

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SNY ISLAND LEVEE DRAINAGE DISTRICT

2005 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

What's that old saying? "You can't judge a book by its cover." 2005 could arguably be a prime example of it. The beginning of 2005 was definitely a wet one. Rainfall was so abundant that we were forced to operate all three pump stations at their maximum capacity in the month of January. We couldn't remember a time in the recent past that the District was forced into maximum pumping operations so early in the year. There was so much water standing in the fields and along the roads that it made one wonder if it would ever dry up. Needless to say, we became concerned that if this type of weather pattern continued, we could be in for an interesting year. Comments around the District from those wishing the rain would stop became common. What's another old saying? "You better be careful what you wish for, you just might get it." Well, you know what happened. Precipitation became scarce from early spring on. Crop yields in many areas of the District were far from acceptable. We could have all had a much better year. However, it could have been a lot worse. Thankfully, we don't live in the New Orleans or gulf coast areas devastated by hurricanes. We take what we can from 2005 and look forward to a more prosperous 2006.

PUMP STATION NEWS

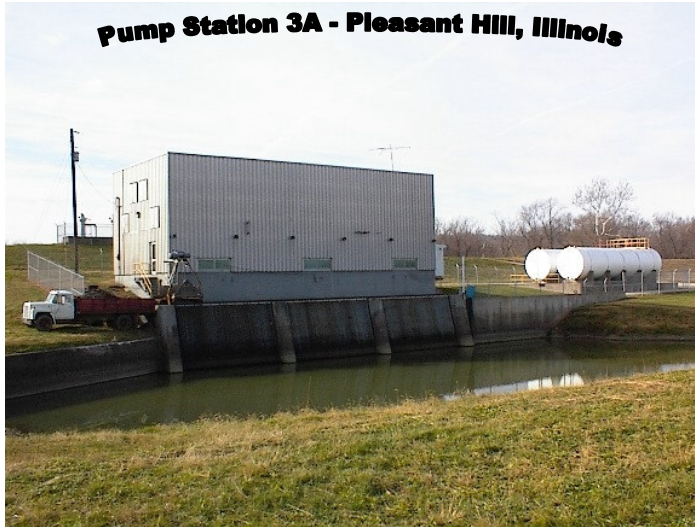
Bryan Chapman continues to serve the District in the capacity of Resident Pump Station Operator for Pump Station #1 southwest of Hull. Bryan has worked fulltime for the



District at Pump Station #1 for more than 12 years. Bryan's part time pumpers include Howard Hubbard, Kevin Keithly and Ron Kemner. Pump Station #1 has a capacity to pump 200,000 gallons of water per minute from each of its two 78" diameter vertical lift pumps. Each pump is powered by a 1,000 hp. Fairbanks Morse opposed piston diesel engine. Bryan reports that pumping hours for 2005 totaled 323.5, with all of those hours recorded in the months of January and February. Other

than ongoing, routine maintenance, the major project at this location in 2005 was the retro-fitting of independent engine coolant tanks for each of the two engines. In 2004, Pump Station #1 experienced an engine coolant leak in the pump bay radiator system. It was difficult to pinpoint which engine was leaking last year because the tank containing the heat transfer liquid that is monitored for proper coolant levels serviced both engines

