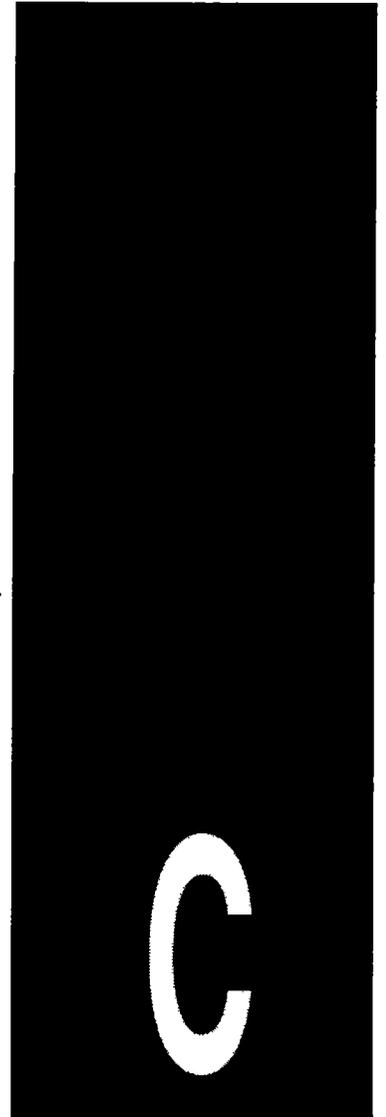


REVISED Appendix C

To the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Report:
*"An Analysis of Natural Resources District: Program Effectiveness,
Cost Efficiency, Duplication of Responsibility, and other Options for
Facilitating Property Tax Relief"*



**Survey of
Natural Resources District Managers
on
Cooperation, Efficiency and Effectiveness-
Responses/Results**

3
2

**Appendix C - Survey of Natural Resources District Managers
On Cooperation, Efficiency and Effectiveness – Responses/Results**

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Summary of Comments – Things Your NRD Could Do To Increase Efficiency and Effectiveness	C-5
Summary of Comments – Examples of Cooperative Efforts Your NRD Has Undertaken With Other NRDs That Have Resulted in More Efficient And/or Effective Operations	C-7
Summary of Comments – Things Your NRD Has Done to Increase Efficiency And/or Effectiveness	C-9
Summary of Comments – How NRDs Could Better Cooperate With Other NRDs and Other Local Units of Government to Provide Services to The Public in a More Efficient and/or Effective Manner	C-11
Summary of Comments – Examples of Cooperative Efforts Your NRD Has Undertaken With Other Units of Government That Have Resulted in More Efficient or Effective Operations	C-13
Natural Resources District Manager/District Comment Letters – Listed in the following order:	C-15
Upper Big Blue	
Lower Big Blue	
Upper Elkhorn	
Lower Elkhorn	
Little Blue	
Upper Loup	
Lower Loup	
Lewis & Clark	
Papio-Missouri River	
Nemaha	
Upper Niobrara-White	
Middle Niobrara	
Lower Niobrara	
North Platte	
South Platte	
Twin Platte	
Central Platte	
Lower Platte North	
Lower Platte South	
Upper Republican	
Middle Republican	
Tri-Basin	

SUMMARY OF NRD RESPONSES

PLEASE LIST TWO OR MORE THINGS YOU FEEL YOUR NRD COULD DO TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS

1. Amend groundwater regulations to require acreage reporting only at times of shortage.
2. Urge consolidation of NRCS field offices and co-location with NRD offices to save NRD support requirement and increase coordination and facility and equipment sharing.
3. Aggressively follow-up land treatment applications to assure timely design and construction.
4. Attend bordering NRD meetings once or twice each year for information and idea exchange.
5. Before implementation of any new programs or projects, network with other NRDs who have such programs to determine what works and what doesn't.
6. Increase information and education efforts to better acquaint patrons with district programs.
7. Co-locate with federal, state, and local agencies with similar interests or customer base to better serve public and increase coordination and sharing.
8. Use of interns from area post-secondary institutions for summer assistance or other short-term efforts.
9. Develop e-mail capability to include all NRD staff locations.
10. Provide irrigators with timely information on irrigation pump output, quickly and accurately.
11. Interlocal electronic information and form transfers with appropriate agencies.
12. Explore potential partnerships with private interests on projects and programs of mutual interest.
13. Cooperation and/or merger with drainage districts to enhance performance and coordinate efforts.
14. Explore potential pooled purchasing through NARD to receive maximum discounts.
15. Look toward compatibility of technical equipment to facilitate equipment and information sharing.
16. Look for ways to enhance revenue generating programs, e.g., tree planting, chemigation inspections.
17. Upgrade technical equipment to increase efficiency and improve product.
18. Improve investment of any surplus district funds by competitive negotiations.
19. Evaluate all programs and eliminate or change those that are not effective.
20. Share professional services with other NRDs or other governments.
21. Add Internet and e-mail access.
22. Share expensive and specialized equipment.
23. Electronic filing of reports and documents.

24. Periodically evaluate staff responsibilities and reassign or change responsibilities as needed.
25. Continued focus on safety and maintenance issues.
26. Aggressively pursue available resources to leverage NRD resources.
27. Use part-time or temporary assistance where advantageous.
28. Contract services when appropriate.
29. Better availability of cost-share funds to meet program needs.
30. Compatible equipment and data bases by NRDs, NRCS, FSA, and others so that information could be shared.
31. Regional government host for similar, but expensive programs, equipment, and records.
32. Better coordination of meetings and training by NARD.
33. Increased information sharing at conferences and workshops.
34. Better use of the interlocal cooperative agreements.
35. Support consolidation of state natural resource agencies to avoid duplicative efforts, reviews and authorities, e.g. wellhead protection, safe drinking water, groundwater wells, water quality, etc.
36. Increase training efforts to make better use of available technology.
37. Use of part-time professionals, share of professionals with other NRDs, or perhaps "circuit-rider" professionals employed by NARD.
38. Use of Conference Calls for staff and directors to save time and travel expense.

***PLEASE LIST EXAMPLES OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS
YOUR NRD HAS UNDERTAKEN WITH OTHER NRDs
THAT HAVE RESULTED IN MORE
EFFICIENT AND/OR EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS***

1. Purchase of insurance through agency providing consolidated package to all NRDs.
2. Providing staff services to neighboring NRDs on a cost basis that they do not possess.
3. Coordinating information and education efforts with other NRDs through Information and Education Committee.
4. Working with other NRDs and UN-L Extension for statewide water quality education and training for cooperators.
5. Cooperation on rural water supply projects - operation by one NRD of a system in two NRDs.
6. Sharing of information and experience on operation and maintenance of recreation areas.
7. NRD Managers Committee and its sub-committees provides an information sharing forum.
8. Cooperation on area ground water studies and educational programs.
9. Co-location of facilities with other federal, state and local agencies.
10. Periodic meetings with area NRD and NRCS personnel to develop plans and programs of mutual interest.
11. Joint sponsorship of teacher education workshops.
12. Joint sponsorship of information and education activities on a regional or statewide basis.
13. Interlocal agreements on areas of mutual interest (Republican River Water, Platte River, Lower Platte Corridor).
14. Chemigation value test kits were constructed by one NRD and made available to all NRDs.
15. Joint purchase of supplies to obtain volume discount.
16. Interlocal cooperative agreement for Platte River ice jam removal.
17. Assistance to counties on the design and funding of road structures.
18. Joint publication of newsletters and informational brochures.
19. Cooperation and joint efforts on developing and updating groundwater management plans.
20. Cooperative effort and funding of area technical studies of common interest.
21. Reciprocal agreements on operator certification for groundwater quality management.
22. Joint projects in two NRDs where one takes lead and administrative responsibility and costs are shared.
23. Sharing of cost of conservation assistance to NRCS.
24. Cooperative efforts to apply for grants from various sources for areas of common interest.

***PLEASE LIST TWO OR MORE THINGS
THAT YOUR NRD HAS DONE TO INCREASE
EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS***

1. Use of computer technology to assist in mapping, modeling design, drafting, etc.
2. Local networking of computers.
3. Use of four wheelers for chemigation inspections.
4. Sharing of expensive and/or specialized equipment with other NRDs.
5. Cooperation on chemigation inspections where more efficient.
6. Cooperating with other NRDs and other agencies on projects and programs that are too extensive to accomplish alone.
7. Work with Board of Directors to develop comprehensive plan to better focus efforts and improve fiscal management and measurement of accomplishments.
8. Maintain joint office sites with other state, federal, and local agencies to increase cooperation, coordination, efficiency, and sharing of equipment, information, and facilities.
9. Sharing of lodging and transportation by both staff and board members and sometimes with personnel of other NRDs.
10. Maintenance of time, activity, and mileage logs to better manage staff efforts and to direct emphasis where needed.
11. Enter into agreements with local landowners and other groups to do maintenance or carry out other NRD responsibilities when it is more efficient.
12. Keep all program and project details as simple as possible for better customer acceptance.
13. Provide customer services in adjoining areas of other NRDs where it is more efficient and logical and serves the public better, e.g., tree planting, chemigation inspection, etc.
14. Downsizing of board of directors has decreased travel, per diem, and election costs. Individual members also have an increased feeling of responsibility.
15. Use of telecommunications/computer technology for e-mail, fax, voice mail, information transfer, internet capability, etc.
16. Staff training to maintain and enhance skills.
17. Use of NARD to provide information sharing, group efforts, administrative assistance, and group purchasing.
18. Toll-free "800" number for access to district office by all patrons.
19. Regular staff meetings to ensure coordination.
20. Purchase items jointly with other NRDs for reduced costs.
21. Develop and regularly review operating policies to make certain programs are being applied consistently.
22. Hold board and committee meetings on same day to reduce travel costs and time for directors and staff.
23. Develop effective personnel evaluation system to ensure that employees know what is expected and management and board knows what to expect.
24. Use of cellular telephones by field staff.

25. Acquisition and use of computer technology to improve operations in many areas - finances, budgeting, record keeping, planning, data analysis, project design, scheduling, etc.
26. Use of advisory groups on specific programs or projects to receive local input and enhance acceptance.
27. Offer assistance to other local governments or groups on areas of common interest where NRD may possess technical knowledge and expertise that others lack.
28. Require cost-sharing on most programs and projects and reduce NRD cost-share where appropriate.
29. Utilize interlocal cooperative agreements or other methods of cooperation on a variety of projects and programs.
30. Institute a program effectiveness system to evaluate programs on a regular basis and make changes as appropriate.
31. Use of "team" approach on project development and implementation.
32. Use of correctional facilities crews to perform appropriate tasks.
33. Formation of coalitions with other NRDs and other local groups to address problems and/or opportunities of mutual interest.
34. Acquisition of equipment from state and federal surplus sources.
35. Use of private contractors to perform some tasks where it is more efficient, e.g., tree planting, maintenance, fencing, etc.

***PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR IDEAS
OF HOW NRDs COULD BETTER COOPERATE
WITH OTHER NRDs
AND OTHER LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT
TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC
IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND/OR EFFECTIVE MANNER***

1. More staff training sessions and idea exchanges through NARD.
2. Coordinate implementation of GIS with cities and counties.
3. Cooperate with urban areas on water quality issues.
4. Provide counties with stream hydrology for use in bridge and culvert design.
5. Improve telecommunications capability (e-mail, Fax, Teleconference, etc.).
6. Sharing of professional expertise between districts.
7. Accelerate approval and inspection process by Game and Parks Commission on WHIP Program.
8. Sharing database formats and software.
9. Better coordination and financing of mandated programs.
10. Sharing of expensive and specialized equipment.
11. Work with counties and other interests on zoning and other issues related to livestock confinement facilities.
12. Hold more meetings in a central location like Broken Bow.
13. Explore cooperative purchasing programs to allow NRDs to make purchases at discounts.
14. Eliminate NRCS Clerks and replace with NRD technicians.
15. Better coordination of statewide meetings to reduce travel costs.
16. Compatibility of equipment between agencies to better facilitate sharing and information interchange.
17. Work more closely with extension on information, education, and demonstration projects.
18. Sharing purchases and utilization of software.
19. Development of standardized groundwater and surface water quantity and quality network and monitoring program.
20. Better information about state and federal data collection efforts so as to avoid duplicative efforts by NRDs.
21. Explore means of reducing travel time and expense to meetings, training sessions, etc. by holding regional meetings, teleconferences, video taping, etc.
22. Cooperation between NRDs and other units of government on seeking and utilizing grant monies.
23. County weed authorities, county surveyors, and drainage districts could be phased out and their responsibilities absorbed by NRDs.

***PLEASE LIST EXAMPLES OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS
YOUR NRD HAS UNDERTAKEN
WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT
THAT HAVE RESULTED IN MORE EFFICIENT
OR EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS***

1. Assisted municipalities in acquiring flood hazard mitigation grants and shared in local costs for flood control works.
2. Provided engineering and hydrology input for storm water drainage and sizing of bridges and culverts for municipalities and counties.
3. Provided assistance and coordination to municipalities and counties in solid waste planning.
4. Cooperated with USGS on water quality and monitoring well installation.
5. Assist municipalities in acquiring aerial photography and mapping.
6. Cost-share and technical assistance to counties and municipalities on flood control and/or erosion projects.
7. Provide technical assistance, comments, and data to municipalities and counties on floodplain issues.
8. Provide technical assistance to communities on water quality issues.
9. Review and comment on county one- and six-year road plans for areas of possible joint efforts.
10. Work with DEQ and EPA on various water quality programs or studies (319, GWMA, SPA).
11. Assistance to communities to improve parks and other recreational areas.
12. Cooperative agreements with NRCS to provide technical assistance in their areas of expertise.
13. Participation with various interests to develop the USDA-EQIP.
14. Cooperation with cities, counties and Game & Parks Commission on the development of trail systems.
15. Assistance to cities on the development and enforcement of erosion and sediment control ordinances.
16. Assistance to counties on weed control programs.
17. Cooperative programs of various types with youth groups such as FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.
18. Support and cooperation with programs, such as Envirothon, Project Wild, etc.
19. Educational programs and assistance to schools.
20. Wildlife habitat and wetlands development with Game and Parks Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
21. Providing equipment (grass drills and tree planters) for use by counties, municipalities, and schools free-of-charge for their projects.
22. Participation in the Nebraska Mandates Management Initiative.
23. Agreement with the state forester to cost-share on the cost of an NRD forester.

24. Assist municipalities with wellhead protection programs.
25. Agreement with Bureau of Reclamation to establish a recreation program on Bureau property.
26. Participate with extension in land and range judging programs.
27. Participation in leafy spurge task force.
28. Cooperative efforts with irrigation districts on water quality, education, water use efficiency, etc.
29. Agreement with UN-L Entomology on musk thistle control.
30. Participate in development and maintenance of arboretums.
31. Fund soil survey programs with counties, other NRDs, UN-L, and NRCS.
32. Participate administratively and financially with Game and Parks Commission in Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.
33. Provide material to churches for soil stewardship program.
34. Provide technical and financial assistance to RC&Ds.
35. Participate with native American tribal groups on various projects and programs.
36. Urban conservation programs.
37. Various groundwater studies with UN-L Conservation & Survey Division.
38. Participation in household hazardous waste disposal projects.
39. Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.



UPPER BIG BLUE

Natural Resources District

105 Lincoln Ave.
York, Nebraska 68467
(402) 362-6601

MEMO

To: Vince Kramper, LB 1085 Committee Chairman
From: John C. Turnbull *John*
Subject: LB 1085 - Response to Input Request
Date: December 10, 1997

- 1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.**

Initiated aerial photography and digitized terrain modeling to develop detailed mapping for district projects (1"=100' scale). The consultant does the aerial work and computer mapping. Our staff surveys the horizontal and vertical controls. The resulting computer map files are provided to our staff for project planning and design. This method costs about the same as complete field surveys and manual mapping, but the time for projects has been cut from 1 or 2 years to 90 days, while maintaining the same accuracy.

Surveying with electronic total station, with electronic field notes. Data downloaded to office computers for design and mapping.

Use of AUTOCAD to replace manual drafting.

Networked and upgraded all the computers in the office. Now a computer at every desk with Internet capability.

Continuing spring well measurements and water testing for nitrates programs after the groundwater conservation districts dissolution, with no addition in staff.

Use of 4 wheelers in chemigation inspections.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

Amend groundwater regulations to only require irrigated acre reporting at times of groundwater shortage to save time of maintaining records which are only relevant at times of stiffer regulation.

Urge consolidation of NRCS field offices in order to reduce federal overheads, use existing NRCS staff more efficiently, and reduce NRD clerical staff. Provide centralized technical design services for NRCS clientele by locating 2 or 3 NRD engineering technicians in the NRD headquarters office to design land treatment practices for county NRCS offices. Dispatch design team to area of work.

Aggressively follow up land treatment applications to assure timely design and construction.

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that have resulted in more efficient and/or effective operations.

Purchased general liability, fire and casualty, auto, errors and omissions, and umbrella insurance from insurance agency providing same package coverages to majority of NRDs, at substantial savings.

Providing staff engineering design services for storm water drainage for Butler County, David City, and Lower Platte North NRD in area of Northwest Drainage of old Central Butler Resources Development Fund Project. Sharing costs of staff time with Lower Platte North NRD. City and County funding land rights and construction.

Coordinating Information and Education efforts with other districts through NARD I & E staff committee.

Working with other districts and University Extension through NARD to develop statewide water quality education and training program for farm and ranch operators. For use in groundwater management areas.

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.

Acquired and administered FEMA flood hazard mitigation grant, coordinated with state and federal agencies, and shared in the local cost for flood control works in Harvard. City carried out local contracts for engineering and construction.

Acquired and administered FEMA flood hazard mitigation grant, coordinated with state and federal agencies, shared in the local cost, and provided certain technical services for flood control works in Sutton. City carried out local contracts for engineering construction.

Acquired and currently administering FEMA flood hazard mitigation grant, coordinating with state and federal agencies, sharing in the local cost, and providing certain technical services including detailed mapping for floodplain buyout in Seward. City is providing share of local funds and carrying out details of buyout program.

Providing storm water drainage engineering for Seward in new housing areas on north side of City. Coordinating design with Plum Creek flood plain buyout program.

