



For Immediate Release

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MAWD Names Project of the Year

Sand Hill River Watershed District

St. Paul, MN: Last week, the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) named the Sand Hill River Watershed District Project of the Year Award for the Sand Hill River Ecosystem Enhancements.

The Sand Hill River has been plagued by increasingly turbid waters and fragmented riparian habitat, leading to degraded water quality and limited recreation opportunities. The Sand Hill River Watershed District (SHRWD) spent the last 14 years committed to improving turbidity and fish passage issues for area residents.

Multiple projects were completed, including two river crossing replacements, removal of an old mill dam, removal of four concrete dams and retrofit with rock arch rapids, installation of nearly forty rock riffles, retrofit of the Sand Hill Lake Dam with rock arch rapids, and removal of an old bridge to provide enhanced riparian function.

The SHRWD, West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), East Polk SWCD, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, and area landowners all partnered to ensure the success of the Sand Hill River Ecosystem Enhancements. The project was developed with a collaborative approach to ensure as many resource issues as possible were address through the project.

Congratulations goes out to SHRWD for receiving the 2021 MAWD Project of the Year award.



Sand Hill Lake Outlet Rock Arch Rapids Retrofit



Sand Hill Lake Drop Structure Rock Arch Rapids Retrofit

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