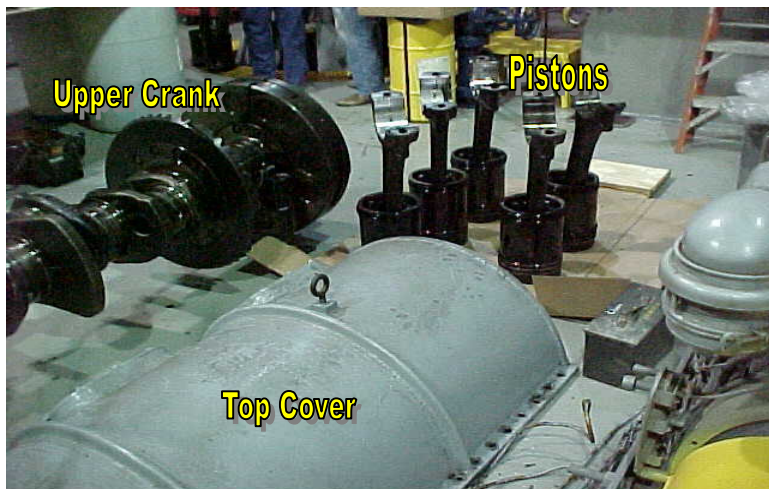
simultaneously. We now have separate coolant tanks for each engine that allows the coolant in each engine to be monitored for adequate levels of ambient (the heat transfer solution) independent of the other. If a leak develops, we know immediately which engine has the problem, thus expediting the repair.



Lewis Wells manages the operations as the Sny's Resident Pump Station Operator at Pump Station 3A near Pleasant Hill. Lewis has served in that capacity since 1994. Lewis' part time pumping staff consists of Steve Herron, Jerry Motley, Lyndle Scranton, Bob Weir, Earl Fry and Phillip Boren. Pump Station 3A is equipped with three 72" vertical lift pumps, each powered by an 800 hp. Fairbanks Morse diesel engine. Pumping capacity for each pump at 3A is 178,000

gallons of water per minute. Lewis noted that in 2005, total pump hours at 3A were 2,903. As short as the District was on rainfall during the late spring and summer, this seems like a lot of pumping. However, seepage from the river is constantly coming into the District. The lack of adequate rainfall did keep the Sny low enough that operating Pump Station 1 throughout most of the year was not necessary. That being the case, the drainage from the entire District north of Pleasant Hill then flows to 3A, which is equipped with aqueducts to allow the Sny direct access to the river. However this year, we experienced high river stages until late June preventing the aqueducts from being opened. Therefore, pumping operations became necessary.

In January and February of this year, Lewis and a field technician from Fairbanks Morse Engine of Houston, Texas, overhauled engine #1 at Pump Station 3A. Engines #2 & #3 were overhauled in 2004. Sny expenses leading to the completion of these three major improvements totaled more than \$300,000.00 in 2004 & 2005. To give you an idea as to how long work of this type lasts, engine #1 was last overhauled in 1987, representing more than 35,000 pumping hours on the engine.





Last year's newsletter outlined a future project that would provide a dramatic improvement to the Sny's drainage system. We included this picture of the bridge crossing the Sny just north of Pump Station 3A. This crossing is critical to the overall efficiency of not only Pump Station 3A, but to the entire system of drainage north to Harkness Creek in Reach I. It provides easy access for tractor trailer units delivering diesel fuel to the pump station. Old age finally caught up to it in 2003. Its

condition led the Calhoun County Highway Department to immediately post it with a 3-ton load limit. The county then began to move forward to secure funding for its replacement. Great progress has been made on the construction of this new bridge. Pictured as a part of this segment is the work completed to date by Barry Webster and his Calhoun County Highway Department staff. Installation of the 24' X 80' clear span concrete deck was recently completed. Work continues on the 25' long approaches on each side of the Sny. This new bridge should be completed yet this winter at which time the old bridge structure will be removed. This is a tremendous improvement to the infrastructure of the Sny and would not be possible without the complete cooperation and hard work of Barry and his staff, along with the Illinois Department of Transportation.



In February of 2005, the Sny lost a long time member of its family with the passing of Warren "Butch" Sturtevant. "Butch" was a friend to all and a tireless worker for the District for more than 25 years, managing pumping operations at Pump Station 4 south of Pleasant Hill and heading up the Sny's levee mowing program and brush cutting along District ditches. "Butch's" smiling face, work ethic and friendly nature is surely missed.

