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2001 Annual Report

"Promoting a renewed vision for the Red River of the North."

FINANCES

Again this year, our sustaining sponsors made it possible.

Sustaining Sponsors: Buffalo-Red Watershed District, Southeast Cass Water Resource District.

Government Members: City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, Clay County, Fargo Park District, Moorhead Public Service.

Community members = 159 members

Annual Operating Budget: \$125,211.86

PLANS FOR 2002

- * The Annual Meeting is 4:30 Wednesday, April 24 at the Hjemkomst Center. Come hear about the proposed Main Avenue Bridge reconstruction.
- * River Splash is June 9 at Dike East. Participate in Race the Red, Fun For All Fishing Clinic, Lil' Fishermen's Derby, Kayak Demos and more.
- * Tour the Red aboard SS Ruby beginning in May. Call 701-581-RUBY for more information.
- * And much more!

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a great ride! April brings to a close two very rewarding years. I have had an opportunity to serve with a remarkable staff who have continually demonstrated their commitment to our treasure, the Red River of the North.

As you can see by the graphic on the inside of this report, River Keepers projects, activities, and leadership are reflective of the commitment and effort put forth by staff, the Board and volunteers from across our region in "promoting a renewed vision for the Red".

We are entering our first full season with our pontoon tour boat, SS Ruby, and are confident that its role in bringing people to the river for recreation and education will broaden our base by immersing them in the history, geology, and ecology of the Red and by having a good time while doing it.

River Keepers has had a great track record in its leadership role in bringing diverse coalitions to the table for the sustainable use of our river corridor. As we look at our expanding base of volunteers, the commitment of our Board of Directors, and the quality and determination of our staff, I am wildly excited about our River Keepers of the future.



*Thanks for the opportunity to serve,
 Don Kilander*

Board of Directors

- Don Kilander - President
- Arlette Preston - Vice Pres.
- Allan Ashworth - Sec/Treas.
- Greg Danz
- Jack Duis
- Sylvia Garcia
- Jay Leitch
- Cliff McLain
- Cindy Palmer
- Rich Pemble
- Rick St. Germain
- Keith Tandy
- Tom Tolman
- M. Daniel Vogel
- Brad Wimmer

Staff

- Bob Backman
Executive Director
- Christine Holland
Project Coordinator
- Rachel Van Dyke
Administrative Assistant

2002 Membership - It's time to renew your support of River Keepers!

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
 Payment (check one): kayak - \$15 Scull \$25 Canoe \$50
 Skiff \$100 Steamboat \$500+

SEND TO:
 River Keepers
 325 7th St. S.
 Fargo, ND 58103 - 1846

See inside for activity map!

- * **Over 500 people provided almost 4000 volunteer hours** to River Keepers' projects, special events, and committees.
- * **Staff made presentations to over 40 groups reaching over 1600 people.**
- * Staff set up **displays** at 20 special events.
- * **Annual Meeting** was held April 19 at the Hjemkomst Center. Outgoing Board member appreciation—Paul Gruchow, Kathi Schwan, and John Stern. **Awards were presented to:** River Keeper of the Year—Jim Dale Huot-Vickery; Education Award—Dennis Flom; Development Award—Fargo Park District, Friend of the

River Award—Vic Pellerano; Good Neighbor Award—Wahpeton Park Board, Project Breckenridge, Abercrombie, Wolverton, Fargo, Moorhead, GF, EFG, Drayton, Pembina, and Selkirk, Manitoba.

* **Interns:** Katie Hoffman, Public Relations at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM); Lori Alleckson, Environmental Studies at Concordia College; Joy Paczkowski, Graphic Design at MSUM; Rachel Van Dyke, Business Administration at MSUM; Chris Larson, Business Administration at Concordia College; Walter Johnston, Biology at Concordia College.

* **Awards given to River Keepers:**

From The International Coalition for leadership in organizing the Millennium Tour. From the North Dakota Forest Service for riverfront restoration efforts.

