

President's Message: A Different Time, A Different Place

Dear friends -

It's been 10 years since the 1997 flood swept through Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, overwhelming our dikes and our residents. I remember the months-long preparations for the flood fight that year, the frantic last minute attempts to stop the inevitable, the evacuations, the destruction, the grief, the exhaustion, and the fear of what would happen to our communities. Would we come back? Would we fade away?



1997

It seems hard to believe that there are preparations underway now for the 10 year anniversary of the flood with a theme of

"Thanks to America". Has it really been that long? And when I look at our community now, I can hardly believe a flood happened at all. Our downtown is fabulous—Cabela's, Blue Moose, Whitey's, Touch of Magic Ballroom, plus so many other stores and establishments—a beautiful new City Hall, Sherlock Forest Playground, Campbell Library . . . The list of our successes goes on and on.

Of course, the project that has consumed most of our time at Floan-Sanders, after the initial recovery work, has been the US Army Corps of Engineers flood protection project, which will be completed at the end of this year. The City is getting ready to take over the operations and maintenance of this \$410 million protection system, which has given our communities a tremendous sense of security and level of protection from similar flood events.

The best testament to the system may be the flood of 2006: the 6th largest flood on record and it went virtually unnoticed by most resi-



2006

dents. In fact, it was almost a tourist attraction as people flocked to (and over!) the dikes to gape at the high water, almost oblivious to the dangers that years ago would have had the communities scrambling at sand-bag central and other locations. We are very proud of our work to rebuild and protect our community and are sincerely thankful for the assistance we received that helped make it all possible.

What a blessing to be able to look back with such gratitude and look forward with such excitement. Hope you feel it too.

- Greg Boppre, President

Civil Talk

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Issue 9



13th Street Project Provides Safer Access to South Point

An extension of 13th Street SE in East Grand Forks will provide a much safer access to Bygland Road for parents and school buses that bring kids to South Point Elementary next fall. The 1188 linear foot extension of the street involves the construction of a two-lane urban section, with 7 inches of concrete over a 6 inch aggregate base.

"The MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) did a study in 2000 that identified a safety need in this area," explains Greg Boppre, the Project Manager

from Floan-Sanders, "which was the major impetus for the extension."

The project also includes a box

culvert across the Hartsville Coulee,

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The aerial view shows the proposed extension to 13th Street as it crosses Bygland Road and the Hartsville Coulee.

Warroad Streets Get a Face Lift

Over a mile of roadway will be under repairs this summer in Warroad as 4800 linear feet of Main Street and 800 linear feet of Garfield Street get a face lift. The Mill & Overlay project is just regular maintenance, according to Steve Emery, the Project Engineer at Floan-Sanders. Once completed, the project will improve the drainage, improve the ride, and extend the life of the street section.

The streets were identified as being in need of repair in the 2005 Pavement Management Report that Floan-Sanders completed for the City of Warroad. Floan-Sanders staff evaluated the condition of all the streets in town and noted which ones needed chip seals, a complete mill and overly, curb and gutter repairs or other work.

"We usually recommend Mill &

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which will be designed in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

With a total cost of \$1.5 million, the project is being funded primarily by Minnesota State Transportation Improvement Program and High Priority Project funds. According to Boppre, Representative Colin Peterson was instrumental in obtaining federal funding for the project.

Because of the federal and state monies involved, the project required approval of all plans and specs by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

"Our plans are to go out for bid in May and start construction in June. If all goes well, construction should take about four months"

- Greg Boppre, Floan-Sanders



Floan-Sanders staff worked closely with MnDot officials to make sure they were kept informed throughout the project's progress.

All necessary agency approvals and permits have been obtained and the project will be under construction this summer.

"Our plans are to go out for bid in May and start construction in June," Boppre noted. If all goes well, construction should take about four months." ♦

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

- Mark Twain



"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

- Doug Larson

Meet our staff: Kellie Rygg

One of the newest members of our Floan-Sanders family is Kellie Rygg, who serves as our Administrative Assistant and receptionist. A graduate of Northwest Technical College, Kellie has degrees in Accounting and Financial Management and 18 years of experience, including 6 years as a legal assistant. She has been married for 3 1/2 years to her husband Aaron, and has three daughters - Kori 17; Allie 15 and Kacie 9. The family has three cats (one of which weighs 37 lbs!) and a dog.



Why did you choose to work for FS? When I interviewed for the position, everyone seemed as though they would really be great to work with and actually appreciate things that were done for them.

Where are you from and where did you go to high school? I grew up in Hatton, ND and moved back to GF my senior year of HS. I drove back and

forth my senior year and attended classes 2 days a week--(hard to believe, but I was a 4.0 student back then!)

What is the favorite part of your job? I love the interaction with people, whether on the phone, in person or just co-workers. If I am the first person they see, I am going to do my best to put a smile on their face every day!