Providing storm water drainage engineering for Henderson. City is in planning stages of annexation of industrial and commercial sites.

Providing engineering on bridge works for York County at District reservoir site. County is constructing bridge works.

Contracted for aerial photography of entire communities when district involved in mapping of a portion of community. Digitized terrain maps (scale 1"=100') provided to Seward, David City, Henderson, and Aurora for use by them or their consultants in developing plans and designs for storm water drainage, sewer systems, street layouts and design, and utilities. Coordinated map data interpretation with cities engineering consultants.

Assisted and coordinated the efforts of 8 counties and many communities in solid waste planning and regionalization of landfills. Area now served by 4 major landfills (3 private and 1 public) instead of several per county.

Cooperated with USGS on district wide water quality study and monitoring well installation for nitrate monitoring.

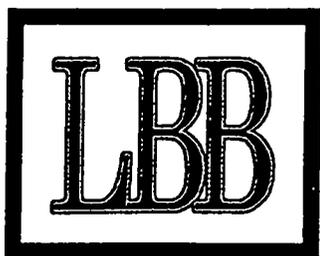
5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

More staff training sessions and idea exchange through the NARD.

Coordinate implementation of GIS with counties and cities for use of common data bases. Initially use for access to legal descriptions and property owners.

Cooperate with urban areas on water quality treatment.

Provide counties with stream hydrology data for use in their bridge and culvert designs.



**Lower Big Blue
Natural Resources District**

Established in 1972 for the Development and Conservation of Soil and Water Resources

December 30, 1997

Vince Kramper
L.B. 1085 Committee Chair
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
P.O. Box 94876
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4876

RE: L.B. 1085 Response

Dear Vince:

Here are my thoughts on the questionnaire you sent out regarding the second part of the L.B. 1085 study.

Attached are the responses to the five questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ronald Fleecs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

L. Ronald Fleecs, Manager

LRF/jf

Enclosure

cc: Richard Jiskra, NRC Representative

Response #1

Tree Plantings

Worked with other bordering NRDs on tree planting and ordering trees. Would plant trees in other NRDs, if found to be more feasible.

Chemigation

Checked chemigation equipment in bordering NRD if more efficient for us to check.

Equipment Sharing

Provided use of tiller for tree planting to other NRDs, along with equipment to check inside of culvert pipes in dams for rust or leakage. Used grass drills of other NRD instead of investing in our own drill.

Response #2

- Share personnel in times of need for chemigation, water sampling, etc. if shown to be more efficient.
- Attend bordering NRD meetings once or twice a year to exchange ideas and programs.

Response #3

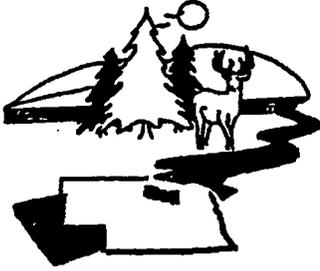
- Worked with Little Blue NRD on mutual water supply projects and received their expertise in developing such projects.
- Provided information to other NRDs on management of recreation areas, development of facilities, and other management ideas to save money in operation of facilities.

Response #4

- Provided cost-share and technical assistance to units of government for erosion control projects and/or flood control projects.
- Village of DeWitt - drainage problems within village.
- Village of Wilber - cost-share assistance with village and Saline County for road structure to prevent flooding in Wilber.
- City of Crete - Developed flood control project northeast of Crete to prevent flood in north portion of Crete.
- Worked with Tobias, Wymore, Beatrice, and Clatonia on water quality problems.
- Provided City of Beatrice with technical expertise in sanitary landfill sites, worked with city on environmental concerns after site was developed.
- Provide flood plan data for Village of Odell, Crete, Swanton, DeWitt, and Beatrice.
- Cost shared with counties to construct road dams to replace bridges and culverts.
- Review county one-and-six-year plans to provide comments on flood control dams above road and/or bridge improvements and potential flood control dams where road modifications would need to be made to comply with state law.

Response #5

- Review other local units of government requests to evaluate whether NRD can assist or provide services that would benefit public in an effective and efficient manner.



Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District

301 N. Harrison Street – O'Neill, Nebraska 68763
(402) 336-3867 – FAX (402) 336-1832

December 9, 1997

TO: Vince Kramper, LB 1085 Committee Chair

FROM: Dennis Schueth, General Manager Upper Elkhorn NRD

RESPONSE: LB 1085 Meeting and Input Request

FIRST SET OF QUESTIONS--LB 1085 QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD (UENRD) has cooperated with various local, state & federal agencies and applied for grants to accomplish tasks that we currently did not have the finances, time or expertise to accomplish alone.

The Holt County Groundwater Education Program (HCGEP) has made the UENRD more effective in the goals of the district. This program is partially funded through grant money from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). The agencies involved are the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRD, Northeast Research Education Center -- Concord, Holt County Natural Resource Conservation Service, Holt County Extension Service and the Conservation Survey Division which offer in-kind services to the project. The HCGEP has helped all parties involved promote irrigation and nitrogen best management practices (BMP's). This program is on the fourth year of a five year project.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is enlisting the aid of the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division (CSD) to help develop a groundwater database relating to quality, quantity and other programs. When this database is completed it will make record keeping more efficient and data more accessible to the general public.

For the past 10 years the Upper Elkhorn NRD and the Northeast Research Education Center at Concord (NEREC) has agreed to do research on nitrogen and irrigation management practices within the District. This research has been very helpful in educating the area producers, staff and board of directors on fertilizer and irrigation management for this area. With this agreement, the District does not need to hire a person with specific expertise to do plot research, therefore saving money and time.

(Question number 1 continued)

Project studies such as the Bazile Triangle, a cooperative effort between Lower & Upper Elkhorn, Lewis & Clark, Lower Niobrara NRDs, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the CSD has also increased our effectiveness. The data collected from this endeavor showed the need for education for nitrogen and irrigation BMPs. Funding became available for cooperators in the project area for three years through a federal program known as Special Practice 53 which was administered by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS). Without the cooperation of all parties involved this source of funding would not of been available for cooperators to try new BMPs.

To promote wildlife habitat areas within the UENRD an agreement with the Nebraska Game & Parks (NG&P) was initiated. This program known as the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program has been developed where NG&Ps funds 75% and the NRD funds 25% of the cost for improving wildlife habitat. This program has made a total of \$33,750/year for wildlife habitat improvement. Without the help of the NG&P, this NRD alone would not have access to that kind of funding to improve wildlife habitat.

The UENRD has purchased computers for all staff members to improve office efficiency. All accounting is now being done by computers and with everyone having access to a computer, reports can be maintained and generated faster. The UENRD also has access to the internet which is very beneficial in researching information for specific projects.

This may be a minor detail, but our NRD tries to car pool or share lodging arrangements to reduce the cost of various meetings.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

I do not know how to accomplish this for sure, because we have developed a district newsletter and have used radio and newspaper releases to bring more awareness about the NRD. Although I still believe there are some people who need to become more educated on the importance of NRDs and that we stand for local control on a lot of issues. Without this awareness and educational effort, it may be easy for the general public to have an preconceived opinion of the importance or non importance of the NRD system.

The UENRD needs to make sure we have enough funding, man-power, expertise, computers, and equipment to complete the responsibilities and goals of the NRDs effectively and efficiently.

Before the Upper Elkhorn NRD purchases any new equipment or develops any new programs we normally review what the other NRDs are currently doing. There is no need to reinvent the wheel if another NRD has researched the equipment or similar problem

(Question number 2 continued)

and found a satisfactory solution. Using this approach on various issues has saved time and money.

It would be nice to have similar conservation programs, accounting practices, computer capabilities and staff, etc. but this will not occur because the NRDs are based on local control and local needs.

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

There are a lot of issues where the NRDs work cooperatively with, probably one of the best examples is through the Nebraska Association Resource District (NARD). The NARD has a big effect on proposed or preparing legislation and keeping the goals of all the districts in focus and unified. The NARD also handles the retirement and health insurance policies for the majority of the districts which has been very effective.

Most NRDs are in the process of developing nitrogen certification educational classes for their Groundwater Management Plans. Instead of all NRD's doing their own educational program the NRDs teamed up with the University of Nebraska which in turn received a grant to work on this endeavor. This project is still continuing and a finished product is due shortly.

The Holt County Groundwater Education Program which is funded by EPA and administered by NDEQ, has helped all parties involved promote BMP's for irrigation and nitrogen applications. This program is on the fourth year of a five year project. The agencies involved are the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRD, Northeast Research Education Center -- Concord, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Holt County Extension Service and the University of Nebraska Conservation Survey Division.

The Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative was formed to oppose an unreasonable instream flow application request by the NG&P Commission. The Cooperative has been very successful to date, because legislation regarding instream flows was passed by state senators. The Coalition was also able to find flaws in the NG&Ps Application. NRDs acting alone would not of had this big of an impact or the finances to contest NG&P's application the way this Coalition has. The full impact of the Coalition will not be known until Mike Jess, DWR makes his final ruling in 1998. Members of this Cooperative included Lower Elkhorn, Lower Loup, Upper Loup, North Platte, Tri-Basin and Central Platte NRDs and many other agencies and organizations.

Bazile Triangle Study -- Water study done in Northern Antelope (Lewis & Clark, Lower & Upper Elkhorn and Lower Niobrara NRDs) Description of the project has already been listed.

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.

Some cooperative efforts have already been described in question number one.

The Holt County Groundwater Education Program which is funded by EPA and administered by DEQ has helped all parties involved promote BMP's for irrigation and nitrogen applications. This program is on the fourth year of a five year project. The agencies involved are the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRD, Northeast Research Education Center -- Concord, Natural Resource County Service, Holt County Extension Service and the Conservation Survey Division.

Sandhills Task Force -- The Upper Elkhorn NRD signed off with the FWS, NRCS and G&P on an Environmental Trust Application. This application was successful in obtained funds to rebuild dam structures on Cache Creek. This same Task Force is being utilized to develop wetland riparian areas within the district using FWS funds.

Goose Lake Pump -- Joint effort between the UENRD and NG&P in maintaining the water level of the lake has been successful. An irrigation well was installed by the UENRD and the agencies involved share the cost of the pumping.

Working with various area cities to accomplish a goal, study or project such as the City of Atkinson. City of Atkinson was looking for partners in rebuilding the Atkinson State Lake. With the cooperation of local volunteers and city-local-state government this project was successful and has turned into a nice recreational park.

The UENRD has worked with other towns such as Chambers, Bassett, O'Neill, Stuart, Ewing, Page, Brunswick and Newport to either enhance recreational areas, improve water quality or flood protection. Working together does have its benefits and adds to the overall goal of the project.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD has teamed up with the NRCS develop a joint brochure to describe various local, state and federal programs.

The NRDs and other forms of government have teamed up to work on various local and state water festivals such as: Waterfall of Knowledge, H2O Days, Wonderful World of Water, Children's Groundwater Festival and State & National Envirothons. List of participants for these programs but not all inclusive are: UN-L Extension, Conservation & Survey Division, G&P, DEQ, NRDs, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Wayne State College, private citizens and etc. These festivals require a large work force and a vast amount of knowledge about the natural resources so a lot of talent or expertise is required at the private, local, state and federal levels. These types of programs are very successful in conveying the importance of the natural resources. Without the full

(Question number 4 continued)

cooperation of everyone involved these types of programs would not occur at the level they are now.

We are currently working on a cooperative agreement with the NRCS to purchase some of their GPS systems. This will be very beneficial for the UENRD because maintenance is handled by NRCS and the accuracy will be more precise at a cheaper rate. Up to a year ago NRDs were not able to use or purchase these types of GPS units.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD, like most NRDs utilize the NRCS staff members for their area of expertise. The Upper Elkhorn NRD relies heavily on the NRCS expertise in the range and engineer departments. This type of relationship is possible because the NRD's pay for the NRCS field clerks in exchange for this service. It is financially impossible for the UENRD to hire experts in every field and we have benefited from this working relationship.

5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

I believe NRDs are one of the most efficient forms of government already. The NRDs cooperate with various levels of government when the need arises and initiates participation whenever possible. This level of cooperation varies based on finances, staff expertise and goals of the project.

The NRDs are getting to be more regulatory and it appears they will continue moving in that direction. Along with more regulation will come the need to hire staff for more specific issues. By this occurring it only appears that the NRDs will have to work closer together and potentially share staff or equipment to defer the cost for that expertise. The thought of sharing staff and equipment has been discussed between the LNNRD and UENRD.

There is the potential for local governments to benefit from army or state surplus equipment. The Upper Elkhorn NRD has been the recipient of Army Surplus equipment. The district was able to acquire two pickups for the asking and was able to pass one on to another local government entity. By no means do you want to take a long trip in these vehicles, but they get the job done. Some of the districts office equipment (desk, chairs, drafting tables, tables and credenzas) are government surplus.

SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS -- LB 1085 QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. Has your county worked cooperatively with the NRD in your area on projects or programs of mutual interest? If so, what types of programs or projects?

It has been on a limited basis, however when drainage concerns have been brought up we usually work together to help solve the problem with whomever is involved.

We have planted trees for living snow fences along various roadways in some of our counties.

The local Holt County Cooperative Extension Office has been very helpful with the Holt County Groundwater Education Program. This program has been described earlier.

2. Has your local NRD(s) ever approached your county to ask about some activities that the two governments might work on together?

We are working together more since the livestock confinement issue has arisen but generally no.

3. Do you have any ideas as to how the NRD(s) in your area could be of assistance to your county government?

I believe in the future we may be able to work more on road structures and living snow fences.

Since the NRDs are the recipients of the Natural Resources Enhancement Funds we are purchasing some equipment that may interest them and we could share or rent out at a low rate.

Even though the Cowboy Trail is not a high priority item for the district, it is a controversial item amongst the board of directors, local tax-payers and adjacent landowners. Since the trail is here, I believe the Upper Elkhorn NRD could work closer together with other agencies to enhance this trail. This assistance may be in the form of in-kind services whether then financial.

4. Do you have any suggestions as to how your NRD(s) might improve their service to the public or how they might operate more efficiently?

Some how we have to promote the importance of the natural resources to the people within the district and state. This needs to be accomplished through the adults and the children. The districts have used various types of media such as: tours, radio, newsletters, individual invitations and local papers to get information out to the public.

(Question number 4 continued)

Since property taxes are a hot issue, the organizations that are partially funded by tax dollars and have not or are not operating more efficiently than they were 5 or 10 years ago are in for a surprise. The local elected officials should know and determine how effective or efficient their organization is and make the appropriate changes if needed.

5. In what respects have you considered your past dealings with NRDs successful? Are there any instances where past dealings with NRDs have created any difficulties for your county?

I believe this whole questionnaire has shown how cooperation between NRDs has benefited the districts involved and has been very positive.

A potential problem, although minor in the UENRD is where counties are divided between two or more NRDs. Some counties may be divided amongst several NRDs which offer similar but different programs. This poses a problem for landowners who have property in more than one NRD. Landowners are not the only ones affected by this situation, it may affect other potential local, state and federal government programs



LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1204 — 700 West Benjamin Avenue, Country Club Plaza

Phone: (402) 371-7313 FAX: (402) 371-0653 NORFOLK, NE 68702-1204

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1997

December 24, 1997

TO : VINCE KRAMPER, LB 1085 CHAIR

NEBRASKA NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMISSION

FROM: STAN STAAB

SUBJECT: LB 1085 INPUT REQUEST

Please accept my apology for this late response to your request for District input to the 1085 Study. My only excuse is the fact that I was involved with the hog confinement issue preparing a paper/presentation for the recent Conference in Columbus and we also moved into our offices in the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College Campus. Other than that, it's just plain business as usual.

As you may know, the Lower Elkhorn has always worked to be as efficient as possible, while trying to reduce or eliminate duplication of services. Delivering program/projects as effectively as possible is always a difficult challenge, but I believe we have tried to make good faith efforts in this regard.

The following responses will hopefully serve to inform and educate all interested parties regarding District information and positions related to these issues:

The District has worked extensively to develop and refine our LONG RANGE PLAN, which is revised annually. Please refer to this enclosed document for several important features of our renewed efforts to be more effective and efficient especially with regard to many various agency partnerships.

I. INCREASED EFFICIENCY:

Concentrated planning efforts by the Board and Staff to utilize the annual long range plan in a comprehensive manner over the last five years has led to far better coordination of budgeting, related to all programs and projects.

Greater efficiency is being achieved by closely following our plan to combine line items in the budget review process (which is started earlier in the year) and this method also permits tracking of each program and project, not only for fiscal management but actually "Measuring" success at mid-point and more importantly at the end of the fiscal year. Budget and staffing adjustments can then be better defined and adjusted as necessary.

C-29



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Member of Nebraska Association of Resources Districts



For the first time in FY 1997, USDA – NRCS, considered the major partner of the NRD, worked jointly to incorporate their annual work plan into the District's Long Range Plan with the purpose of cooperating on common goals and completing many joint programs and projects.

NRD and NRCS Staff work closely on many projects with the District providing several important pieces of equipment used for engineering, survey work and mapping. Used computers were also provided to one field office to enhance workload.

Our five NRD / NRCS Field office secretaries are now utilized in a more efficient manner to assist with many NRD programs as well as USDA priorities. For example the secretaries now understand several forestry, well sealing and other water quality programs and therefore cooperators are better served.

The Nebraska Department of Water Resources has cooperated since 1978 in maintaining two staff members in the Lower Elkhorn NRD office. Acting as associates to the NRD Board and Staff, these State employees are involved with stream gauging, dam safety inspections, flood watch, and many other surface water activities. These DWR staff is very important to our overall natural resources management.

Another important position is the University of Nebraska –Lincoln Conservation and Survey hydro geologist formerly officed with the NRD staff (since the late 1970's) and now part of the UNL staff in the Learning Center. This engineering position is extremely valuable to all of Northeast Nebraska providing advice and expertise to the NRD on many groundwater issues. All irrigation well registrations are kept on file in this office, but immediately available to NRD staff and others by request. Critical wellhead protection studies for several communities and the rural water system are now under way utilizing skills of all professional staffers in the partner agencies, with Conservation and Survey as the lead advisor.