Fortunately for the District, we were able to secure the services of a Pike County native to take over "Butch's" duties. Brad Bess, formerly of the Milton area, came to work for the Sny from the Alton/Woodriver Drainage District. Brad had been managing the mowing operations at Alton/Woodriver for more than 20 years. Brad assumed the duties of the Resident Pump Station Operator at Pump Station 4 in May. Brad is assisted by Mike Clendenny, Calvin Anderson, John Springer and Dewey Davis. Pump Station 4 is equipped with three 42" vertical lift pumps, each powered by Cat 3406 diesel engines generating 420 hp. The pumping capacity of each pump is 44,580 gallons per minute. Brad reports that the total pump hours from the station's 2005 operation was 991.

The staff works hard to leave nothing to chance when it comes to the operation and maintenance of our three pump stations. With a total pumping capacity of nearly 1,100,000 gallons of water per minute, it's easy to see the importance of having our pump stations in top condition on a daily basis. In addition, like everyone else, we have experienced dramatic



increases in the cost of what is the lifeblood of these pump stations, diesel fuel. In 2004, the highest price per gallon paid for pump station diesel fuel was \$1.05. In 2005, we paid as much as \$1.62 per gallon. On average, the District purchases more than 125,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year for the pump stations. It's difficult to cut corners with this operation. When the Sny water level dictates it, you have to pump. The Sny's pump station staff continually seeks to make improvements, solve problems and perform optimum daily maintenance in their effort to provide the most efficient pumping operation possible.

FIELD MAINTENANCE



Did you know that the Sny Island Levee Drainage District maintains almost 60 miles of sedimentation basin levees, almost 50 miles of diversion channel levees and more than 265 miles of "district ditches" and creek channels stretching across three counties? Did you know that the Sny's main stem Mississippi River levee is 54 miles in length? Were you aware that your drainage district operates 16 sedimentation basins containing more than 2,600 acres? All of the above comprise but a part of the many components key

to the effective drainage and flood protection of the Sny basin. Several thousand acres of levees and channels are mowed at least once annually by our levee mowing crew of Brad

Bess, Paul Kenady and Kevin Keithly. Two John Deere 7710 tractors are utilized with a 20' John Deere and a 15' Bush Hog mower. The levee mowing program usually starts in late June or early July and takes most of the rest of the year to complete. Once that work is done, these mowing units are stored for the winter and the Alamo Machete Brush Axe attachment is added to one of the 7710's to begin our winter time program of cutting brush along as many "district ditches" as possible. This work continues into the spring until pump station operations along with spring planting bring a halt to it. To facilitate the brush cutting in the "district ditches" the Sny has continued its program of providing Crossbow brush killer to area farmers to be used for spraying brush along "district ditches". Control of this woody vegetation goes a long way toward improving the drainage efficiency of the ditch as well as speed up the ditch maintenance activity with our trackhoe.



When that time comes, the Sny turns to Scott McKee on the District's 350L Cat trackhoe and Willard Lynch on the D6R to complete the job. Willard has served on the Sny staff for 18 years while Scott has been with us for 5 ½ years. For the most part, this type of work is done in the winter so as not to interfere with adjacent cropland. However, if an emergency develops requiring immediate

attention, the trackhoe and D6 are moved in as necessary. Last winter Scott and Willard cleaned more than 12 miles of "district ditches" including a couple of segments of the Sny. Work of this type could not be accomplished without the cooperation of you, the landowners and tenant farmers. With the many miles of ditches we have to maintain, it's impossible for the staff to adequately monitor their effectiveness. We rely on you to keep an eye out for drainage problems in your area throughout the year. If you see a problem, don't hesitate to contact the Sny office.

