will still take about 3-6 months for the water to clear up," noted Steve Emery, the project manager from Floan-Sanders. "There is a lot of iron buildup in the waterpipes after all these years, so it will take awhile to flush them out. But eventually, residents will see a big difference in the water."

The City is also replacing 16 gate valves throughout the water system as a part of the



Construction workers install an extension (light blue pipe) to the existing watermain (dark pipe in lower right corner) in Greenbush as part of the water system improvements project.

project. The gate valves will allow sections of the water system to be isolated and shut off if future work is ever needed. The total cost of the Water Treatment Plant, water system improvements, and new gate valves is approximately \$2.4 million. The project should be completed in October of 2010. ♦

Behind the Scenes at FS: Grandchildren and a Proposal!



Our Floan-Sanders family is growing by leaps and bounds!

Congratulations to Office Manager Marilyn Bren who celebrated the birth of her second grandchild, Hazel Monica Rae Bren on July 16th! Hazel is the daughter of Wade and Heather and joins big sister Alivia Rae at home in Savage, MN.

And FS President Greg Boppre earned the title Grandpa on July 22nd when his daughter Janelle gave birth to his first grandchild, Kaia Autumn. Luckily Kaia lives in East Grand Forks so Grandpa Greg has many opportunities to spoil her!

And in other exciting news, engineer Jaroslav Solc proposed to his girlfriend Tabitha Leake on August 17 in Glacier National Park! And she said yes! They are planning a wedding on July 10, 2010 in the Czech Republic, where Jaroslav's family originated, with a reception to follow later in the states.

Congratulations to all three FS employees on these joyous events!



"Never have children, only grandchildren"

- Gore Vidal



"Anyone who uses the phrase 'easy as taking candy from a baby' has never actually tried taking candy from a baby."

- Unknown

Staff Highlight: Welcome to Jerry Skyberg!

Floan-Sanders, Inc. is excited to introduce our new employee Jerry Skyberg! Jerry previously worked for the City of East Grand Forks for 28 years, primarily serving as the City's Building Official. Other duties at the City included serving as the Director of Recovery after the 1997 flood and serving as the Interim City Administrator for 6 months.

Jerry has been married to his wife Barb for 43 years and they have two sons and 4 grandchildren (Tori - 15, Tessa - 13, Rylee - 11, and Macy - 9).

Can you explain a little bit about the work you will be doing for FS? As a part of the agreement between the City of East Grand Forks and the Corps of Engineers, the City is required to spend at least 35% of the total project cost for the city on lands, easements and rights-of-way for the flood protection project. I have to do all the paperwork to prove the actual acquisition of the property

and all the administrative and engineering costs associated with the process. Each property that is bought has a tract number and all costs associated with the purchase of that tract have to be accounted for. Phase 1, which was about 50 properties, has been submitted and approved. Phase 2 has about 70 properties and that has been submitted to the Corps and we're close to approval. I'm right in the middle of the 75 or 80 Phase 3 properties and then I have to organize the Hartsville Coulee Diversion and the Phase 4 levee properties.

Do you have a favorite memory of working for the City? I have a couple - working with Mayor Louis Murray was just hilarious - he was always funny. And I enjoyed working with the acquisition crew for buying property - Karl Lindquist, Val Gravseth, Greg Boppre, Gary Sanders, and Scott Knudson. It was hard work but we had fun working together.

Tell us a little about yourself - what are your hobbies? Fishing and golf - I enjoy

both of them. And we enjoy our lake cabin on Moose Lake northeast of Bemidji.

What do you like on your pizza? Everything! My favorite is the Big Kahuna at Mike's (Mike's Pizza in EGF). I love that pizza.

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why? President Obama - I think it would be great. Not so much because I'm a Democrat or a Republican but just because I think it would be great to talk to the president and find out what goes on in Washington - if he'd tell me! ♦



23rd St. NW . . . Continued from page 1

paving will be completed next year, along with a shared use path. The project should be finished in the fall of 2010.

"Spruce Valley is the contractor on the project and they're doing a great job so far," noted Project Manager Greg Boppre. "They already have the first box culvert in at 8th Avenue NW and have started work on the drainway construction."

The project will be financed through a State Transportation Revolving Loan Fund and paid for through the City's State Aid allocation. ♦



The red line above indicates the 1 mile section of 23rd Street NW from River Road to Highway 220, that will be under construction over the next year as a part of a \$4 million road reconstruction project.