The NRD has cooperated and cost – shared with most of the counties in the last 25 years to construct road dams to replace old, unsafe bridges. This 75% NRD – 25% county split has resulted in the construction of 69 dams that greatly enhance conservation. The dams are designed by the NRCS with respective counties providing land rights and landowner negotiations. This is a very successful program for all involved.

Several important projects are managed in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission including the District owned Willow Creek Lake and Recreation Area, which is operated under lease as a State Recreation Area. Game and Parks Staff also manage the fisheries for NRD owned Maskenthine and Pilger lakes. A very important and successful cost –share program to improve and increase wildlife habitat (WHIP) has been jointly managed for more than 20 years by NRD and G&P Staff.

Cooperation between NRD's is increasing as Staff communicates through out the year to seek more efficient ways to deliver programs to all citizens. Examples are regular

meetings of the Manager's Committee, Information and Education Coordinators and most recently, the Water Resources Managers.

II. EFFORTS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY :

In early December of 1997, the Lower Elkhorn NRD moved into new and permanent offices in the Life Long Learning Center on the campus of Northeast Community College in Norfolk. This complex consists of six office partners (LENRD, Madison-Stanton UNL Extension Service, UNL Northeast Education Research and Extension Center specialists (NERC), Wayne State College, ESU # 8, and Northeast Community College) with more than 50 staff. This 42,000 + sq. ft. center also includes a major conference area and 6 distance learning classrooms complete with state of the art high technology. This technology is of course available to the office partners. For example, two-way interactive video, satellite uplink/downlink and broadcast origination will soon be available. Utilization of this technology rich environment by office partners and many others will be extremely important to conduct landowner and agency training while providing efficient cooperation for many years into the future.

Cooperation with several partners in the Learning Center will greatly enhance efficiency in several programs that NRD's provide for rural and urban landowners/cooperators. NRD Staff will work closely with NERC, especially their water resources and forestry specialists. A new feature is the water resources lab, which will be used jointly by the partners for surface and groundwater quality testing, and eventually bio-assessments. Hopefully even limited soil samples can be tested in this lab.

The NRD has cost shared with University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension Service and the Nebraska Forest Service providing an office and position of NRD Forester. This position has served the entire District for more than 3 years and will continue in that capacity working closely with NRD staff. In addition, the immediate supervisor for this position is assigned to a multi – county area and is part of the NERAC staff in the Learning Center.

The NRD water quality resources efforts have expanded to include a new position, which actually will be a UNL Extension Educator assigned to an office in the NRD area. This position will be directly supervised by NRD staff, but officially will be an Extension staff appointment. This is now possible because of the move to the Learning Center. The unique agreement will provide greatly needed expertise to assist with education and various types of water quality programs throughout the District.

The NRD's Chemigation Program is unique with respect to the management approach of contracting with a landowner /farmer who conducts the chemigation inspections. He is paid on a per well basis for each inspection and sets his own schedule contacting chemigators as necessary to personally observe each system for proper equipment and management technique. This approach is very efficient with NRD water resources staff

supervising his overall activities and not requiring NRD staff to be in the field during the chemigation season.

A cooperative intern program with Wayne State College and the NRD provided five undergraduate biology students with great opportunities to “work and learn “ while assisting with the NRD’s surface water quality nitrate monitoring program. As a result of this past summer’s program, several of the students now have chosen to pursue graduate studies in the field of natural resources management. This is very rewarding to the NRD.

The NRD Planning Subcommittee will now directly guide the relatively new EQIP effort with all interested groups and agencies invited to participate in formulating new priority areas and related planning. This new approach will provide a direct link to those interested in securing USDA funds for the landowners and to this area of Northeast Nebraska, while permitting the NRD Board to make bottom line decisions.

A new agreement with Dodge County and the Village of Nickerson is focused on finding solutions for flooding that continues to threaten homes, business locations, roads and agriculture. The floods are occurring with more frequency from the huge Maple Creek Watershed to the west.

III. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH OTHER NRDs:

The NRD also administers the largest rural water system in the State in terms of geographical size. The Logan East Rural Water System reaches from near Bancroft to Fontanelle, a distance of more than 35 miles covering parts of Burt, Dodge and Washington counties. More than 700 miles of buried waterlines serve 1200 rural homes and livestock operations. Two small towns are also served by the system, which is managed by three full time staff located at an office in “Downtown Oakland”. A large portion of the system is located in the Papio-Missouri River NRD without any consideration of political boundaries. The Thurston County Rural Water System is generally located in the Lower Elkhorn NRD and is managed by the Papio- Missouri River NRD, again with mutual understanding and respect for each other’s projects.

Statewide activities between the NRDs are planned annually by the Information and Education Coordinators across the state. Some of these activities include: water festivals; Husker Harvest Days; Envirothon; State Fair; and other educational activities.

Water managers from four northeast Nebraska NRDs meet on a regular basis to plan joint programs and projects, including improved techniques to manage the new groundwater quality management areas.

IV. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES:

Several cooperative programs with USDA – NRCS have been on going for many years. The WAE Program (While Actually Employed) which is funded by the NRD has provided many young people the opportunity to work and learn in the natural resources career oriented atmosphere of NRCS offices. This program provides valuable staff/manpower to NRCS in a training setting. Several people have continued their careers with NRCS as permanent Staff or have gone on to other similar careers.

The NRD participates in many other programs with NRCS and other agencies as outlined in the new USDA brochure “Nebraska Conservation Toolbox”. The NRD participates in all of these programs, most of which are cost –shared by the District. Please refer to this excellent summary prepared by NRCS I&E Staff.

The NRD Planning Subcommittee will now directly guide the relatively new EQIP effort with all interested groups and agencies invited to participate in formulating new priority areas and related planning. This new approach will provide a direct link to those interested in securing USDA funds for the landowners and to this area of Northeast Nebraska, while permitting the NRD Board to coordinate the process.

Completing the new Cowboy Trail from Norfolk to Chadron is a high priority for several agencies that are involved including Game and Parks as lead with their efforts mandated by the Legislature. The NRD is working with the City of Norfolk and the State Department of Roads as well as several affected companies regarding land rights to bring the final 2.2 miles of trail into Norfolk’s Ta Ha Zouka Park . This will provide an established trailhead for the 320 mile trail which is the longest hiking /biking trail in the United States and is set to be an extremely popular attraction for users from around the country.

Urban Conservation is a relatively new effort in this NRD, however significant progress is now being made, especially with the City of Norfolk. Cost –share programs are now offered to address erosion control and recreation needs including inner –city trails. A model sediment and erosion control ordinance was developed by the NRD and is now under consideration by city officials. These programs are offered to all of the towns and cities within the District.

The NRD recently completed the Skyview Wetlands Project with the City of Norfolk, Norfolk High School FFA, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the USDA-NRCS. This wetland enhancement was designed by the NRCS to act as bio-filter for the 50 surface acre urban lake, which is a valuable part of Norfolk’s city park system. The FFA classes were very involved in the promotion and planning and actually presented the proposal to the Nebraska Environmental Trust who funded the project. Another important partner was G&P who acted as advisor and also worked with the students. This project was a great example of efficiency and maximum teamwork from all partners.

The District is an active participant in Governor Nelson's "NEBRASKA MANDATES MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE" which is a statewide effort to assist the smaller communities providing assistance to improve infra-structure, especially in the area of drinking water and sanitary disposal. New strategies are needed for wellhead protection, especially to protect drinking water from high nitrates. This effort has involved 13 small towns and 1 rural water system in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. More activity is expected as the NMMI becomes more accepted and word spreads among the smaller governments on this National Model which has been endorsed by EPA, American Consulting Engineers Council, UNL and UNO.

The village of Osmond (Pierce County) has cooperated with the NRD for several years as their drinking water supply wells are monitored for nitrates by NRD staff as a back – up to Osmond city staff and their sampling. A very intensive study of the city's water supply was completed by the NRD and Conservation -Survey Staff in the late 1980's as efforts was made to improve the drinking water source.

Several very important flood control projects have been completed (or are in various stages of planning) in cooperation with cities and towns and the primary designer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Funding is also obtained from Congress through the Corps programs. Flood control levees are completed for Scribner and Howells, with planning under way for Pender and Dodge. The community of Wakefield is also working with the NRD and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to construct a levee in the near future. The NRC also assisted with funding for Scribner and Howells and has been a very helpful partner.

A long-term agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey and the NRD has provided valuable information on static water levels from selected recorder wells around the District.

V. IDEAS FOR IMPROVED COOPERATION WITH NRDs /AGENCIES:

Schedule regular meetings with partners on a monthly basis.

Improve communication utilizing computer technology, ie: E-Mail; two-way interactive video; satellite conferencing, etc.

Streamline and coordinate agendas to maximize meeting efficiency.

Utilize central locations for meetings with other agencies and NRDs.

Reduce travel time as much as possible.

Utilize NRC Staff for planning in cooperation with the NRD's.

L. B. 1085 RESPONSES FOR LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

1. Activities to Improve Efficiency and/or Effectiveness:

The Little Blue NRD has restructured our staff responsibilities to best match individual talents with program needs. We have also reduced secretarial staff by 1/2 full time employee to better meet time requirements, save money and increase efficiency.

In order to reduce staff and director expenses, our staff and board members often shares conference lodging and transportation. We also share lodging and transportation with other districts from time to time. (The managers of the Little Blue and Lower Republican have done this several times.) Board members are encouraged to share rides to meetings and activities.

The district recently adopted a policy of trading our vehicles at around 150,000 miles instead of the previous 100,000 miles because the vehicles are well maintained and we felt that would reduce capital expenses over the long term.

The district began maintaining time, activity and mileage logs in 1994 to determine accomplishments and if time is being effectively utilized. These records also aid us in planning and budgeting needs for programs.

2. What Could Our NRD Do To Improve Efficiency and/or Effectiveness:

This is the most difficult question of this request because if we felt there was a better way of doing business, we would make changes if possible. However, it is always good to evaluate this.

I believe better communications amongst staff, board and the public could foster better efficiencies and/or effectiveness. This is an ongoing challenge.

We have talked about ways of consolidating staff trips from the office to the field or meetings, but unfortunately, due to the diversity of activities and projects that are going on, combining trips many times may cause more inefficiencies. We do it when possible. Nothing else comes to mind right now.

3. Cooperative Efforts Between NRDs :

Tree Planting Programs (Ongoing) - We have made arrangements with adjoining NRDs to plant trees in entire counties which are closest to our district headquarters to aid in efficiency and reduce cooperater confusion. LBNRD plants all of Nuckolls County and LRNRD plants all of Webster County. LBNRD plants all of Adams County tree jobs.

Chemigation Program (Ongoing) - LBNRD works cooperatively with adjoining districts to spot check new and renewal chemigation systems. This is done as an efficiency measure to reduce doubling of appointments, time requirements in scheduling and for convenience for operators.

Special Protection Area, Superior/Hardy Area - (Ongoing) - Cooperative effort with the Lower Republican NRD to address high nitrates in a 32 square mile area which crosses district lines. Currently the LBNRD conducts operator training and educational activities because we have an Information and Education staff person, and LRNRD conducts the water sampling requirements and handles operator annual reports because of their technical expertise.

Little Blue Public Water Project - (1976 - Present) Rural water project developed jointly with the Lower Big Blue NRD in 1978. Because the project over-lapped both district boundaries, the LBNRD took the leadership role and signed an Interlocal Agreement with the LBBNRD to administer the delivery and management of the entire project. Now, because of interest in a rural water project in the Beatrice area, the LBNRD has provided guidance to the Lower Big Blue NRD staff and local advisory committee to help get their project off the ground.

4. Cooperative Efforts With Other Governmental Entities:

The cooperative arrangement between the NRD and the NRCS provides that we employ the full time secretaries in the county field offices to help administer district programs close to the field needs. The NRD also provides funds for technical assistance to aid in design and layout for conservation practices which are being implemented as a result of district originated cost-share programs. The NRCS on the other hand provides office space, vehicles, equipment and supplies for these employees to do their work to everyone's benefit.

The district cooperates with cities to address specific resources problems. **An example is the McNish Park Improvement Project, Fairbury (1997)**- The district provided cost assistance for construction and made application to NDEQ for 319 Water Quality funding for a unique urban erosion demonstration project. Also, the sponsors worked with the local Wal-Mart to raise public awareness of effects of urban runoff from parking lots into the park and obtained some funding through a Wal-Mart-originated battery recycling project for publicity. Total cost was \$24,000; DEQ's share - \$5,000, City and District split the remainder or about \$9,500 each.

In cooperation with counties, the NRD offers assistance for road dams, 404 permit applications and various other projects. **The Nuckolls County Hazard Mitigation Project - (1994 - 1996) is an example of this type of venture.** - The district covered engineering costs and provided assistance for obtaining 404 permits to complete a hazard mitigation project with Nuckolls County and FEMA. The project was designed to protect three new county bridges which were damaged slightly in the 1993 flood. The NRDs cost was \$3,675 but the benefits in terms of positive relations and public perception was great.

5. Future Ideas I Improving Entity Cooperation Become More Efficient:

Frankly, I believe the NRDs do an excellent job of cooperating on projects and programs.

I believe the process initiated by the NRDs to develop the suggested guidelines for the Natural Resources Enhancement Fund for NRC consideration, went well and was an efficient and effective approach. This approach should be used if similar opportunities evolve in the future.

I've often thought that it would be nice if several district's could hire and share an engineer for design of smaller practices which fall in the cracks between what NRCS will do and what justifies a consulting firm to design; such things as bank erosion protection, drainage outlet structures, road dams, etc.. Such a person may be able to assist county road departments or villages with small projects as well and actually help local governments save costs.

One of the areas that our staff feels there could be an improvement in efficiency is in our Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. This is a very popular program within our district. Currently there is a back log of contracts waiting for approval. Because the Game and Parks Commission's area representative has a large area to cover, it has been difficult for him to inspect and assess projects in a timely manner. We feel the program has suffered as a result.

We have occasionally experienced other entities that are not very cooperative for one reason or another, but I expect some of the problem are personalities, not a result of opportunities. We will continue to work with all entities where we feel cooperative efforts can be of benefit to our constituents..



BLAINE, BROWN, CHERRY, GRANT, HOOKER,
LOGAN, McPHERSON, & THOMAS COUNTIES

Upper Loup Natural Resources District

P.O. BOX 212
THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166
PHONE (308) 645-2250

25th Anniversary
vision. action. results

To: Vince Kramper, LB 1085 Committee Chair

From: Will Boyer, Manager

Subject: Response to Input Request (LB 1085)

Date: November 26, 1997

1. What we have done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness:
 - a. maintained small diversely qualified staff of 3 to manage 2nd largest district while meeting state mandates and providing unique services
 - b. eliminated handplanting trees and eliminated custom drilling of cover crops
 - c. computerized district programs and accounting
 - d. made sure employee schedules and skills are matched to their job responsibilities and the priorities of the district.
 - e. participated in appropriate personnel training
 - f. evaluated cost efficiencies of district programs
 - g. coordinated field activities of the various programs and services we provide
 - h. limited the amount of time spent on surveys and information requests
2. What we could do to increase our efficiency and/or effectiveness:
 - a. more of the above when practical
 - b. better coordination with other NRDs, and local and regional governments when practical
 - c. assist communities with trees and solid waste recycling when practical
3. Examples of cooperative efforts with other NRDs:
 - a. water quality educational programs and data sharing
 - b. administrative meetings and workshops
 - c. noxious weed informational meetings
 - d. consultations and cooperation on various issues of common interest
 - e. coordinated water data collection and research
 - f. chemigation inspections around remote NRD border areas
 - g. providing teachers educational workshop
 - h. consultations and shared technical expertise
4. Cooperative efforts with other units of government:
 - a. various educational programs with Cooperative Extension et. al.
 - b. educational and cost assistance to control noxious weeds (counties)
 - c. educational programs with the Nebraska State 4-H Camp
 - d. wetland development to protect county roads.
 - e. wildlife habitat development and public relations with USFWS and NGPC
 - f. coordinate water data collection and research with USGS and CSD IANR
 - g. free drill use and tree plantings for counties, villages other public entities.
 - h. educational programs and materials to all schools
5. Ideas on increasing cooperation among NRDs and other to increase efficiency and effectiveness:
 - a. sharing database formats, software etc.
 - b. better sharing of technical expertise and professional personnel services
 - c. better cooperation and coordination of field work near district border area
 - d. more statewide coordination and financing for mandated programs and other programs important to the state (i.e. Water Well Decommissioning Fund.)

Lower Loup Natural Resources District

NO. HIGHWAY 11, HADAR INDUSTRIAL PARK
PHONE (308) 728-3221

P.O. BOX 210, ORD, NEBRASKA 68862-0210
FAX (308) 728-5669

November 26, 1997

RECEIVED

DEC 01 1997

NEBRASKA NATURAL
RESOURCE-COMMISSION

TO: Gayle Starr, NRC
FROM: Richard J. Beran, General Manager, Lower Loup NRD
SUBJECT: Response to LB-1085 Questionnaire

1. **PLEASE LIST TWO OR MORE THINGS THAT YOUR NRD HAS DONE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS.**
 - a. Initiated a maintenance agreement with Duncan East Improvement Project Area landowners to do maintenance work. This resulted in the NRD not having to transport equipment and personnel. We reduced costs and provided more timely maintenance.
 - b. Upgraded the office computer system so that we could transfer documents between NNRC and other State agencies.
 - c. Changed employees' work stations to better accommodate ag producers in problem areas.
2. **PLEASE LIST TWO OR MORE THINGS THAT YOU FEEL YOUR NRD COULD DO TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS.**
 - a. Provide irrigators with timely information on irrigation pump output quickly and accurately.
 - b. Install an E-mail program within the nine Federal offices where the District has permanent staff.
3. **PLEASE LIST EXAMPLES OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS YOUR NRD HAS UNDERTAKEN WITH OTHER NRDS THAT RESULTED IN INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS.**
 - a. Entered into interlocal agreements to oppose the Game & Parks Instream Flow Application on the Platte, Loup and Elkhorn Rivers.
 - b. We have mutual agreements with neighboring NRDS on chemigation inspections, static water level reporting, and water quality testing.
 - c. We carpool to interstate and intrastate meetings.
 - d. We hold joint employee benefit meetings to reduce travel distance and time.