Another factor in the effectiveness of a drainage system is the appropriate use of drainage tubes. We continually see the efficiency of a ditch hindered by "plugs" caused from field ditches draining large areas of fields routed directly into the ditch rather than through a tube. A properly installed field drainage tube will prevent the erosion of your field plus allow you to farm across it at the same time. If, while the Sny staff is cleaning a "district ditch" on your land you decide that a new tube crossing is needed in it or you want to install some tubes as a part of your field drainage system into it, the Sny staff will do so at no charge. However, we do ask that the landowner play a role in sizing tubes to be

used as well as assist with the installation. We are happy to be able to continue to provide this service, but we cannot be responsible for damage that may occur to the tube during its installation and will not guarantee it for proper flow. The Sny also cannot be responsible for future damage that may happen to the tube as a result of flow through it as well as damage to adjacent crops that may result from the installation. The tubes that we install need not be purchased from us, but we continue to provide a large inventory of both plastic and galvanized steel tubes as well as couplers and flapgates at the Sny headquarters in New Canton. Not only do we try to keep a large inventory on hand, we



have access from our many suppliers to the many other pipe accessories that you might need within a few business days. Our tubes are stocked in 20' lengths for the

most part; however we will cut them into 10' lengths for any special applications that might be required. In addition, we can special order galvanized pipe in a variety of lengths, some of which have been as long as 54'. Availability is certainly an advantage when purchasing your drainage supplies from us plus our tubes and accessories are competitively priced.

THE DREDGE

Hardly a day goes by that someone on the staff or a Commissioner is not asked the question, "Are we dredging?"

Our dredging operation got off to a later than usual start this year due to of all things, a higher than normal river stage caused by heavy rains north of us. Though not high enough to be a "flooding" concern, higher than normal river stages lingered in the area through the third week of June. Finally, we were able to begin dredging in late June with operations shut down on November 29 due to



earlier than expected cold weather. Even though we experienced a shortened dredging season, we were still able to complete 1.7 miles of river levee in Reach II, starting several hundred feet north of Blackjack Crossing and ending just north of Touchette's Ramp in

the Leeds Landing area. We now have approximately 1.8 miles of levee left to finish in Reach II. A 9/10 of a mile segment remains at the south end of Reach II and 9/10 of a mile is yet to be completed at the north end. With any kind of luck, Reach II should be completed in 2006 with operations to then move to the north end of Reach I. It's important to note that completing work in many areas along the levee requires more than



just adding sand to the river side slope. In some areas, township roads are moved and telephone and electric service equipment must be relocated. We would be remiss to not report on the great cooperation that has been extended to the Sny from all the impacted landowners in Reach II that has allowed this project to move forward. Support has been received from Bob Gates, Bill and Dan Kendrick,

Jim Dunham, Ted Sprague, Frank and Doug Dolbeare and George, Francis, Joe and Jerry Touchette. In addition, we have received great cooperation from Bob Dolan and all the staff at Illinois R.E.A., Aaron Richart and the officials from Verizon, the Road Commissioners of Atlas and Cincinnati Townships, Gene Damon and Michael Vincent, as well as Gary Lox and Gary Personett from the Pike County Highway Department. Without the assistance of these folks, we would not be as far along as we are with this most vital project.



The Sny Commissioners and Staff extend our thanks to you again.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Not to be overlooked in our discussion of the past year is the critical work performed daily in the Sny's New Canton Business Office. Our Administrative Assistant/G.I.S. Specialist, Yvonne Billings, continues to perform superbly in managing the District's day-to-day business operations, refining our assessment database along with continuing efforts in mapping the entire drainage district. Just to remind everyone, Yvonne manages more than 5,100 land tracts in the Sny that are owned by more than