* **Several youth projects coordinated.** Samples include: 4th graders making a watershed model. Kindergarteners promoting the river to others. Mini-water festival for the Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program on July 18 in Viking Ship Park.

2001 River Keepers Activities

Clean-ups: Conducted several riverfront clean-up projects.

FM River: Grant from EPA. Other funded partners are Energy and Environmental Research Center at UND and Prairie Public. Tool to building a greater understanding of the Red River. Water quality monitoring every other week at three sites. Presentations, displays, and a webpage (www.fmriver.org) to communicate the health of the river. Conducted a teacher and a citizen workshop..

Polar Party: Organized ice fishing demonstration in February as a part of Moorhead Parks and Recreation's winter festival.

Paint the Drain: A storm drain pollution awareness program, continues with volunteers involvement.

Voyageur Canoes: Five used canoes plus a trailer bought from youth camp in Canada. One rebuilt. Sponsored by Dick Hentges, Ron Saeger and Ed Janzen.

Interpretive Signs: Grant received from MN DNR for the nature trail at MB Johnson Park. Narrative and pictures developed.

Circle Bike Path: Worked with FM COG and Fargo Park District on plan to complete the downtown riverfront circle bike path.

Riverfront Development Committee: A master plan for the Fargo side of the riverfront between Dike East and Oak Grove is being developed.

Bank Stability: Project completed.

SS Ruby, pontoon tour boat: Sponsored by Houston Engineering, City of Fargo, City of Moorhead, FM Convention & Visitors Bureau and Fargo Park District. Limited Scope Masters license received by captains. Passed US Coast Guard inspection. Christened August 10. Operated weekends in September giving tours of downtown riverfront.

Main Avenue Bridge: Plans for an enhanced bridge that connects to the Red River are being developed.

Beginning Birding Seminar: Held April 19th at the Hjemkomst Center. 40 participants. Sponsored by: ND Game & Fish, F-M Audubon, Audubon Society—ND Chapter, Moorhead Parks and Recreation.

River Splash: Fun For All Fishing Clinic, Fargo Park District's Lil' Fishermen's Derby, Scheels Kayak Demonstrations, Race the Red, free pontoon rides, and hands-on activities for youth held on June 9 at Dike East.

National Trails Day—Each reach of Phase 1 of the canoe trail was canoed on June 2 to promote the Red River as a canoe trail.

The Red River Water Festival: Held on November 15 for over 350 4th grade students in the Southeast Cass Water Resource District and the Buffalo-Red Watershed District. Sponsored by Project WET, EPA Region 8, Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District—Local Water. Plan.

Dams: North Dam being retrofitted. Staff introduced a proposal to the FM Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Water Task Force requesting a study of the Christine and Hickson Dams. Staff working with MN delegation to obtain money to retrofit South Dam. Received grant from MN DNR for dam safety signage at Christine and Hickson.

Race the Red: For the first time, two races held (7 mile competitive and 4 mile fun). 23 teams participated including one from Selkirk, Manitoba. Sponsored by Moorhead Amateur Sports Commission.

Lions Conservancy Park: Grants received to install trail system and outdoor classroom. Several tours conducted.

Biological Monitoring Workgroup: Set and retrieved artificial substrates at three sites being monitored chemically. Barnesville biology students counted and identified some of the macroinvertebrates.

Red River of the North International Historic Canoe Trail: Public information meetings held in Breckenridge, Abercrombie, Wolverton. Due to efforts by Project Breckenridge, Minnesota legislature appropriated \$100,000 to MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for inventory and mapping of the United States portion of the Red and signage on the first 120 miles. MN DNR contracted with River Keepers to develop master plan.

Grass Clippings: With Moorhead Water Treatment Plant and the Clay County Water Planner developed an education campaign regarding the illegal dumping of grass clippings and other items into the River.