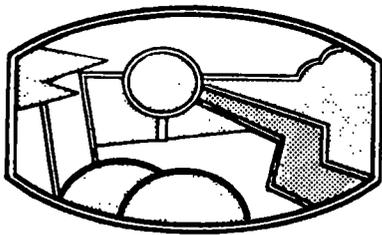
- e. We constructed chemigation valve test kits for all statewide chemigation inspectors.

4. **PLEASE LIST EXAMPLES OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS THAT YOUR NRD HAS UNDERTAKEN WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAVE RESULTED IN MORE EFFICIENT OR EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS.**

- a. We are a part of and participate in the Nebraska Mandates Management Initiative.
- b. Entered into an interlocal agreement with the City of Columbus whereby the City extended already-in-place maintenance into an improvement project.
- c. Assisted several counties with the construction of road structures to replace bridges.
- d. Made available at no cost a grassland drill for County government to seed road right-of-way.
- e. Provide City and Village government with engineering assistance on drainage and erosion control.
- f. Provide assistance to County and municipal governments on streambank erosion.
- g. Provide municipal governments with development of wellhead protection.
- h. Agreement with the State Forester to co-share an NRD Forester position.
- i. Memorandum of Understanding and Gratuitous Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to provide joint use of personnel.
- j. Interlocal Agreement with four NRDs to co-sponsor secretarial and technical staff.
- k. Interlocal agreement with Dept. of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation to establish a recreation program.
- l. Share educational and certification of nitrogen management programs.
- m. Educational programs with Cooperative Extension on Land and Range Judging Programs.
- n. Cooperative efforts with the City of Columbus and the Village of Dannebrog on soccer field and trails development.
- o. Cooperate with Happy Jack Chalk Mine development.
- p. Develop education programs with Loup Basin Resource staff that includes NRD and five Irrigation Districts.
- q. Coordinate programs with the Leafy Spurge Task Force.

- r. We have membership in and have established Statewide Arboretums.
 - s. Had working agreements with the University of Nebraska Entomology Dept. on biological control of musk thistle.
5. **PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR IDEAS OF HOW NRDS COULD BETTER COOPERATE WITH OTHER NRDS AND OTHER LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND/OR EFFECTIVE MANNER.**
- a. Utilize professional staff between NRDs when appropriate.
 - b. Share equipment such as GPS and sonic flow meters.

ch



LEWIS & CLARK

Natural Resources District

608 N. Robinson
PO Box 518
Hartington, NE 68739
Phone (402) 254-6758
Fax (402) 254-6759

Vince Kramper
RR 1 Box 338
Dakota City, Nebraska 68731

Dear Vince:

I am responding to your request on LB 1085 input - Phase II. The following information can be elaborated or verified if you feel it necessary, but relates to the Lewis & Clark NRD perspective.

1 Things done for efficiency or effectiveness

- a) LCNRD assumes tree planting operation in LENRD portions of Dixon, Cedar and Knox for customer ease and NRCS simplicity.
- b) provide clerical and field staff and equipment to NRCS to facilitate delivery of conservation practices to landowners by technical professionals
- c) Simplify program options and details for ease in public communications and understanding.

2 Future means of efficiency or effectiveness

- a) Interlocal agreement with counties on road structure - other projects
- b) Interoffice electronic form processing with NRCS-NRC with NSWCP, WWDF, and other programs.

3. Examples of NRD cooperation with other NRD

- a) LCNRD initiated Bazile Triangle Groundwater Study (UNL Cons & Survey #68) with 3 neighbor NRDs to monitor and correlate nitrate contamination in geographic area common to all
- b) worked together with LNNRD on provide RW service from West Knox System to residents in LCNRD using interlocal cooperative agreement.
- c) worked with LENRD to host tree workshops and information brochures together
- d) joint purchase of conservation mulch stakes via CPNRD for volume discount.

4 Examples of Cooperation with other agencies

- a) Acted as local sponsor with Corps of Engineers on Missouri River Bank Protection to secure land rights for \$2.6 million Section 32 project. Worked with local Missouri River Bank Protection Association, landowners and county government for mutual coordination and maintenance
- c) worked with County board on watershed project, degradation studies, boat ramps and soil survey acceleration efforts
- d) Cooperate with NE Game and Parks Commission on Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project and three Wildlife Management Areas built the LCNRD.
- e) Provide funding and input to Grassland Management education efforts with Knox Co Extension Service - Also hosted area Range and Soil Judging contests.

Kramper letter
December 5, 1997
Page 2

- f) worked with area schools on Tree planting projects. GW education and outdoor classrooms.
- g) Provide material to 20 churches annually for promoting ethical care of natural resources
- h) Worked with Northeast RC&D on Cedar Revetment and other projects.
- I) Cooperated with Santee Sioux Tribe on Natural Resource Enhancement Projects, Water Supply and Cost share Program
- j) Utilized Midwest Assistance Program out of the Center for Rural Affairs office to fund a preliminary feasibility study for our original Rural Water Project.

5. Future means of cooperation on public service

- a) LCNRD intends to develop Community Assistance Program and work more on Wellhead Protection Efforts with District villages.
- b) Work with Neighbor NRDs on providing or extending rural water services beyond district lines.
- c) Coordinate with other NRDs for tree program and other materials purchases to get volume discounts
- d) NRD intends to provide input to zoning efforts and Livestock Confinement issues regarding natural resource impacts.
- e) Cooperate with UNL Water Center on groundwater study in Creighton area to determine scope and range of Nitrate-Pesticide contamination.

Vince, there are probably other items that I've inadvertently omitted here, but hopefully these points will give your committee some discussion opportunities. As a small District, we have learned to be open to help from a wide array of sources to utilize outside technical and financial assistance. Let me know if you need clarification on any of this.

Sincerely,



Tom Moser
General Manager

ms

cc NARD

**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER
NATURAL
RESOURCES
DISTRICT**



8901 S. 154TH ST.
OMAHA, NE 68138-3621
(402) 444-6222
FAX (402) 895-6543

December 10, 1997

Mr. Vince Kramper, LB1085 Committee Chair
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94876
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Vince:

The following information is submitted in response to your November 19, 1997 memo concerning the second LB 1085 study:

1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness:

- First off, Natural Resources Districts are pioneers in the efforts to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness. In 1972, 154 special purpose governmental entities were combined to form the original 24 Natural Resources Districts. The Papio-Missouri River NRD is a product of the merger of two NRDs, the Papio NRD and the Middle Missouri River Tribes NRD, in January, 1989. This merger has been a success and can be used as a model when looking at the benefits of "consolidating governmental entities."
- In 1991, the Papio-Missouri River NRD Board of Directors took action to downsize the number of Directors serving on the Board from 21 to 11 members. Also, Directors are elected by voters in their Subdistrict vs. At large. The result of this action has been an overall savings to the District, and in turn a savings to the District's taxpayers. Some of the specific ways this action has saved the District money are: reduction in election costs; reduction in Director per diem and expense expenditures, and reduction in copying and postage costs. As an example, election expenditures for the District for the 1990 primary and general election was \$76,867. After implementation of the above mentioned changes, the election expenditures for the District for the 1992 primary and general election was \$19,378.67. That is a difference of \$57,488.33.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board of Directors

Richard P. Connealy
349-5544

Jerry Koeh
321-4326

Wayne Rasmussen
493-3300

Tom Foster
345-7477

Ray J. Kopscky
391-1013

Feter Rubin
733-7369

Steven G. Olmstead, General Manager, 895-6670

Kenneth Jansen
350-3030

Joseph T. Neery
571-7467

James D. Thompson
342-4371

Richard W. Jansen
352-4827

Larry Petersen
289-2870

- The Papio-Missouri River NRD was the catalyst for the co-location of USDA agencies at the Natural Resources Center. Since June, 1996 the following offices have been located at the NRC: P-MRNRD, FSA, NRCS and RD. For the federal agencies, this co-location means greater efficiency through the sharing of personnel, equipment, office space and information. For the public, the co-location provides for a more efficient, more timely service through one-stop servicing by USDA agencies. In the case of FSA and RD, offices in Douglas and Sarpy Counties were consolidated into one office at the Natural Resources Center (2 to 1). This alone provides an annual savings of federal dollars of approximately \$105,000.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

- Dam Site #6 Project (see attached) - Dam Site 6, located between 168th and 180th Streets, south of Highway 36, approximately one mile west of Bennington, NE, will be the first public/private partnership created to meet flood control needs while offering limited public access for recreation. This site is one of the original 21 dam sites identified by the Corps of Engineers following the 100 year floods of 1964 and 1965. This partnership was initiated by the NRD to provide additional flood protection for residents and businesses along the Big Papio Creek. The flood control and public recreation facilities proposed at Dam Site 6 (including land acquisition and engineering) would cost over \$12 million if constructed separately as an NRD project. Because of our partnership, the District will be contributing up to \$2.5 million to this project. Thus, a potential savings of approximately \$10 million to the taxpayers of our District. Once completed the dam will provide flood protection for residents and businesses along the Big Papio Creek, which once again potentially saves millions of dollars in averted flood damages.
- Drainage District # 5 Merger (pending): The District is investigating the possible merger of the P-MRNRD and Drainage District No. 5 in Dakota County. Under such an arrangement, the District would form an Improvement Project Area (IPA) over the same area as the existing Drainage District boundaries. The District would perform or contract for any improvement, maintenance and repair of the project under the following guidelines:
 - **MAINTENANCE** - Routine Maintenance will be paid for by the special assessment in the IPA.
 - **REPAIRS** - Major repairs (\$50,000 or more per item) will be cost shared 50/50 by the NRD and the IPA.
 - **IMPROVEMENTS** - Major improvements (\$50,000 or more per item) will be cost shared 50/50 by the NRD and the IPA.

- **OUTSIDE FUNDING** - Dollars received from outside funding sources will be credited equally to the IPA and the NRD.

The P-MRNRD's policy is to encourage mergers of drainage districts with NRDs. This would be the third such merger the District has entered into. The other two are Union Dike and Drainage District in 1976 and the Western Sarpy County Drainage District in 1994.

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

- Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance: The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance was formed in 1996 between the P-MRNRD and the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, DWR, NNRC, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, DEQ and the Nebraska Department of Health. The Alliance will attempt to coordinate the development of land and water resources in the Lower Platte River Basin. In 1997, a coordinator for the Alliance was hired and is located in the Lower Platte South NRD office in Lincoln. Commencing in FY 1998 and continuing through FY 2000, the Alliance and the District will cooperate with the Corps of Engineers who will conduct the Lower Platte River and Tributaries Feasibility Study. The study will investigate structural and non-structural flood control, environmental restoration, water quality and numerous planning and zoning issues.
- Interlocal Cooperation Act Agreement for Platte River Ice Jam Removal (copy attached). – The partners in this newly-created endeavor are the Papio-Missouri River NRD, the Lower Platte North NRD, the Lower Platte South NRD, Cass County, Douglas County, Sarpy County and Saunders County. During the timeframe of February 18-23, 1997 the Papio-Missouri River NRD coordinated a multi-agency effort to blast an ice jam that had formed on the Platte River near Highway 6. This operation was successful and resulted in averting millions of dollars in flood damages to property owners, the State of Nebraska, the Lincoln water system and BNSF.

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other unites of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations. [Utilization of Nebraska Inter Local Agency Act]

- Papio Trails Project: In 1989, the District approved a plan to construct recreational trails on flood control levees maintained by the District. In addition, trails would be included on some future levee construction projects. In 1990-96, the District cost shared with the City of Omaha in the construction of Phases 1-4 of the Keystone Trail. These 12 miles of trail are located along the east side of the Little and Big Papillion Creeks from Fort Street to Cornhusker Road. Funding for Phase 4 was received from

the DOR through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which pays up to 80% of the costs of trail construction. In 1997, ISTEA funds were utilized on the following trail segments:

- Field Club Trail (Leavenworth to Gold Streets)
- Big Papio Trail (Harrison to L Street)
- West Papio Trail (Pacific Street to Zorinsky Lake)
- Highway 50 Trail (I-80 to Stonybrook Blvd.)
- Halleck Park Trail (Papillion - 72nd to Lincoln Road)
- Keystone Phase 5 (Cornhusker to 25th Street)

In 1998, the following trail segments will be installed:

- Bellevue Loop 3 (25th Street to Kennedy Freeway)
 - Giles Road Connector (Highway 50 to Chalco Hills)
 - Platte River Trail (Highway 66 to Highway 31 using former Rock Island Bridge)
 - Missouri River Trail 1 (Heartland Park to Asarco)
- Dam Site 21 - Agreement with City of Papillion: Dam Site 21 is located on Walnut Creek upstream of Highway 370 southwest of Papillion. Approval of the project was received from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission for 75% cost share on the \$6.3 million flood control and recreation project from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. Federal aid was also received from the Game and Parks Commission to install unique fish habitat structures at the site. Construction of the dam and fisheries facilities (boat ramp, fishing pier, islands, etc.) was completed in 1996. Sarpy County has recently completed improvements to 96th Street and Schram Road. Construction of the recreational facilities and interior roads is scheduled for FY 97-98, with opening of the recreation area in 1999. The District will initially operate the site, but the City of Papillion will assume that role once the surrounding lands are annexed. As noted above, the District aggressively sought out alternative funding sources and partners to make this project a reality.
- Western Sarpy Dike Project: The Western Sarpy County Drainage District was organized in 1909 to solve drainage and flooding problems in southwest Sarpy County. The drainage district encompasses approximately 7,540 acres of land along the Platte River from the mouth of the Elkhorn River to I-80. The drainage district operates a series of drainage ditches and a flood control levee. In 1993, severe flooding along the Platte River damaged many of the district's facilities, which were subsequently repaired. In 1994, the Western Sarpy Drainage District and the Papio-Missouri River NRD agreed to merge, with the NRD taking over operation and maintenance of the project. The merger is scheduled to be finalized following acquisition of land rights by

the current drainage district board for enhancement of the levees and drainage ditches. It is anticipated that major renovation and improvement of the dike will occur in 1998 and 1999. The completion of this flood control project will save our taxpayers millions of dollars in averted flood damages.

- **Boyer Chute:** Construction of the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge was completed by the Corps of Engineers in 1993 utilizing Section 1135 funding. Construction of public access facilities was completed by the District in 1995. The site was opened in 1996 and, at that time, the District turned over the operation and maintenance of the site to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By turning this project over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the District will not have to use local property taxes for the operation and maintenance of this project. Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will contribute (spring of 1998) in lieu of taxes to Washington County and the Fort Calhoun School District, pursuant to lands purchased for the project.
- **Hidden Lake/Great Marsh Restoration:** Construction was completed in early 1997. Utilizing funds from the Corps of Engineers Section 1135 authority, the P-MRNRD restored this vital Missouri River backwater and wetland site with the support of the Fontenelle Forest Association, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund and local tax dollars. This site will be operated and maintained by the Fontenelle Forest Association (private, non-profit); thereby, saving tax dollars for the District's tax payers.
- **Floodplain Management Program:** The Papio-Missouri River NRD provides technical advice to responsible entities of government on floodplain management matters upon request. This includes comments on rezoning applications and requests for building permits. Considerable staff time is spent providing flood hazard information to individuals interested in developing floodplain land. The District's involvement in the floodplain insurance program consists of providing information to consultants, insurance companies, lending institutions and individuals if a specific property is located in a designated floodplain or floodway area. Information on 100-year floodplain elevations and flood insurance zones is also provided. Obviously keeping buildings out of the floodway and floodplain is sound management and a preventive measure to reduce or eliminate flood damages to infrastructure and tax base.
- **Urban Conservation Program:** The District provides technical assistance to landowners and developers on conservation related problems to address erosion and flooding problems in urban areas in the District. The District reviews and comments on subdivision plats through the District's membership on the City of Omaha's Development Review Committee. The District also reviews subdivision plats for Bellevue, LaVista, and Sarpy, Washington and Douglas Counties.

- Cost Share Programs (Communities/Counties): The District has implemented several cost share programs where the District helps build important public works with other governmental entities, i.e.:

- Urban Drainageway Program: This program was developed to address erosion and flooding programs on major urban drainageways. The following projects have been completed to date:

- Frederick Street Drain in Omaha
- Betz Ditch in Bellevue
- Clay Street Drain in Fort Calhoun
- Hell Creek in Omaha's Roxbury Park
- Cottner Street Drainageway in Omaha
- Westside Drainageway Project in South Sioux City
- Meadowlane Park Drainageway in Omaha

In 1997, funds were utilized to construct a stormwater detention cell in Omaha and a channel improvement project on Ralston Creek in Ralston. In FY 1998, funds have been budgeted for the Hefflinger Park Drainageway (Douglas County), Eastside Drainageway (South Sioux City) and Thompson Creek (LaVista) projects.

- Urban Conservation Assistant Program: The District cost shares with municipalities to solve erosion or flood problems. The District cost shared on the following projects:
 - Winnebago Tribe (stormwater management)
 - City of Papillion (stormwater management)
 - Woodhaven SID (streambank management)
 - City of Omaha (Maple Village Park)
 - City of Ralston (Serum Avenue Cul-de-sac & 77th Street Project)
- County Road Structure Program: This program was developed to address grade stabilization, flood control and sedimentation problems in channels as they cross county roads. Funds are budgeted to cost share with the counties in building conservation road structures. In FY 97, \$150,000 was budgeted to assist Burt and Douglas Counties with the installation of road structures.
- Recreation Area Development Program: This program was developed to cost share with units of government in establishing and improving recreation areas in the District. Some of the projects completed in FY 97 are:
 - Hitchcock Park (Omaha)
 - Baseball Complex Restroom (Bennington)
 - Fairgrounds Restroom (Arlington)

In FY 1998, the following projects will receive funding:

- Memorial Park Restroom (Gretna)
- Arboretum Trail (South Sioux City)
- Adams Park (Omaha)
- Maryott Bridge (Decatur)
- Koch Park (Ralston)

5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local unites of government to provide services tot he public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

District staff worked with NNRC Commission members Bob Bell and yourself to come up with some concrete suggestions, pursuant to LB 1085. A copy of the resulting white paper is attached

I trust you will find this information useful. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Optimistically,



Steven G. Oltmans
General Manager

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION ACT AGREEMENT

PLATTE RIVER ICE JAM REMOVAL

1. **Parties:** This Agreement is made by and among the following parties:

- The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District;
- The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District;
- The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District;
- The County of Cass, State of Nebraska;
- The County of Douglas, State of Nebraska;
- The County of Sarpy, State of Nebraska; and,
- The County of Saunders, State of Nebraska.