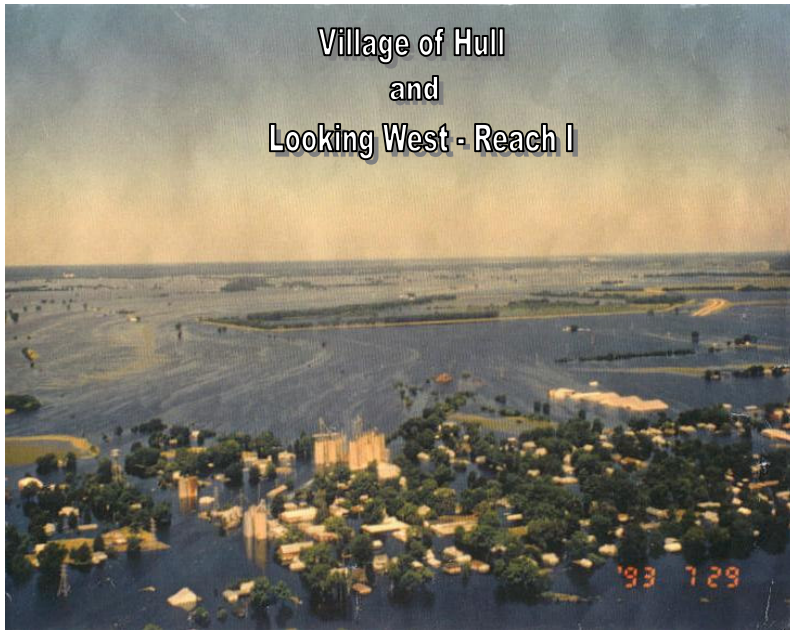


600 landowners residing throughout the United States. To date, Yvonne has mapped almost 2/3 of the District which is vital in providing an added cross-reference in the accuracy of the Sny's records as compared to ownership records maintained in the Adams, Pike and Calhoun County Courthouses. The accuracy of the database is the foundation of the business operations of the entire District. Another way to insure that accuracy lies with you, the landowners. Please check your annual assessment notices to make sure they are in agreement with your ownership records. Also, if you are involved in a land sale, either as the buyer or seller, it is your responsibility to notify Yvonne in the Sny Business Office to insure that your assessment database reflects the appropriate change in ownership. If you have any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact her during daily business hours (8:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.), Monday thru Friday. In addition, Jane Guthrie and Kevin Keithly continue to provide valuable assistance to Yvonne in the Business Office on a part time basis.

“SHAPE THE FUTURE”

That phrase, “**SHAPE THE FUTURE**”, was the focus of an address given by Steve Gambrell, Liaison and Executive Assistant to the Division Commander, Vicksburg Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at the Mississippi Valley Flood Control

Association's Engineering Committee Meeting held December 8, 2005, in St. Louis.



This annual meeting has traditionally been held in New Orleans, Louisiana, since the Association's inception 70 years ago. We all know why it wasn't in New Orleans this year. Mr. Gambrell's presentation was on the need for all of us to "Shape the Future" of our drainage districts by not losing focus over time of what our mission is. Hearing that phrase struck a nerve that prompted this segment of the Newsletter. The

"Great Flood of '93" wreaked havoc over the entire Upper Mississippi valley, including the Sny. The devastation took its toll not only on infrastructure, community property and farm land throughout the region, but more importantly on the way of life of its people. Once the clean-up was completed and operations restored, the Sny took it upon itself to push forward with projects designed to prevent future devastation such as that suffered by the residents and landowners of the Sny in 1993. Since that time, the following work has been completed toward that effort:

1. More than 6 miles of gravel access roads paralleling the main stem river levee have been constructed to provide better accessibility for future flood fights.
2. The 4,000-foot north closure levee was constructed, eliminating the need for a "board fence" in the future.
3. The top of more than 7 miles of the Sny's dirt diversion channel levees was repaired.
4. 9.5 miles of main stem river levee have been strengthened to date with annual dredging to continue, adding additional segments of improved levee each year.



5. Pump Station 1: engines, pumps and gearboxes completely overhauled.

6. Pump Station 3A: engines, pumps and gearboxes completely overhauled with all three engines done in 2004 and 2005.

7. Pump Station 4: all three engines replaced with new, Caterpillar 3406 diesel engines and all three pumps replaced with new ones.

8. 3.9 miles of main stem river levee riprapped.

9. A main stem river levee section just north of Bunge Elevator that experienced severe seepage and subsequent slope slippage during the Great Flood of '93 was excavated.

Unacceptable levee material in that area was removed and replaced with clean, sand fill.

