

SANDHILLS RC&D

ANNUAL REPORT

2004



*"Making The Sandhills A Better Life"*



## **Sandhills RC&D Council**

**Stan Pettit – President, Thomas County**  
**Tammy White – Secretary, Lincoln County**  
**Toni Ring – Treasurer, Grant County**  
Eric Hansen – Twin Platte NRD  
Dan Deibler – Hooker County  
Merlin Ring – Village of Hyannis  
Janelle Blake – Tryon  
Dorothy Davis - Stapleton

**Cliff Welsh – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Keith County**  
**Ed Sowders – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, McPherson County**  
Dr. Steve Boyer – Upper Loup NRD  
Virginia Sizer – Arthur County  
Scott Gaites – Logan County  
Mitch Glidden – Mullen Commercial Club  
Sandy Booth – Thedford Service Club

## **Sandhills RC&D Partners**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mullen Commercial Club  
Thedford Service Club  
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission  
Twin Platte Natural Resources District  
Nebraska Rural Development Commission  
Nebraska Cooperative Extension  
Nebraska Forest Service  
USDA Rural Development  
Village of Thedford  
Village of Mullen  
Consolidated Telephone Co.  
NPPD

Community Development Services, LLC  
Sandhills Community Builders  
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
Nebraska State Association of RC&D's  
Upper Loup & Twin Platte NRD's  
Nebraska Department of Economic Development  
Nebraska Department of Tourism  
All other Nebraska RC&D's  
Forest Service  
Sandhills Task Force  
Sandhills Development Corp.  
Village of Arthur  
Sandhills EDGE Coalition  
Custer Public Power

## **Our Mission**

The missions of the Sandhills RC&D is to create an environment where all the citizens of the regions work together to revitalize the rural economy, enhance and protect the natural resources, improve community infrastructure, and improve and increase tourism opportunities.

## **Our Vision**

Citizens of the area collaborating to create a healthy rural economy along with sustainable communities and environment.

**Sandhills RC&D Financials**  
**1-1-04 through 11-30-04**

**Balance forward 12-31-03..... \$1,777.08**

**Income**

Interest Income.....\$7.20  
Membership Dues ..... \$50.00  
    Keith County ..... 50.00  
    Arthur County ..... 50.00  
    Lincoln County..... 50.00  
    Grant County..... 50.00  
    Hooker County ..... 50.00  
    Logan County..... 50.00  
    McPherson County..... 50.00  
    Thomas County ..... 50.00  
    Village of Hyannis ..... 50.00  
    Mullen Comm Club ..... 50.00  
    Upper Loup NRD..... 100.00  
    Thedford Service Club . 50.00  
    Thedford Comm Dvlp 100.00  
Total Membership Dues... .....\$750.00

**Total Income ..... +\$757.20**

**Expenses**

IRS – Tax Exempt Application.....\$500.00  
Association Dues.....\$300.00  
Insurance Bond.....\$50.00  
Rent – Meeting Room.....\$25.00  
Miscellaneous – new checks .....\$7.45

**Total Expenses ..... -\$882.45**

**Ending Balance 11-30-04 ..... \$1,651.83**

# 2004 Projects

## **Mullen, Arthur and Thedford Rehabilitation Program**

Housing needs for low income families within the Sandhills RC&D area is a high priority. Sandhills RC&D has successfully assisted the communities of Mullen, Arthur and Thedford to make applications to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and received \$215,725 for funding to rehabilitate ten homes in 2004. To strengthen the impact on area housing needs, a second application was made to NEDED with a commitment to receive \$150,000 to rehabilitate seven additional homes in 2005.

## **Non-Profit Income Tax Exemption**

The Sandhills RC&D obtained income tax exemption under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This designation will put the organization in a positive position to have favorable impacts on the region for years to come.

## **Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway**

The Sandhills RC&D has partnered with Loup Basin and Central Nebraska RC&D's to assist the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway organization with tourism efforts along Nebraska's Highway 2.

Deemed one of the ten most scenic roads in the United States, Nebraska's "Sandhills Journey" takes you through some of the most remote and breathtaking country side you will ever see. This 272-mile byway extends between two of the state's "larger communities", the noteworthy city of Grand Island and the bustling railroad town of Alliance.

After being awarded \$337,000 for a visitor's center along the Byway, with assistance from the Sandhills RC&D, the Byway organization was able to identify a site to build a visitors center to "interpret" the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway. The community of Broken Bow developed a proposal to host the visitor's center and the Byway Council accepted that proposal. Plans are now underway for construction of a visitor's center on Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway in Broken Bow.

## **FFA Range Judging Contest**

The Sandhills RC&D assisted NRCS personnel in hosting a range judging contest at Thedford for participating high school FFA Chapters.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Sandhills RC&D office in Mullen on July 6, 2004.

### **Fiscal Year 2004 Completed Projects**

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>RC&amp;D Share (\$)</i>	<i>Other (\$)</i>	<i>Total Cost (\$)</i>
Sandhills RC&D Tax Exemption	\$500	\$ -0-	\$500
NCIP – Project Networking Guide '04	\$ -0-	\$500	\$500
Range Youth Camp	\$ -0-	\$11,183	\$11,183
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$11,683</b>	<b>\$12,183</b>

### **On-going Projects**

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>RC&amp;D Share (\$)</i>	<i>Other (\$)</i>	<i>Total Cost (\$)</i>
Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway	\$ -0-	\$337,000	\$337,000
Sandhills EDGE Coalition	\$ -0-	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Mullen Hometown Competitiveness	\$ -0-	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
MAT Housing Rehab Grant	\$4,000	\$215,725	\$219,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$565,925</b>	<b>\$569,925</b>

<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$577,608</b>	<b>\$582,108</b>
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**MAT Housing Rehab Project – girls bedroom**



**before**



**after**



**2004 Youth Range Camp – Outdoors class room**



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## **Sandhills Resource Conservation & Development**

*Serving Arthur, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, & Thomas counties in  
West Central Nebraska*

**RC&D is a program supported by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.**