2. **Authority:** This Agreement is made pursuant to the authority provided in the Nebraska Interlocal Cooperation Act (§§13-801, R.R.S., 1943, et seq.) and the Nebraska Disaster and Civil Defense Act (§§81-829.36 to 81-829.68, R.R.S., 1943), and, whenever possible, this Agreement shall be construed in conformity therewith.

3. **Purpose:** This Agreement provides for the institution and implementation of an interjurisdictional plan having the limited purpose of dealing with ice jams in the lower Platte River, South of the limits of the City of Fremont, Nebraska.

4. **Plan:** The parties to this Agreement do hereby adopt the following plan for dealing with ice jams:

151009

a. If the General Manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, or the Emergency Management Director of each county within which an ice jam is occurring or impounding flood waters, after a personal inspection of the affected area, shall determine that flood waters impounded by an ice jam in, on, or adjacent to the Platte River south of the limits of the City of Fremont, Nebraska, pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe flood damage, injury or loss of life or property unless such ice jam is promptly removed and the impounded waters released; and, if the General Manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District or the principal executive officer of each such county within which such ice jam is occurring or impounding flood waters shall execute a written proclamation containing the aforesaid determination(s), and including his, her, or their determination that such ice jam and resulting impoundment of flood waters constitute a local disaster emergency within the contemplation of §81-829.50(1), R.R.S., 1943, and, in accordance with §81-829.50(1), R.R.S., 1943, shall immediately mail a copy of such proclamation to the State Civil Defense Agency and the county clerk of each county within which such ice jam is occurring or impounding flood waters, then the General Manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (or, in his or her absence, the Assistant General Manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District), hereinafter referred to as "the Implementing Officer," shall be, and is hereby,

authorized and directed to (i) consult the Emergency Management Directors of the parties and such engineers, hydrologists, or other persons having expertise who such officer determines shall be available, (ii) consult the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, (iii) determine the most feasible method of obtaining the timely removal of such ice jam and release of impounded flood waters, and (iv) request that the parties to this Agreement having available personnel or equipment necessary to implement such method of ice jam removal to commence the utilization of such personnel and equipment for such purpose.

b. If, as a result of such consultations the Implementing Officer determines that the immediate use of explosives is the only feasible method to obtain the timely removal of such ice jam and timely release of impounded flood waters, then such officer, on behalf of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, may employ such other persons, firms or corporations who or which he or she determines are qualified, upon such terms and conditions as he or she determines reasonable, to remove such ice jam and release such impounded flood waters, using explosives.

c. In accordance with § 81-829.50, R.R.S., 1943, no such declaration, utilization, or employment shall be continued, extended, or renewed for a period in excess of seven days after the date of the original declaration, without the consent of the Board of each county within which the respective ice jam is occurring or impounding flood waters, expressed by resolution.

5. **Cost Sharing:** The necessary costs incurred in the course or as a result of removal of ice jams pursuant to this Agreement shall be advanced by the party providing personnel or equipment, employing other persons, firms or corporations, or otherwise incurring such costs for such removal work, as provided above; provided, however, reimbursement of such costs shall be made by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District within 60 days after demand, from the reimbursement fund created by the following paragraph.

6. **Reimbursement Fund:** The parties do hereby create the Ice Jam Reimbursement Fund, such fund to be held by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District in an interest-bearing account in trust for the parties contributing thereto, in proportion to their contributions.

a. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Agreement, each party to this Agreement shall make an initial contribution to the Ice Jam Reimbursement Fund. Each party's initial contribution to such fund shall be in the amount shown, opposite such party's name, in the second column of the following table:

	Initial Contri- bution	Contri- bution %
Lower Platte North Natural Resources District	\$5,000	5.0%
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District	15,000	15.0%
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District	30,000	30.0%

County of Cass	2,500	2.5%
County of Douglas	20,000	20.0%
County of Sarpy	20,000	20.0%
County of Saunders	7,500	7.5%

b. For reimbursement of any portions of such advances which may exceed the amounts available in the Ice Jam Reimbursement Fund, the parties to this Agreement, within 30 days after demand by the trustee, shall make contributions to the reimbursement fund in the amount of such excess, and from time to time shall make contributions in such additional amounts as shall be necessary to preserve a \$100,000 balance in such fund. Each party's additional contribution towards such amounts shall be the respective percentage thereof shown opposite such party's name in the third column of the foregoing table.

c. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement,

(1) If the balance in the Ice Jam Reimbursement Fund exceeds \$100,000 at the end of any calendar year, the excess shall be distributed to the parties in proportion to their initial contributions to such Fund; and,

(2) No party shall be required to contribute to the Ice Jam Reimbursement Fund in any calendar year in an amount exceeding the amount of such party's initial contribution to such fund,

except with the prior written consent of all of the parties to this Agreement.

d. As used herein, the term "costs" shall be deemed to include, but shall not be limited to, insurance premium increases and surcharges, of any sort whatsoever, which a party is required to pay or assume as a result of actions taken or responsibilities undertaken by such party pursuant to this Agreement.

7. **Effective Date:** This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by all parties.

8. **Duration of Agreement:** This Agreement shall have permanent duration, but may be terminated by any party without cause effective upon 90 days notice to the other parties. Such termination shall not affect any rights of reimbursement under this Agreement for costs incurred or moneys advanced for actions taken or responsibilities assumed by another party during the term of and pursuant to this Agreement. In the event of such termination, all contributions made by a terminating party to the above-described reimbursement fund that are unexpended from the fund as of the effective date of termination shall be returned to such party, pro rata.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

This Agreement is executed by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on this 18th day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Directors.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

By [Signature]
General Manager

This Agreement is executed by The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District on this 18th day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Directors.

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

By [Signature]
General Manager

This Agreement is executed by The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District on this 18th day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Directors.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

By [Signature]
General Manager

This Agreement is executed by The County of Cass on this 7th day of February, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

The County of Cass, Nebraska,

By *Wilton Brown*
Chairperson, Board of
Commissioners

Attest:

Alan Leake
County Clerk



This Agreement is executed by The County of Douglas on this 11th day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

The County of Douglas, Nebraska,

By *Clare Duda*
Chairperson, Board of
Commissioners

Attest:

[Signature]
County Clerk

This Agreement is executed by The County of Saunders on this 19 day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

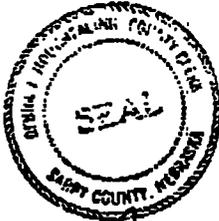


The County of Saunders, Nebraska,

By [Signature]
Chairperson, Board of
Commissioners

[Signature]
County Clerk

This Agreement is executed by the County of Sarpy on this 10th
day of January, 1995, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by
its Board of Commissioners.



The County of Sarpy, Nebraska,

By [Signature]
Chairperson, Board of
Commissioners

Attest:

[Signature]
County Clerk

Approved as to form: [Signature]
County Attorney

^{TA}
COPY



**NATURAL
RESOURCES
DISTRICT**

August 22, 1996

8901 S. 154TH ST.
OMAHA, NE 68138-3621
(402) 444-6222
FAX (402) 895-6543

Mr. Gary Kathol
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates
14747 California Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

RE: Dam Site 6

Dear Gary,

Pursuant to our efforts to construct Dam Site #6 jointly with Hogan Development Corporation and P-MRNRD I am providing a list of important questions. It appears that we are getting close to begin drafting a formal agreement. Therefore the following concerns must be adequately addressed.

- What criteria was (will be) used for the design of the dam? That is;
 - How will the principal spillway elevation be determined?
 - How will the emergency spillway elevation be determined?
 - How will the top of dam elevation be determined?
- What techniques will be used to determine the hydrology?
 - What design event will be used to design the emergency spillway?
 - What type of emergency spillway will be constructed?
- Need a dam breach analysis
- What is the size and elevation of the normal (conservation/recreational) pool?
- What is the size and elevation of the flood pool?
 - What is the lowest elevation that the houses (walk out basement level) can be placed?

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board of Directors

Paul C. Anderson
330-3400
Joe B. Bower
281-1390
Bob Ho
888-3311

John Campbell
470-3547
Richard P. Conroy
324-5440
Beverly Davidson
413-2338

Tom Foster
345-7417
Loren James
330-3030
Richard W. Janner
337-4877

Jerry Koch
331-4328
Ray J. Kabecky
391-1013

Charles G. Demark, General Manager 443-4477

Page 2

Will the flood storage and flood routing meet or exceed the original Corps of Engineers proposal?

- What is the size of the contributing watershed?
- What effect will the flows and the timing of these flows have on the Big Papio?
- Will the dam encroach on the floodway of the Big Papio and how will this be addressed?
- How much supplemental water will be required to maintain the desired normal pool level (average annual versus 10 year draught cycle)?
- How much water will be used from the Big Papio in the following?

Average Annual
Maximum Annual
Average Daily
Maximum Daily

- How low will the normal pool be allowed to decline during droughts?
- What are the design water losses?

Evaporation
Seepage
other

- Has a geotechnical analysis been performed to determine the stability of the dam? (being so close to the Big Papio, there are concerns with stability, bank sloughing and high velocities)
- Has the water quality in the drainage area been assessed and conclusions drawn?
- What is the expected quality of water in the Big Papio and how will this be treated?
- Have you contacted agencies regarding permit requirements and possible problems?

Corps Section 404
DWR Dam Safety
DWR Water Diversion
DEQ Water Treatment
DEQ Stormwater

Page 3

- What are the potential permitting issues?

It is important that this project succeed. To make it succeed, it is essential for all parties to try to anticipate all the problems. This is a list of the questions that the District feels are important, it is most likely not a total list. In the near future we will need to work closely to achieve a written agreement for the District Board consideration.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Optimistically,



Steven G. Oltmans
General Manager

SO:TA:jb
93696

cc: Marlin Petermann, NRD
Paul Peters

JAN 31 1997



January 30, 1997

Mr. Steve Oltmans
 Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
 8901 South 154th Street
 Omaha, NE 68138-3621

RE: Bennington Lake Project (Dam Site 6)

Dear Mr. Oltmans:

Pursuant to our recent meeting, I am forwarding to you a breakdown of costs that I have incurred through December 31, 1996, for the above-referenced project.

• Current Cost of Land Options		\$ 56,500.00
• Residential Development Engineering Costs:		
- Preliminary Land Planning	\$11,009.90	
- Preliminary Grading Design	12,132.47	
- Big Papio Water Quality Studies	4,727.15	
- Preliminary Lot and Street Layouts	<u>2,833.34</u>	
	Sub-Total	\$ 30,702.86
• Engineering Costs Related to Dam and Lake:		
- Topographic Survey	\$ 9,981.22	
- Dam Borings and Creek Survey	11,074.63	
- Conferences, Research and Schematic Design for Dam and Lake	7,363.61	
- Preliminary Hydrologic, Hydraulic, Geotechnical and Dam Stability Studies	10,778.13	
- Historical Study	907.40	
- Preliminary Design of Outside Silt Retention Reservoirs, Identifying Land Requirements and Preparation of Ownership Map	<u>7,675.20</u>	
	Sub-Total	\$ 47,780.99
TOTAL HORGAN DEVELOPMENT COSTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1996		\$134,983.85

Horgan Development Co.
 13215 Birch St. Suite 103
 Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Mr. Steve Oltmans
January 30, 1997
Page 2

The following tasks are still required in order to complete the preliminary design of the main dam and the upstream sediment control structures:

Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.:

- Complete surveys and prepare topographic mapping of the four (4) proposed sediment retention basins on the tributary channels upstream of the proposed lake.
- Complete preliminary roadway profiles for Bennington Road, 180th Street and State Highway 36, including changes necessitated by the main dam emergency spillway and the 180th Street sediment control dam.
- Provide to HDR Engineering, Inc. lake design criteria, stage-storage data for the main dam and sediment retention areas, and proposed pool elevations and operational range for each impoundment.
- Review HDR's preliminary drawings and preliminary design technical memorandum.
- Provide overall project management and project coordination with HDR Engineering, Inc., Geotechnical Services, Inc. (GSI), the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) and other governmental agencies.

Geotechnical Services, Inc.:

- Complete soil borings and associated laboratory analysis in order to assess the impacts of cuts that would be required to form the boundary of the lake and to assess the suitability of soils for use as fill material in construction of the dam.

HDR Engineering, Inc.:

- Data collection:
 - Monthly rainfall records
 - Monthly streamflow records and rating curve on the Big Papillion Creek
 - Typical monthly evaporation rates
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) SWMM model
 - USACE reports on proposed dam site (Dam Site No. 6)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory map
 - FIS HEC-2 cross sections on the Big Papillion Creek in both hard copy and electronic form
- Coordination with state and federal regulatory agencies, including the Nebraska Department of Water Resources (DWR), Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Nebraska Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Department of Roads and USACE.
- Geotechnical investigations performed in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publication Earth Dams and Reservoirs, Technical Release 60 (TR-60) including the following:

Mr. Steve Oltmans
January 30, 1997
Page 3

- Prepare soil boring and laboratory analysis program to be completed by GSI
 - Dam foundation design and analysis
 - Dam embankment design and analysis
 - Stability analysis
 - Seepage analysis
 - Settlement analysis
- Hydrologic/hydraulic design in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State of Nebraska and NRCS:
 - Develop stage-area-discharge relationships for the main dam and sediment basins.
 - Size the four (4) sediment retention basins located in the tributary channels.
 - Analyze "with project" and "without project" hydrologic impact, utilizing the USACE SWMM model.
 - Compare hydrologic impact of the proposed dam to impact of USACE dam proposed at this location (Dam Site No. 6).
 - Evaluate project impact on the Big Papillion Creek flood plain, including analysis of channel modifications and the proposed water supply diversion weir structure, utilizing the HEC-2 model.
 - Size and locate principal and emergency spillway structures.
 - Evaluate principal and emergency spillway alignment and channel geometrics for erosion protection and their ability to accommodate expected runoff.
 - Conduct a dam breach analysis.
 - Conduct a mass curve analysis to estimate Big Papillion Creek flows at the project site and from the project drainage area.
 - Develop a reservoir operations model and prepare reservoir water budget analysis.
 - Water quality evaluation based on goal of a clean, attractive and swimmable lake:
 - Develop nutrient and sediment export levels for existing and future land usage based on all source waters.
 - Evaluate impact of upstream sediment basins on nutrients and sediments.
 - Determine silt basin reservoir sedimentation rate and life cycle.
 - Evaluate the main reservoir's eutrophication response to nutrient loading through use of the water quality model BATHTUB.
 - Evaluate the probability of toxics and metals accumulation in reservoir sediments.
 - Evaluate feasible mitigation measures necessary to attain water quality goals, including land-use management and physical, biological and chemical measures.
 - Wetlands inventory, delineation and conceptual mitigation plan:
 - Conduct a field investigation to verify the presence of and delineate wetlands located within the project boundaries and prepare a conceptual wetlands mitigation plan structured in accordance with USACE guidelines.

Mr. Steve Oltmans
 January 30, 1997
 Page 4

- **Permitting:**
 - Identify and summarize permitting requirements for the following:
 - * USACE Section 404, including Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
 - * DWR compliance with Surface Water Section 46, Article 2
 - * NDEQ Water Treatment
 - * NDEQ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- **Drawing and report preparation:**
 - Prepare preliminary drawings and preliminary design technical memorandum.

In summary, the following estimated expenditures are still required to complete the preliminary dam and lake analysis:

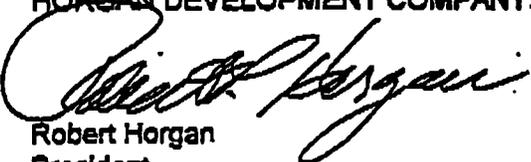
<u>Company</u>	<u>Estimated Fees</u>
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.	\$ 50,000
Geotechnical Services, Inc.	\$ 12,000
HDR Engineering, Inc.	\$ <u>137,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 199,000

Following completion of the preliminary design of the main dam and sediment retention basins, all concept drawings and report documentation will be provided to the Papio-Missouri River NRD for your review and comment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

HORGAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.


 Robert Horgan
 President

/nk

AGREEMENT
PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS
DAM SITE 6 - BENNINGTON LAKES PROJECT

THIS AGREEMENT ("this Agreement") is made by and between PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT ("the NRD") and, HORGAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, a Nebraska corporation ("HDC").