Did you or do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you? My parents come to mind first. All the while when I thought they were being cruel and unusual, they were actually teaching me things to better myself and also good advice on getting through life (And, for the record, when you have kids--the "I hope you get one just like you" Curse - works!)

If you couldn't do your current job, what would you want to do instead? I would love to teach.

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why? BRETT FAVRE!! Need I say more..... ♦

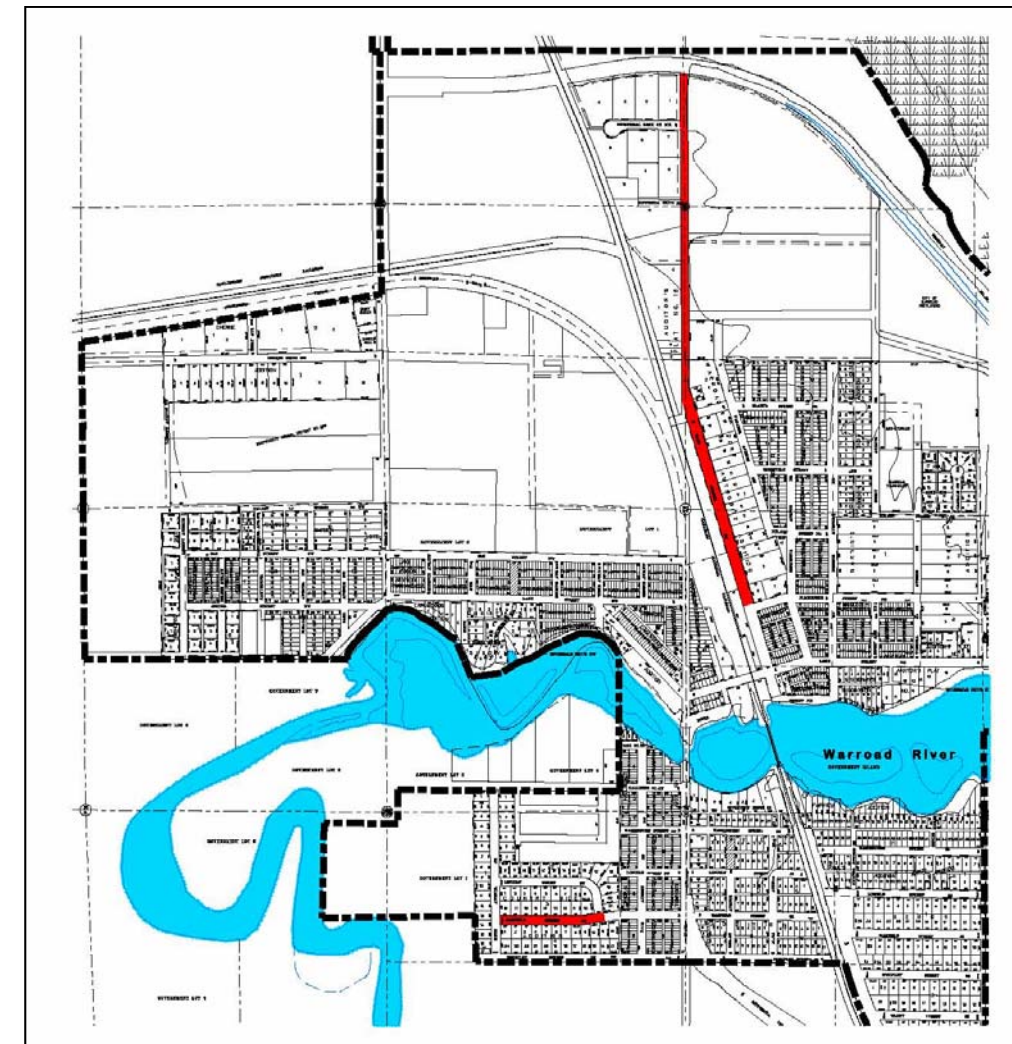
Warroad Streets . . . Continued from page 1

Overlays be done every 7 to 10 years, " Emery explains. "It's important to have a pavement management plan for your community so you don't have to replace or repair all your streets in the same year."

As an example, East Grand Forks residents had to endure a summer full of roadwork as 60% of their asphalt streets were Milled and Overlaid in 2006. Because of the 1997 flood, the streets didn't have their regular maintenance done in the late 90s and the additional wear and tear was obvious on many streets.

The Warroad Pavement Management Report identified approximately a dozen streets that will be milled and overlaid in the next several years. The Main and Garfield Street projects are the first ones from the report to be scheduled. The project will cost an estimated \$389,000 and should be bid in April or May of this year. ♦

The map of Warroad at the right shows those parts of Main and Garfield Streets that will be mill and overlaid this summer.



Why You Should Hire a Good Engineer . . .

. . . So your driveways don't look like this!



Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. Here are a few photos we've been sent that clearly show the perils of proceeding on a project without an engineer on your team!