10. 100-Year Flood Protection Certification secured facilitating future main stem river levee improvements.



We will continue our current efforts to fund and complete needed improvements on our own in the foreseeable future, yet work with government officials locally, statewide, regionally and nationally to seek whatever additional financial support might be available that makes sense for us to take advantage of. To go along with that, we will continue to remain active in organizations such as the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, whose annual meeting we recently attended in St. Louis. At that meeting, Commissioner Russell E. Koeller was re-elected State Vice President from the State of Illinois and Mike Reed was elected Secretary of the Engineering Committee. Commissioner's George D. Borrowman and Jack L. Borrowman continue their activity in all facets of the

Association. In other words, through your support, your elected Commissioners and Staff continue to take on the responsibility of **SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE SNY!**



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US

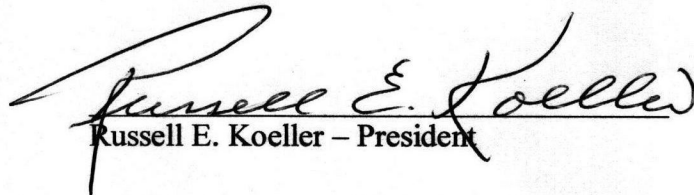
In observance of the upcoming holiday season, the Sny Business Office will be closed December 23, 26 & 30th and January 2.

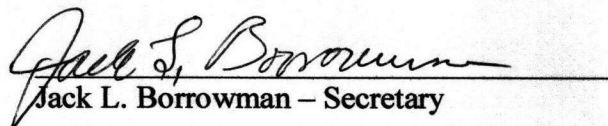
We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support throughout the year and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial report included with this year's newsletter reflects audited figures for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2004.

If you would like to access this year's newsletter electronically, it can be found at <http://www.snyisland.org/newsletter.htm>


Russell E. Koeller – President


Jack L. Borrowman – Secretary


George D. Borrowman - Commissioner

SNY ISLAND LEVEE DRAINAGE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2004

	General Annual Maintenance	Capital Projects Fund Reserve fund Fall Creek	Permanent Fund Reserve Fund Seepage	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Assessments	\$ 786 119	\$	\$	\$ 786 119
Material and pipe sales	43 780			43 780
Lease income	11 000			11 000
Farm income	40 599			40 599
Investment earnings	13 518	11 317	26 024	50 859
Miscellaneous	2 861			2 861
Total revenue	<u>897 877</u>	<u>11 317</u>	<u>26 024</u>	<u>935 218</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General administration				
Payroll	93 662			93 662
Office supplies	4 700			4 700
Building utilities and maintenance	11 171			11 171
Insurance	65 509			65 509
Legal and audit	21 746			21 746
Engineering	4 916			4 916
Farm expense	39 297			39 297
Miscellaneous	35 495			35 495
Pumping Operations				
Payroll	131 118			131 118
Operating expenses	411 319			411 319
Heavy Equipment Operations				
Payroll	85 857			85 857
Equipment expenses	99 558			99 558
Other Operations				
Payroll	14 472			14 472
Equipment expenses	68 813			68 813
Pipe and wire rope	40 271			40 271
Shop supplies and maintenance	6 404			6 404
Brush killer	6 623			6 623
Levee and ditch maintenance	7 488			7 488
Other	76			76
Miscellaneous				
Payroll taxes	26 291			26 291
Employee benefits	99 904			99 904
Capital Outlay	3 174			3 174
Total expenditures	<u>1 277 864</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1 277 864</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(379 987)</u>	<u>11 317</u>	<u>26 024</u>	<u>(342 646)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers in				-
Transfers out				-
Total other financing sources and uses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(379 987)</u>	<u>11 317</u>	<u>26 024</u>	<u>(342 646)</u>
Fund balances - beginning	675 255	481 745	1 519 858	2 676 858
Prior period adjustments				-
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 295 268</u>	<u>\$ 493 062</u>	<u>\$ 1 545 882</u>	<u>\$ 2 334 212</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.