WHEREAS, HDC is the contract purchaser of portions of Sections 4, 5, 8, 9 10, 16 and 17, all in Township 16 North, Range 11 East of the 6th P.M. in Douglas County, Nebraska ("the Project Lands"), located approximately one mile west of the town of Bennington, Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, HDC expects to develop a residential subdivision ("the Subdivision") in certain portions of the Project Lands; and, HDC expects to form a sanitary and improvement district ("the SID") under the laws of the State of Nebraska, to construct, operate and maintain public facilities in the Subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, a tributary of the Big Papillion Creek flows through the Project Lands, which encompass the formerly planned location of Dam Site 6 of the Corps of Engineers Papillion Creek and Tributaries Lakes Project, which was a major component of the planned flood control for the Papillion Creek watershed; and,

WHEREAS, the NRD desires to cooperate with HDC in determining the feasibility of designing, constructing, operating and maintaining a project ("the Project") consisting of:

- A. A flood control structure ("the Dam") on a tract of land ("the Dam Complex") in Section 9 in the Project Lands, approximately as depicted in the diagram attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by

reference, to be designed and constructed by the SID or HDC and operated, maintained, repaired, and regulated by the NRD, together with an impoundment of water on a tract of land within the Project Lands and upstream of the Dam, near the planned location of former Dam Site 6; and,

B. A sediment retention structure ("the Sediment Retention Structure") along the alignment of 180th Street (on the line between Sections 8 and 9 of the Project Lands), to be designed, constructed, operated and maintained by the SID or HDC; and,

C. An impoundment on a tract of land in Section 8 of the Project Lands, immediately upstream of the Sediment Retention Structure, approximately as depicted in Exhibit "A" hereto, to be designed and constructed by the SID or HDC and operated, maintained, repaired, and regulated by the NRD; and,

D. Public bicycle and pedestrian trails generally following the perimeter of Section 9 in the Project Lands, approximately as depicted in Exhibit "A" hereto, to be designed, constructed, operated, maintained and regulated by the SID or HDC; and,

E. Channel Improvements within a tract of land in the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 9 in the Project Lands, approximately as depicted in Exhibit "A" hereto, to be designed and constructed by the SID or HDC and operated, maintained and regulated by the NRD; and,

F. A water treatment and pumping facility on a tract of land east of the Big Papillion Creek in the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 in Section 9 of the Project Lands to be designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and regulated by the SID or HDC; and,

G. Public open space (recreational and sports) improvements on a tract of land in Section 10 of the Project Lands, approximately as depicted in Exhibit "A" hereto, such improvements to be constructed in the future by the SID, by or with the cooperation of other entities, and operated, maintained, and regulated by the SID or such other entities, all as determined solely by the SID; and,

H. Public open space (recreational and sports) improvements on the emergency spillway portion of the Dam Complex in Section 9 of the Project Lands, such improvements to be constructed in the future by the NRD, by or with the cooperation of other entities, and operated, maintained, and regulated by the NRD or such other entities, all as determined solely by the NRD; and,

I. Enhanced public fishing facilities along a portion of the north side of the Reservoir, to be constructed, operated, maintained and regulated by the SID or HDC; and,

WHEREAS, the tasks required to complete the preliminary design and determine the feasibility of the Dam and the Sediment Retention Structure ("the Preliminary Design Studies"), and the engineers who are proposed to perform such tasks ("the Engineers"), are identified in the letter from HDC to the NRD dated January 30, 1997, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the parties desire to provide for the performance of such tasks and provide for the payment of the cost thereof; and, if the Dam and the Sediment Retention Structure are determined to be feasible, the parties desire to express their intent to agree in the future upon a definitive agreement providing for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. **PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDIES.** Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreement, HDC, on its own behalf, will retain the Engineers to perform the Preliminary Design Studies; and, within 200 days after the effective date of this Agreement, HDC will deliver to the NRD 15 copies of the complete report of the Preliminary Design Studies, together with an itemized billing ("the Engineers' Billing") reflecting the reasonable fees and costs charged by the Engineers and paid by HDC for the Preliminary Design Studies. The NRD shall pay to HDC seventy-five percent (75%) of the Engineers' Billing, or \$150,000.00, whichever is the lesser amount, without interest, on August 15, 1997, or on the 45th day after the date of the receipt by the NRD of the Engineers' Billing (accompanied by the prescribed number of copies of the Engineers' report of the Preliminary Design Studies), whichever is later in time.

2. **FUTURE AGREEMENT.** If, after the NRD's receipt of the Engineers' report of the Preliminary Design Studies, the parties jointly determine that the Project is feasible and jointly determine to proceed with the Project, then after the SID has been organized by HDC, it is expected that the NRD, HDC and the SID will enter into an agreement incorporating such covenants advancing the Project as may be agreed upon by and between the SID, HDC, and the NRD, such future agreement to be in form and content satisfactory to both parties and their counsel.

3. **FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH AGREEMENT.** In the event the Preliminary Design Studies indicate that the Project is feasible and (a) HDC fails or refuses to organize the SID within 240 days after the effective date of this Agreement, or (b) HDC or the SID fail or refuse to enter into the Future Agreement within 240 days after the effective date of this Agreement, then, on demand of the NRD, HDC shall refund to the NRD the amount paid by the NRD to HDC pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Agreement.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

This Agreement is executed by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on this ____ day of _____, 199 __, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Directors

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

By _____
General Manager

This Agreement is executed by Horgan Development Co., a Nebraska corporation, on this ____ day of _____, 199 __, pursuant to resolution duly adopted by its Board of Directors.

HORGAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, A NEBRASKA CORPORATION

BY _____
President

Attest:

Secretary



CITY OF BENNINGTON
15514 WAREHOUSE ST., P.O. BOX 221
BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007
(402) 238-2375
FAX (402) 238-2470

March 4, 1997

- 5 1997

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621
Attn: Steven G. Oltmans

RE: Proposed Dam Site #6 project with Horgan Development Corp.

Mr. Oltmans:

Please use this letter as an endorsement from the City of Bennington for the above mentioned project.

As I stated at your meetings on February 11 and 13, the Bennington City Council and I are in favor of this project based on the information that we have received thus far. We feel it would be very positive for the city in terms of economic development and community growth.

The fact that the City may be able to become part of the MUD water system would be a welcome improvement. The eighty acre proposed recreation area would be a huge addition to our parks and recreation facilities. The City would also receive building and other permit fees from the construction that would be done in our zoning jurisdiction.

Once again, please use this as an endorsement for this project from the City of Bennington. Please pass this information along to the board members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David L. Clark
Mayor, City of Bennington
238-2993 H
571-8801 W

BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DR. DOUGLAS ALAN TOWNSEND, Superintendent

BENNINGTON, NEBRASKA 68007

Phone (402)238-2844 Fax (402)238-2185



March 4, 1997

MAR - 51

Steven G. Oltmans, General Manager
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board of Directors
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68138-3621

Dear Mr. Oltmans:

On behalf of the Bennington Board of Education, this letter is to inform you that the Board approved a motion to support the Dam Site No. 6 proposal at their regular meeting on March 3, 1997. Following a review of the information and a meeting with our City Council and Mayor, it appears that this is a proposal that will have a positive long term impact for our school and community. Our Board appreciated the material that you mailed and the opportunity for sharing their thoughts with you about this matter. As this proposal advances, we would appreciate you continuing to keep us informed of any changes or information relative to the status of this project.

Sincerely,

Douglas Alan Townsend
Superintendent of Schools

DAT/cm

cc: Board of Education

CC: MEMBERS:

Deb Almqvist
Wayne Anderson
Milly Beaver
Doug Leiber
Rob Lohrman
Bill Palto

Donald Rorer
Principal
238-2847

Ellen Nelson
Principal
238-2838

Rash Pierce
Counselor
238-2667

Carilyn Meyer
Secretary

Irene Lervey
Bookkeeper

NRD Gets Offer to Build Dam

Developer Would Tie Flood Control With Upscale Housing

BY JULIE ANDERSON
WORLD HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Pappo-Missouri River Natural Resources District is considering a first-of-its-kind partnership with a developer to build a combination flood-control project and housing development a mile west of Bennington.

The partnership would develop Dam Site 6 at a fraction of what it would cost the NRD to build it alone. It also would give Bob Horgan, developer of Bennington Park and Eagle Run, a private, 300-acre lake around which to market high-priced homes.

The public would get a 25-acre fishing lake upstream of the larger lake, some fishing access from the dam, an extension of the metropolitan area trails system and an 80-acre soccer and softball complex.

"It's a total new philosophy," said Steve Oltmans, the NRD's general manager.

So new that NRD board members met Thursday night that they needed more time to study the proposal. They

appointed a committee to get answers to some of their questions, including whether taxpayers would get their money's worth from such a project.

"We've just got to make sure we don't pay too much of the private sector's bills," said Tom Foster, a board member.

Joe Neary, the board member who represents northwest Douglas County, said the board wants time to hear from the public on such a new concept.

Bennington Mayor Dave Clark said he and the Bennington City Council see the plan so far as offering "nothing but positives." The city needs the recreation areas and added commerce the project would bring, he said.

Under the proposal, the developer would build a dam on an unnamed tributary of the Big Papillion Creek arcing roughly from 168th Street and Bennington Road north and west to Nebraska Highway 36, said Gary Kathol of Lamp, Rynesson & Associates, a civil engineering and surveying firm.

The big dam, which would stand about 18 feet above the lake, would

back up a 300-acre private lake. The public would not have access to boat, to fish or to swim in the lake other than at the fishing access area.

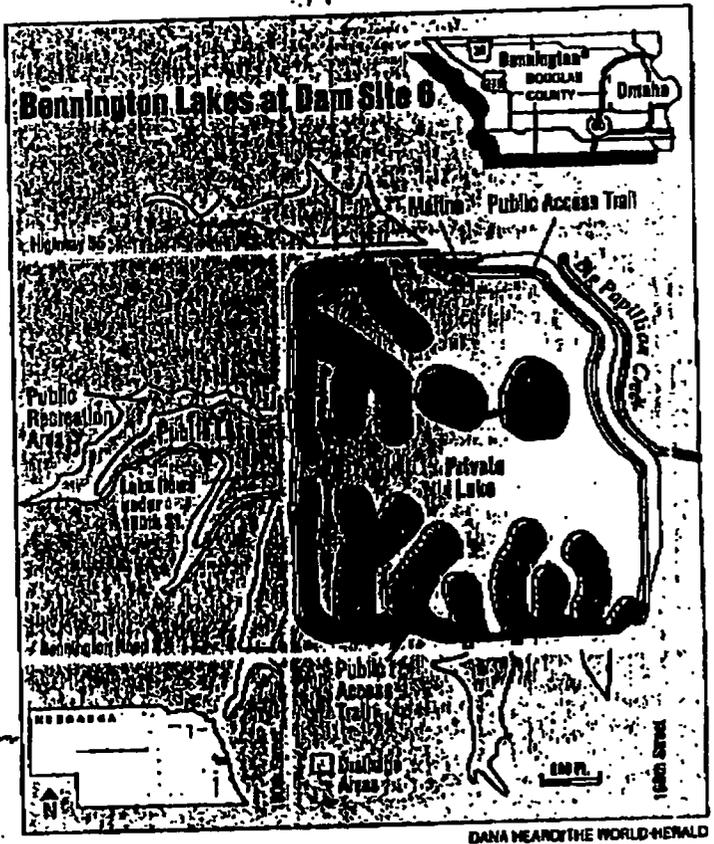
The lake bed would be graded with numerous coves and two small islands. The shore would be lined with steel sheetpiling to keep houses at least 10 feet above the lake's full level. The development would be divided into a maximum of 300 lots, with the average house likely to be valued at about \$400,000.

The developer would draw water from nearby Big Papillion Creek when necessary to keep lake levels stable during dry periods. A treatment plant would be built to treat incoming creek water, making it safe for swimming.

Kathol estimated that the project would cost roughly \$30 million and, when finished, carry a taxable value of about \$120 million. Horgan already has purchase options on 640 acres for the lake complex and 80 acres for the athletic complex east of 168th Street.

The developer is asking the NRD for

Please turn to Page 10, Col. 1



DANA HEARD/THE WORLD HERALD

DEC 11 '97 10:32AM PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD

C-81

NRD Studies Home-Lake Proposal

Continued from Page 1

about \$2.5 million of the total costs, including \$150,000 up front for hydrologic and soil studies. The NRD would chip in \$500,000 a year for six years.

In return, the NRD would maintain the dam, which would have a public fishing area on the north. The NRD also would get a 10-foot wide hiking and biking trail around the development and a deed to 50 acres of land upstream of the lake and west of 180th Street. The street would be raised about 20 feet and serve as a dam on the 25-acre public lake, which would trail off into wetlands and serve to catch sediment before it reaches the lake.

Kathol said Horgan would like the

board to make a decision by next month so work on the project can proceed. The developer still has to draw up lot plans and take them to Bennington and Douglas County for approval.

Oltmans said the NRD needs to consider the proposal carefully because of its uniqueness. The dam site would be an expanded version of one of the 21 dams proposed by the Corps of Engineers after record flooding in the 1960s.

Five of those dams already have been built — Wehrspann, Standing Bear, Zorinsky, Cunningham and Candlewood. A sixth — Dam Site 21 near Papillion — is scheduled for completion in 1999. Candlewood was built by a private developer but provides no public recrea-

tion. Oltmans said that participating in Horgan's project would not push back completion of Dam Site 21 or delay channel work on the West Branch Papillion Creek. It would compete for dollars with other NRD projects.

But the NRD's No. 1 mission is flood control, he said, and the Big Papillion is considered the most flood-prone in the metropolitan area.

Building its own flood-control and recreation project at Dam Site 6 would cost the NRD more than \$6 million, he said. A larger project like Wehrspann Lake and Chalco Hills Recreation Area would run \$10 million to \$15 million.

Oltmans said drawing water to maintain the big lake's level should not deplete the Big Papillion downstream.

The developer would draw up to 450 gallons a minute, and only when necessary. The creek's flow is 50 to 500 times that amount. The developer would have to obtain a Nebraska Department of Water Resources permit to use the creek water.

Oltmans and Foster said they were concerned that the project would add to Omaha's western expansion and stretch urban services like roads, law enforcement, sewer and water and garbage collection.

But Oltmans said he didn't think this project would have a large impact. Foster said he opposes urban sprawl, but doesn't think the NRD is responsible for managing Omaha's expansion.

12-B 3-9-97

SUNDAY WORLD-HEI

NRD-Developer Partnerships May Make More Lakes a Lock

Imagine a dozen more lakes being built in metropolitan Omaha over the next two decades.

Houses would be clustered around each lake. The water would be reserved for use by homeowners but public trails, wetlands and fishing areas would be built nearby.

Such a scenario could become reality, said Steve Oltmans, general manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

There are already 14 potential sites identified in the Papio basin.

The NRD is looking at the possibility of cooperating with housing developers to build dams and lakes on some of the sites that were proposed for flood-control dams in the 1960s, then abandoned.

After floods in 1964 and 1965 contributed to eight deaths and caused millions of dollars of damage in the Papio Creek Basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others won congressional approval to build 21 dams on the Big, Little and West Papio Creeks and tributaries.

But opposition from farmers and others who would have to give up their lands forced the corps to scale back the plan.

Of the 21 dams proposed, five were built. They form Cunningham, Standing Bear, Wehrspann and Zorinsky Lakes, all public, and Candlewood Lake, built privately.

The NRD is currently building Dam Site 21 near Papillion.

A year ago, NRD officials phoned selected housing developers and asked if they would be interested in joining the agency to build more lakes.

Several showed interest. One, Bob Horgan of Horgan Development Co., has proposed building a maximum of 300 homes around a 300-acre lake that would be created at Dam Site 6, a mile west of Bennington.

The NRD would contribute \$2.5 million and pay to maintain the dam. Horgan would pay other costs.

In return for the \$2.5 million, the public would get a fishing area on the north end of the dam, a 10-foot-wide hiking trail around the housing area, 80 acres for softball and soccer fields and 30 acres of land upstream of the lake and west of 180th Street. The street would be raised to form a dam for a 25-

Your Environment

By Fred Thomas



acre public lake, plus a wetlands.

A committee of the NRD board has discussed the Site 6 proposal twice and has visited the area. Committee members will talk again Tuesday evening, and most likely will make a recommendation to the full board, which will meet Thursday evening.

Oltmans said developers also are interested in possible lakes at these sites: 19, northeast of Gretna; 12, northwest of Elkhorn; 13, northeast of the West Dodge Road-Highway 31 junction south of Elkhorn; and 14, south of 180th Street and West Maple Road.

Developers may look at other sites later. If the Horgan-NRD partnership moves ahead at Site 6.

The proposal has stirred conflicting reactions:

■ Pro — Building more dams in the Papio basin would reduce flood threats and provide more public recreation space.

■ Con — Spending public money would largely benefit the developer and people who buy homes and would have exclusive use of the water for boating and swimming.

Oltmans said NRD board members must be assured that the public dollars would be spent for public benefits, including flood control, wildlife and recreation.

Oltmans said that although six dams have been built and the Big Papio Creek channel has been widened since the 1965 flood, the threat of flooding remains high in some parts of the basin.

Development since 1965 has covered 40 more square miles of land with rooftops and concrete, including 20 square miles in the Big Papio Basin, Oltmans said.

If a storm would stall over the basin and dump heavy rain, as occurred in the 1960s, creeks would flood. There is not as much raw land to absorb rains.

Individually, the Site 6 dam and others would not hold back much floodwater. But, collectively, they could have a sizable impact, Oltmans said.

Fourteen of the 21 original sites remain viable for a dam and lake, he said.

The only one of the 21 no longer available is Site 15, north of Boys Town, where homes have been built without a dam and lake.

Oltmans said he doesn't know of any other way to get additional lakes in metropolitan Omaha besides a partnership with a developer.

Years ago, the federal government paid most of the cost of flood-control dams and lakes. But federal budget cutbacks have taken away that revenue, Oltmans said.

Incidentally, some people recalling the 1964-65 floods say that eight people "drowned."

Eight people died, five by drowning. One died when the basement wall of his house collapsed on him. Another died of a heart attack while at the flooded home of her daughter and son-in-law. A third was electrocuted while repairing a power line.

The Forgotten Lake

Shimmering in the sun north of Omaha is a lake people don't use.

It is Lonergan Lake, a mile or so northwest of 72nd Street and Highway 36.

Two housing developments failed there, and ConAgra Inc. considered the property for its corporate headquarters before building in downtown Omaha.

ConAgra still owns about 570 acres around the lake. The company has no plans for it, spokeswoman Lynn Phares said last week.

The Papio-Missouri River NRD isn't interested in buying the property, general manager Steve Oltmans said last week. The dam doesn't hold back enough floodwater to justify NRD purchase, he said.

Years ago, Audubon Society officials failed to get ConAgra to donate the property to Audubon as a public wildlife area, taking a tax write-off. Last week, Ms. Phares said there have been no discussions in recent times and that ConAgra is not looking to do anything with the land at present.

Friday, March 14, 1997

WORLD HERALD

21

Midlands News

NRD, Developer to Share Cost Of Studying Project's Feasibility

BY JULIE ANDERSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on Thursday night took a first step toward joining a first-of-its-kind partnership with a developer to build a new lake west of Bennington.

The board agreed 11-0 to share the costs of an engineering study with Horgan Development Company to determine whether the proposal is feasible.

Under the agreement with Horgan, the NRD will pay 75 percent of the study costs up to \$150,000.

The study will take three or four months, said Steve Oltmans, the NRD's general manager. If the project is feasible, the board will have to decide whether to join Horgan in building a combination flood-control project and housing development.

The partnership with Horgan would lower the cost for the NRD of building Dam Site 6, Oltmans said.

The public also would get a 25-acre fishing lake upstream of the larger lake, some fishing access from the dam, an extension of the metropolitan area trails system and an 80-acre soccer and softball complex.

The developer, in turn, would get a private, 300-acre lake around which to build high-priced homes.

The dam as proposed would be built on an unnamed tributary of the Big Papillion Creek that runs roughly from 168th Street and Bennington Road north and west to Nebraska Highway 36. To create the fishing lake upstream, 180th Street would be raised about 20 feet.

The cost of the project is estimated at

\$30 million and its finished tax value at \$120 million. The developer has asked the NRD for about \$2.5 million toward the project costs.

Oltmans said board members have been considering the project, asking questions and evaluating costs.

"They want to make sure every dollar we spend up there can be specifically tied to public benefit and nothing else," Oltmans said.

If the study indicates the project is feasible but the company doesn't proceed with the project, the NRD would get its money back.

Barbie Hayes, who operates an Omaha environmental firm, urged the board to consider not only engineering questions but also environmental issues when looking at the proposal.

Ms. Hayes' family owns land in an area being considered for a sediment pool north of Nebraska Highway 36.

Jim Dickinson of Omaha told the board that the project wouldn't work for flood control. The Army Corps of Engineers determined in the 1960s that flood control dams in the metropolitan area were not economically feasible.

Dam Site 6 is one of 21 original sites the corps proposed for flood-control projects after floods in the early 1960s. The current proposal would result in a bigger dam and lake than envisioned in the original corps plan.

But Richard Connealy, the board's chairman, said the dams were dropped not because of economics but because of opposition from landowners.

Five of those dams have already been built at Wehrspann, Standing Bear, Zorinsky, Cunningham and Candlewood

Lakes. A sixth, Dam Site 21 near Papillion, is scheduled for completion in 1999.

Oltmans said additional flood control is needed on the Big Papillion, especially because development in the basin has covered an additional 20 square miles with runoff-speeding roofs and pavement.

The Bennington School Board and the City of Bennington both sent letters to the NRD supporting the project. The NRD also received a letter opposing the project as promoting urban sprawl at taxpayer expense.

In other action, the board approved seven recommendations aimed at improving handling of spring ice jams and flooding on the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers.

Three NRDs and four counties spent about \$66,000 on blasting ice jams this spring, NRD officials said. The blasting moved ice through the area and prevented more dike breaches and flooding.

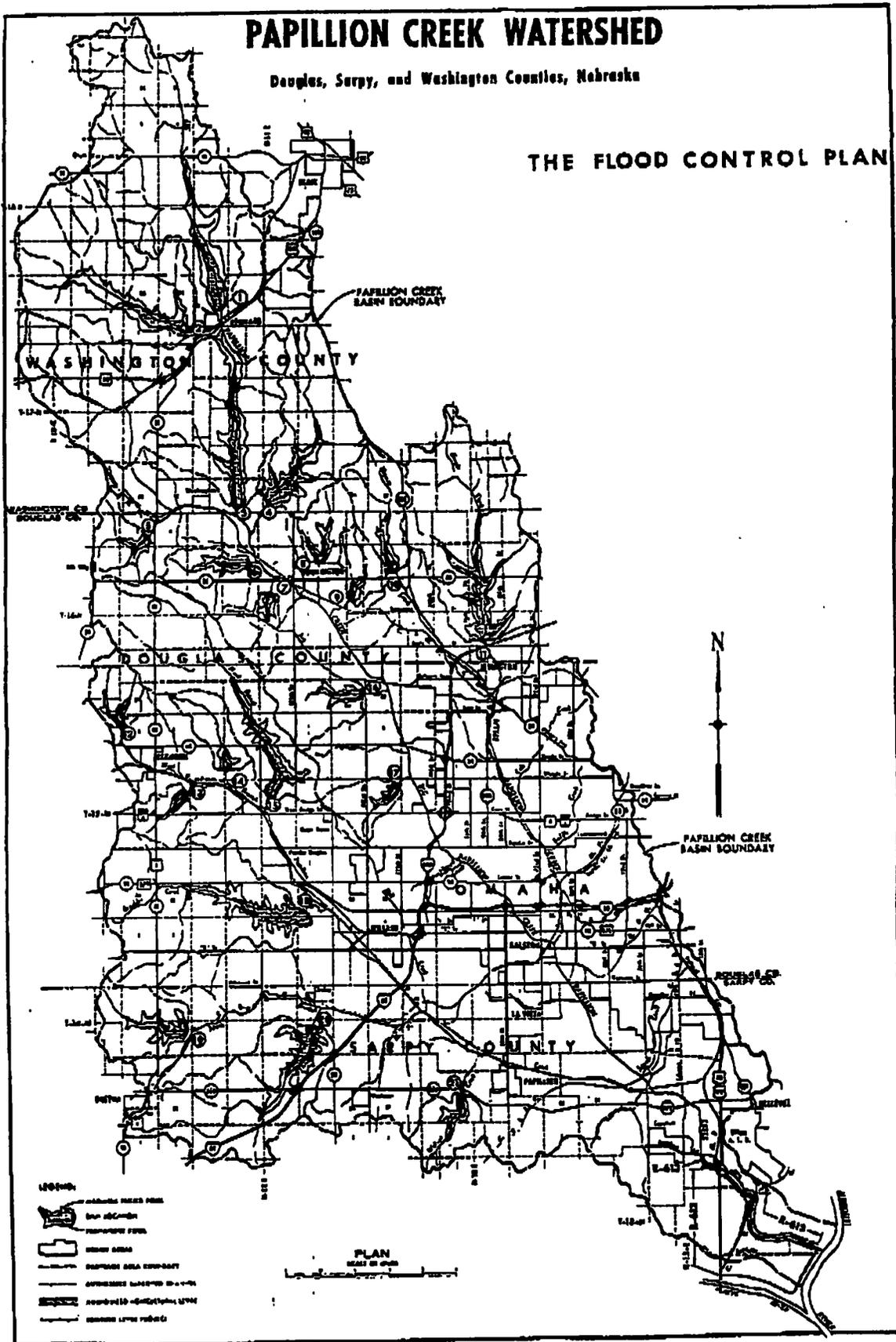
Among the recommendations:

- Dusting of ice with heat-absorbing coal slag near the Platte-Elkhorn confluence each February.

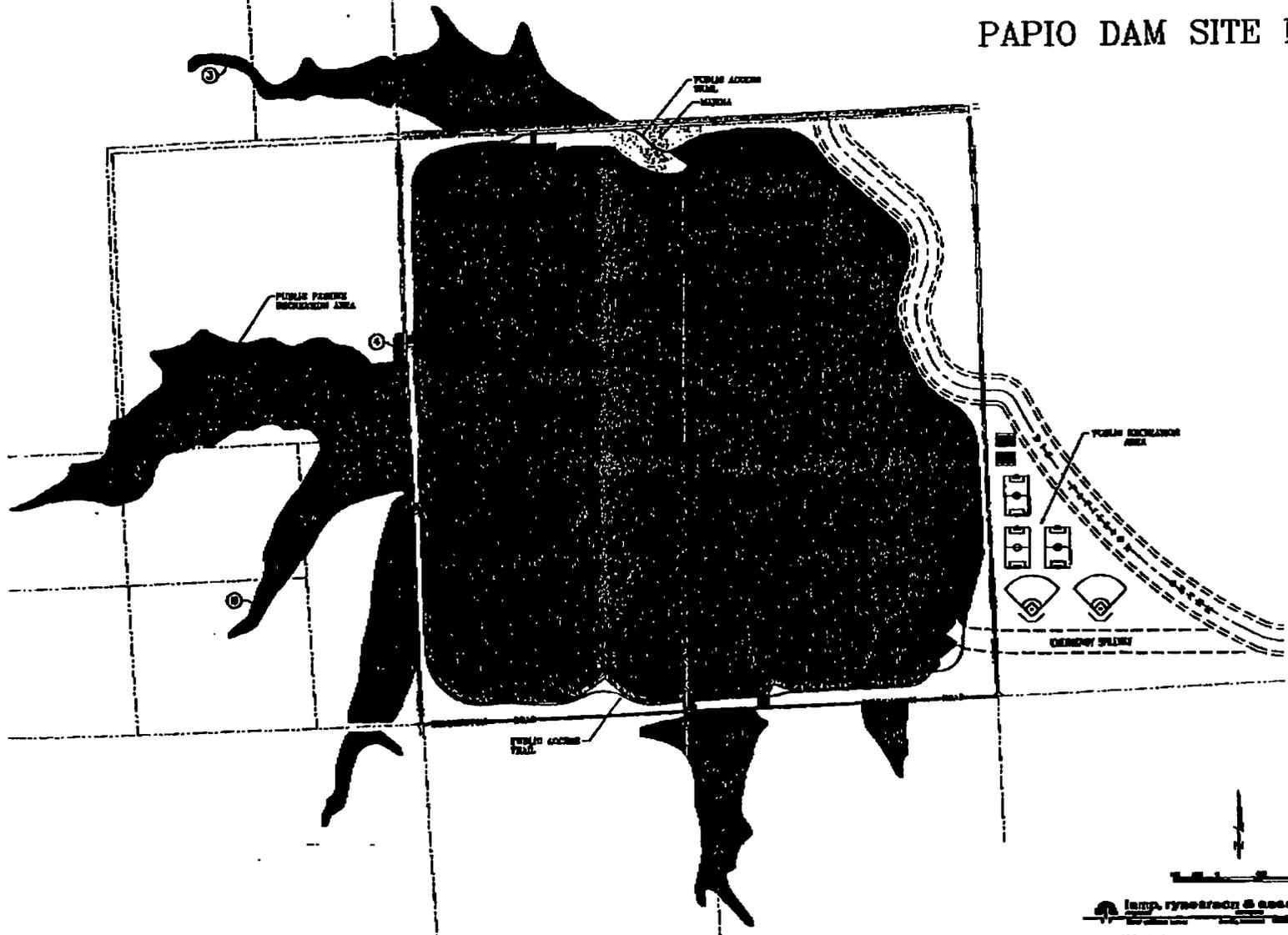
- Taking aerial photographs of the area each fall to avoid sandbars when blasting is necessary.

- Planning improved 50-year levees along the Platte River from Nebraska Highway 6 to upstream of the Elkhorn River mouth.

- Urging the Western Sarpy Drainage District to complete right-of-way acquisitions for dikes and ditches by the end of the year so the districts can complete a proposed merger.



PAPIO DAM SITE NO. 6





 **Inge, Ryan & Associates, Inc.**
 ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS
 714 E. 10TH ST. SUITE 200
 OMAHA, NE 68102
 Date: February 11, 1997

December - 1996

LB 1085

Considerations and Suggestions

By: *Bob Bell, Past Chair, NNRC (Deceased) and
Vince Krampfer, Chair, Program Committee, NNRC*

Introductory Remarks

- 1) All of the following considerations and suggestions are made simply to provide a basis for positive and constructive dialogue.
- 2) While it is important to respond to LB1085 with some substantial suggestions and possibilities, LB1085 should also be viewed as a "fine tuning" of the NRD structure. NRDs are, in fact, the best example of consolidation of local governments in the State of Nebraska in recent history.
- 3) All local governmental units in Nebraska, including NRDs, must work towards less dependence on property taxes. However, it needs to be recognized that property tax dollars utilized by NRD's programs and projects apply good stewardship practices back on the land which makes good justification for such expenditures. Further, the limited taxing authorities of NRDs provide an ability to obtain State and Federal funding for local programs and projects. Almost all State and Federal grant programs require matching dollars in today's world of "pass down" responsibilities.
- 4) In round numbers, natural resources programs and projects receive approximately one percent (1%) of property taxes and one percent (1%) of State budget dollars, which is a modest amount when considering the vastness of Nebraska Soil and Water Management needs.
- 5) After 25 years, NRDs are providing a broad range of programs and projects to its local constituents pursuant to the twelve specific authorities granted in the original law (LB1357-1969) that created NRDs. It is important that we remember that the revenue sources (tax revenue) within each NRD dictates to a large degree the work (programs and projects) and/or priorities of each District.
- 6) The NARD Legislative Committee, with both Directors and NRD Managers should serve as a sounding board for NNRC's recommendations pursuant to LB1085.

LB 1085 enacted by the 1996 Legislature directs the Natural Resources Commission to conduct two (2) studies of Natural Resources Districts.

First Study:

- a. Analyze Natural Resources Districts revenue base
- b. Board of Directors size
- c. Board changes
- d. Consolidation of Districts

Second Study:

- a. Natural Resources District cost effectiveness
- b. Program effectiveness
- c. Duplication of responsibilities and authorities
- d. Other services or areas that could facilitate property tax relief

Revenue Base

Unfortunately, the property tax base is not very well distributed throughout the State of Nebraska (see attached summary of NRD Evaluations for FY97). While NRD's utilize only 1% (approximate) of the total property tax state wide, the Districts must be a part of the solutions to the property tax dilemma in Nebraska. It should be noted that NRDs, among local taxing Districts, are quite prudent in comparison to other entities of local governments (FY97-NRD average tax levy 3.09 cents). Also, the original NRD Act (1969) provided for a maximum taxing authority of two (2) mills or seven cents (7¢) per one hundred dollars valuation, with a current maximum taxing authority of 4.5 cents.

Suggestions:

- 1. Passage of legislation relieving NRDs of paying sale tax with property taxes would provide savings of near \$200,000 annually.
- 2. Appropriate level of funding for the following State Fund;

		<u>Current Level</u>
Natural Resources Development Fund	5.0 Million Annually	2.0M
Small Watershed (LB 71 - 1963)	1.0 Million Annually	0.0M
Soil and Water Conservation Fund	3.5 Million Annually	3.5M
Well Abandonment -Water Well Decommissioning Fund	0.2 Million Annually	0.1M
WHIP -Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (G&P)	1.0 Million Annually	0.5M

Approximate net savings of property tax over current levels of two million annually. Also, legislation should be passed to make these funds all cash fund accounts, so that increases earned are accrued to individual funds rather than returned to the State General Fund.

3. One-half of Program and Project (not administrative) dollars for NRDs replaced by "State Aid" through sales and income taxes. Approximate reduction of property taxes of seven million annually. (One third of total NRD's tax requirements for FY97).
4. Remove Sunset Clause (currently year 2000) on fertilizer fee (one dollar per ton) to Natural Resources Enhancement Fund which would perpetually finance major portions of carrying out each NRD Groundwater Management Plan. Savings of property taxes - approximately two million per year statewide. Please remember that Groundwater Management Plans are pursuant to State mandate(s).
5. Sales tax on food for maintaining soil and water resources base throughout Nebraska. Such monies would go toward NRD programs and projects; primarily cost-share dollars which provide for the enhancement of Nebraska Natural Resources, namely, Soil and Water. None of the dollars would be used for general operation of NRDs. Food production obviously depends on maintaining soil and water resources, thus a direct tie to a tax on food with all citizens contributing.

Five (5) cent sales tax on food would generate approximately 130 million dollars annually. If NRDs were to receive only the interest on these revenues this would reduce NRD property taxes by approximately seven million dollars annually or about one-third (1/3) of NRD property tax levy in FY97.

6. Earmarking a percent of the current State sales tax of five cents for NRD programs and projects.

Example: One-fourth (¼) of one cent (1¢) ear marked for NRD could provide total property relief to NRD of 34 million dollars annually.

Note: Total taxable sales for 1995 was \$13,858,949,781.

7. Environmental Trust Fund dollars should be utilized more by NRDs for program and projects. NARD should provide workshops on methods and procedures for making Trust applications. Support as current State statutes require; that 25% of the lottery dollar now used for landfill closures be transferred to Trust Fund on 7-1-97, making about ten million annually available vs. five million currently. NRDs are currently receiving approximately one-half million dollars annually from the Trust Fund.

NRD Board Size

Initiate legislation to reduce maximum number of directors per district to a maximum of eleven (11) by year 2002.

<u>Current No.</u>		<u>Reduction</u>
Seven	- Middle Niobrara - South Platte	
Nine	- North Platte	
Eleven	- Lewis and Clark - Lower Republican - Middle Republican - Papio-Missouri River	- Twin Platte - Upper Loup - Upper Niobrara-White - Upper Republican
Thirteen	- Lower Big Blue - Tri-Basin	-4
Fifteen	- Lower Elkhorn - Upper Elkhorn	-8
Seventeen	- Little Blue - Lower Niobrara - Upper Big Blue	-18
Nineteen	- Lower Platte North - Nemaha	-16
Twenty-One	- Central Platte - Lower Loup - Lower Platte South	-30
	Total Reductions	-76

Total Current Board Members - 319

Total Board Members if all Districts currently exceeding eleven members were reduced to maximum of eleven = 243 (less 76 members).

Twelve Districts currently have Boards in excess of eleven members. Eight Districts with eleven member Boards.

Cost Savings (23 NRDs): \$200,000 Estimated Annual Savings

Per Diem	76 (reduced) x \$1,200 per	= \$91,200
Expenses	76 (reduced) x \$1,000 per	= \$76,000
Admin. Overhead	76 (reduced) x \$450 per	= \$34,200
		<u>\$201,400</u>

Cost Savings (15-18 NRDs): Approximately doubled savings \$400,000.

NOTE:

1. Next Largest Elected Local Government Boards in State of Nebraska

- Nebraska Public Power (12)
- Omaha Public Schools (12)
- Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation (15)

MOST OTHERS HAVE 3, 5, 7, 9 or 11 MEMBER BOARDS

2. ~~This will provide better accountability and participation by directors on smaller boards which is more important than the dollars saved!~~

3. Currently there are fourteen NRDs nominating by subdistricts but electing at large, eight NRD nominating and electing by subdistricts, and one NRD nominating and electing at large (no subdistricts).

Boundary Line Changes

It makes sense to change boundary lines of Districts when considering:

- a) Service Centers for constituents (USDA - NRD - Corps, etc.)
- b) Number of NRD's within one County
- c) Hydrological issues

Examples:

- 1. Rock County (Sandhill Area) currently in four NRD's.
- 2. Holt County residents, O'Neill, Nebraska, Upper Elkhorn NRD vs. Lower Niobrara in Butte, Nebraska.

Consolidation of Districts

In the early 1970's, when District boundary lines and the number of Districts were being finalized by the Commission as directed by the Unicameral there were maps of 66, 44, 33, 24, 16, and 11 Districts considered, with 24 being selected.

Possible Consolidations:

- A) Merger of Lower Niobrara NRD with land area to Lewis and Clark, Upper Elkhorn, and Middle Niobrara NRDs.
- B) Merger of Tri-Basin NRD with land area to appropriate Platte, Republican, Little Blue NRDs.
- C) Merger of Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North NRDs becoming Lower Platte NRD.
- D) Merger of Upper Big Blue with Lower Big Blue NRDs becoming Big Blue NRD.
- E) Merger of Upper, Middle, and Lower Republican NRDs becoming the Republican NRD.

The need to aggressively implement LB 108 (Conjunctive Water Use) in the Republican basin and the potential of a lawsuit by Kansas over the application of the Republican River Compact provides a basis for serious consideration of such merger. Attached is a suggested 108 Implementation Plan for the Republican River Basin. Obviously the Republican Districts need additional dollars to aggressively implement such a plan.

~~The State should provide such revenues immediately.~~

- F) Merger of Upper and Lower Elkhorn NRDs becoming Elkhorn NRD.
- G) Merger of Lewis and Clark NRD with either the Papio-Missouri River NRD or the Lower Elkhorn NRD.

NOTE: If the above mergers were to occur, it would address many of the issues requested in LB1085 by the 1996 Unicameral. That is, revenue base, cost efficiencies, duplication of responsibilities and authorities, program effectiveness and service area issues.

Also, these consolidations would address nine (9) of the twelve (12) Districts with less than \$1.5 billion in tax valuation. (see attached list of NRDs for FY97).

Second Study

- a) Natural Resources District cost effectiveness
- b) Program effectiveness
- c) Duplication of responsibilities and authorities
- d) Other services or areas that could facilitate property tax relief.

More cooperative agreements are needed between neighboring NRDs to carry out each District's responsibilities. Utilization of the Nebraska Interlocal Cooperation Act (§§ 13-801, R.R.S., 1943, et seq.) with other NRDs Cities, Counties, etc. is most appropriate.

Examples: (Existing and Possibilities)

- A. Models of Cooperation - "Formula for Joint Projects" - P-MRNRD**
- Cost-Sharing for Applications - Conservation Practices with Landowners
 - Urban Conservation Assistance Program - City of Omaha, Channel Improvement, Meadowlane Park
 - Recreation Area Development Program:
 - South Sloux City - Missouri River Front Land Acquisition
 - City of Omaha - Keystone Trail Development
 - City of Omaha - Omaha Archdiocese, Trail Development
 - Comprehensive Flood Control for City of Papillion Agreement - City of Papillion/P-MRNRD
 - Platte River Ice Jam Removal Agreement - Three Districts and Four County Boards
 - Transfer of Little Papio Flood Control Project, Operations and Maintenance - Douglas County to P-MRNRD
 - Merger of Western Sarpy County Drainage District and P-MRNRD
- B. One NRD furnishing rural water to customers in another NRD currently being done between the Lower Elkhorn NRD and the Papio-Missouri River NRD.**
- C. Share groundwater monitoring and Chemigation Act responsibilities. This could include joint use of staff between NRDs.**
- D. Construction of projects that benefit two Districts, ie., flood control projects.**
- E. Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance - Five State Agencies and Three NRDs currently in action with joint payment of personnel to administer and implement goals and objectives of the Alliance.**
- F. Better utilization of NRD personnel in field offices (NRCS) to administer various NRD cost-share programs.**

G. Investing District cash flow dollars at a higher rate of interest.

Examples:

- 1) Papio-Missouri River receiving 4.8% (November, 1996) on checking account by agreement with the bank which is 1% less than the continuous "T" Bill rate.
- 2) Possible utilization of "Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust" through NARD (Nebraska Association of Resources Districts).
- 3) When borrowing monies for cash flow or project construction ask for competitive bids among financial institutions within the District.

H. Insurance Coverage

1. Each District should complete a "risk management" assessment, a review of possible exposure by knowledgeable and independent insurance representatives. Also, look at such things as marine coverage on equipment. Government entities probably do not need the coverage as much as private enterprises. Again, NARD could probably be the organizer of such efforts throughout the State.
2. **Work Compensation Insurance**

Each District needs to make sure all personnel are in the most cost effective category for coverage. The rate for different categories varies considerably. Also, if District creates an active safety committee it can help rates.

Example:

P-MRNRD	1988 Work Comp mod	1.04
	1996 Work Comp mod	0.68

Annual savings of approximately \$8500 in premiums.

I. NRDs sharing personnel and equipment to implement programs and projects.

Example:

1. Tree Planting
2. Grass Drill
3. Emergency Operations
4. Water Monitoring
5. Construction Equipment

J. Private / Public Agreement - joint financing of flood control projects.

Example: Flood Control Reservoir or Levees

K. More usage of IPA (Improvement Project Area) authority by NRDs to finance projects (flood control, rural water, etc.)

Example: Union Dike Improvement Project (P-MRNRD-Douglas County), where landowners pay for 75% of project through assessment over ten years, revenue bonds are issued for interim financing.

L. Fees: Investigate true cost of tree planting, grass drill rentals and adjust fees appropriately. Also, look at possibility of volunteer fee (donations) for recreational projects constructed and operated by NRDs.

Conclusion: It is almost always better to be Proactive rather than Reactive!

Fiscal Year 1997 Tax Evaluations by Natural Resources District (Lowest to Highest)

Middle Niobrara NRD	523,182,370
Lower Niobrara NRD	530,757,429
Upper Loup NRD	548,680,982
Lewis and Clark NRD	713,808,030
Upper Republican NRD	751,083,701
South Platte NRD	924,207,410
Upper Elkhorn NRD	947,810,592
Lower Republican NRD	969,133,810
Middle Republican NRD	1,091,914,683
Upper Niobrara White NRD	1,161,382,298
Tri-Basin NRD	1,372,316,526
Lower Big Blue NRD	1,578,071,138
North Platte NRD	1,816,723,664
Twin Platte NRD	1,853,303,459
Nemaha NRD	1,855,577,834
Little Blue NRD	2,166,736,032
Lower Platte North NRD	2,598,441,423
Upper Big Blue NRD	3,552,324,116
Lower Loup NRD	3,675,074,168
Lower Elkhorn NRD	4,147,786,113
Central Platte NRD	5,308,143,347
Lower Platte South NRD	10,475,453,521
Papio-Missouri River NRD	21,871,372,476
	<hr/>
Total	70,443,285,072

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS SUMMARY					
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS	VALUATION	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	TAX REQUIREMENTS	FY 97 CENTS/\$100 OF ACTUAL VALUATION	FY 96 LEVY
UPPER BIG BLUE NRD	3,552,324,116	2,844,791	936,927	2.64	2.50
LOWER BIG BLUE NRD	1,578,071,138	1,491,942	545,810	3.46	3.70
UPPER ELKHORN NRD	947,810,592	794,185	301,509	3.18	3.21
LOWER ELKHORN NRD	4,147,786,113	2,835,800	1,446,367	3.49	3.59
LITTLE BLUE NRD	2,166,736,032	1,031,998	551,552	2.55	2.73
UPPER LOUP NRD	548,680,962	392,780	125,095	2.28	2.40
LOWER LOUP NRD	3,675,074,168	1,487,531	715,286	1.95	2.09
LEWIS & CLARK NRD	713,808,030	620,000	299,000	4.19	4.30
PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD	21,871,372,476	17,795,796	7,110,325	3.25	3.34
NEMAHIA NRD	1,855,577,834	3,104,295	767,201	4.13	3.99
UPPER NIobrARA-WITTE NRD	1,161,382,298	477,581	277,038	2.38	2.32
MIDDLE NIobrARA NRD	523,182,370	459,274	178,740	3.42	3.55
LOWER NIobrARA NRD	530,757,429	406,021	137,099	2.58	2.55
NORTH PLATTE NRD	1,816,723,654	1,210,915	659,009	3.63	3.48
SOUTH PLATTE NRD	924,207,410	686,966	340,406	3.68	3.53
TWIN PLATTE NRD	1,853,303,459	611,031	255,803	1.38	1.53
CENTRAL PLATTE NRD	*5,308,143,347	*1,819,830	*495,944	*0.93	*1.06
	5,308,143,347	4,207,416	1,431,052	2.70	2.51
LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD	2,598,441,423	1,052,331	1,083,795	4.17	4.37
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD	10,478,453,521	7,613,877	3,620,000	3.46	3.46
UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD	*737,075,446	*227,302	*132,670	*1.80	*1.80
	761,083,701	568,899	213,210	2.80	2.72
MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NRD	1,091,914,663	931,300	366,398	3.36	3.46
LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD	969,133,810	685,361	390,703	4.03	3.85
TRI-BASIN NRD	1,372,316,526	882,375	355,667	2.59	2.44

*GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA

LB 108 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LB 108 provides for management of inter-related ground water and surface water and authorizes NRDs to regulate groundwater use where groundwater is hydrologically connected to surface water if use of that groundwater is likely to affect surface water supplies. DWR would have backup authority to create management areas in the event that an NRD does not effectively manage ground water use which is substantially and adversely impacting hydrologically connected surface water resources.

The State of Kansas has threatened litigation for alleged Republican River streamflow depletions resulting from Nebraska irrigation wells. In order to avert litigation from Kansas, Four NRDs (the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican River NRDs and the Tri-Basin NRD) are considering implementation of LB 108 for the Republican River Basin.

The Republican River Basin Coalition (RRBC), consisting of representatives of the four NRDs and four associated irrigation districts, has been formed to evaluate approaches for implementing LB 108 on the Republican River. The RRBC has recommended a joint management study approach to determine a strategy for developing a joint management area. The RRBC has requested the DWR make a preliminary determination and conduct a study as required under LB 108 Section 34. As a first step in implementing the study, the DWR has formed a technical work group (Work group) to determine:

- the type of study required;
- lists of data currently available and additional data needed;
- recommendations for what entities are to be involved in the study;
- projected costs of the study, and
- possible sources of funding.

The Work group includes representatives of the RRBC, DWR, USGS, DEQ, Conservation and Survey Division, NRC, BOR, COE, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the NRCS.

Following completion of the DWR study, LB 108 envisions that the NRDs would work together with the DWR in a partnership to develop a joint action plan including NRD actions for managing groundwater and DWR actions for managing surface water. Further complicating the process is the likelihood that separate groundwater action plans would need to be developed and coordinated for each of the NRDs.

In order to accomplish these tasks, the RRBC and DWR may benefit from the assistance of a private firm experienced in providing professional engineering and planning services relating to ground water management and in facilitating public processes involving multiple public agencies, public education and the development of regulatory strategies.

GENERAL APPROACH

One potential approach to organizing the parties involved with the development of the implementation plan is illustrated in Figure 1. In this approach, the consultant would work directly for a steering committee formed by the RRBC and the DWR, and including representatives from the NARD and other agencies as appropriate.

The RRBC and DWR would provide the steering committee with overall project direction and policy, make major decisions, participate in obtaining public information and feedback and retain final authority for approval of the work products.

The Steering Committee (SC) would guide the consultant work, provide day-to-day project direction, and review all deliverables.

The Consultant would be responsible for coordinating and conducting technical activities and analysis and for working with the SC to develop recommendations. In addition to its technical role, the Consultant will facilitate various SC sessions to identify issues, alternatives and consensus recommendations. The Consultant would also provide periodic reports to the RRBC and would make presentations at public informational sessions sponsored by individual NRDs and irrigation districts.

The LB 108 Planning Team (SC and Consultant) would rely to extent possible on the information and other input that could be derived from a variety of sources including state, federal and local agencies.

The work effort for the Project could be divided into four phases:

- Phase I: Problem Analysis
- Phase II: Identification and Screening of Alternative Management Strategies
- Phase III: Evaluation of Alternative Management Strategies
- Phase IV: Implementation Plan

The planning process along with the final product of the process, an approved LB 108 Implementation Plan for the Republican River Basin, could serve as models for other NRDs considering LB108 implementation in Nebraska.

On the following pages is an outline of a potential scope for a consultant to provide services under each of the Project phases.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF SERVICES

Phase I: Problem Analysis

Task 1: Project Initiation Meeting. The consultant will lead a joint RRBC and SC meeting including:

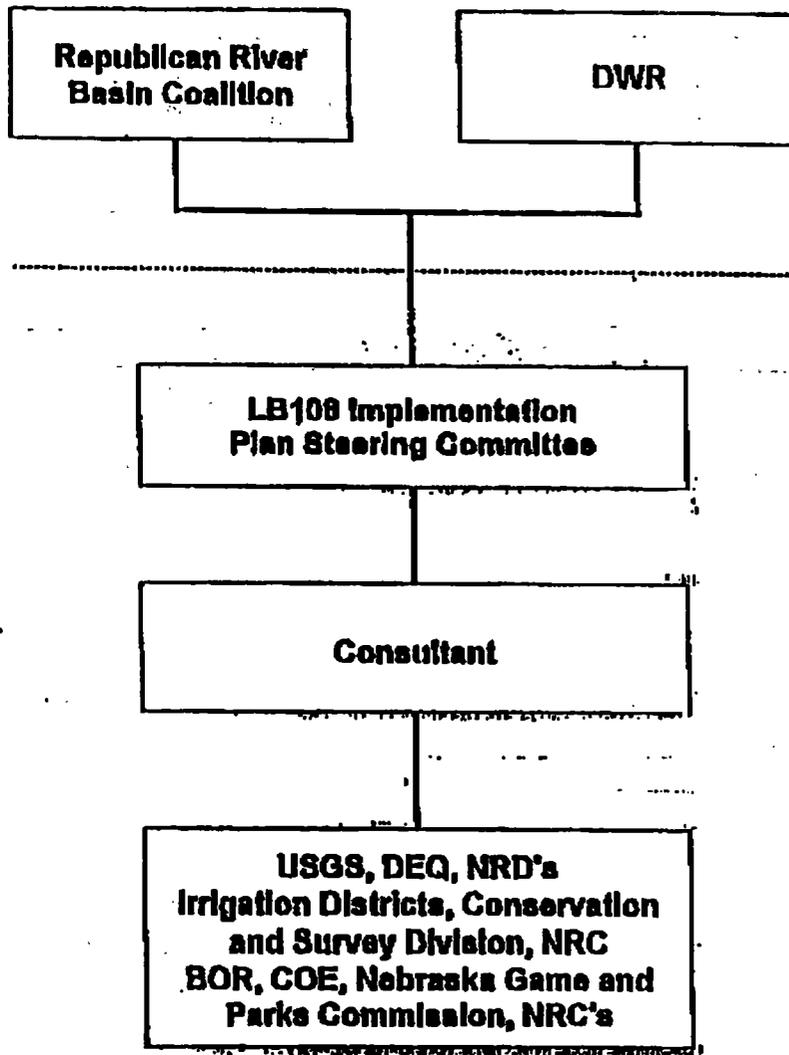
- presentation and discussion of the Project scope; and
- brainstorming and ranking of major project issues.

Task 2: Initial Data Review. The consultant will collect available data from a listing provided by the DWR. The consultant will develop recommendations for data analysis and will conduct an initial data review to identify additional data needs. The consultant will meet with the SC to review planned data analysis and data needs.

Task 3: Data Collection Plan. The consultant will develop a plan to obtain the additional data including cost estimates. The consultant will prepare draft Data Review report outlining the additional data needs and plan and will submit the report to the SC for review. The consultant will meet with the SC to present draft report and will revise the Data Review to reflect SC comments. The consultant will present the revised draft to RRBC, revise the Data Review to reflect RRBC comments and issue a final Data Review Report.

Task 4: Data Collection. The consultant will assist the SC and RRBC with implementation of the data collection plan as defined in the Data Review Report. Specific consultant tasks would be identified based on the Data Review and may include preparation of grant applications, development of scopes of work, execution of data collection activities, etc. It is anticipated that data collection activities would be carried out over a period of 6 - 12 months and would involve monthly or quarterly meetings with SC and RRBC to discuss progress.

Task 5: Data Analysis. Consultant will conduct data analysis as defined during Task 2 including preparation of data summaries and maps, identification of jurisdictional groundwater, relationship between groundwater and connected surface water, and development of a model to demonstrate impact of groundwater use on surface water under a variety of conditions. Consultant will use the model to identify what conditions create excessive depletions of Republican River surface flows. Consultant will prepare a draft Data Analysis Report and will issue the report to the SC for review. Consultant will present the Data Analysis to the SC and will revise to reflect the report to reflect SC comments. Consultant will present the revised Data Analysis Report to the RRBC and will revise the report to reflect RRBC comments. The consultant will issue the final Data Analysis Report to each of the NRDs and Irrigation Districts for appropriate public distribution.



Project Owners/Publics

- Overall Project Direction
- Public Information/Feedback
- Policy
- Major Decisions
- Plan Approval

LB108 Planning Team

- Guide Consultant Work
- Review Deliverables
- Provide day-to-day Project Direction

- Work Directly with Steering Committee to Develop Plan
- Conduct Technical Activities and Analysis
- Report to RRBC
- Prepare Written Reports
- Present Informational Sessions for NRD's and Irrigation Districts
- Conduct Information Meetings

- Provide Information
- Misc. Technical Services

Figure 1 LB108 Implementation Plan Project Organization

Note: LB 108 requires that the DWR hold a public hearing following the completion of its study to determine the need for a management area. It is anticipated that this public hearing may appropriately be held following the completion of Task 5.

Phase II: Identification and Screening of Alternative Management Strategies

Task 6: Identification of Management Strategy Components. The consultant will lead a joint meeting of the SC and RRBC to brainstorm identification of potential management strategy components and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Following the meeting the consultant will distribute a memorandum listing management strategies identified.

Task 7: Evaluation of Management Strategy Components. The consultant will prepare conceptual cost estimates for implementation of each management strategy component, and will use the model developed in previous tasks to estimate the effectiveness of each option. The consultant will conduct a cost benefit analysis of each component, along with an evaluation of other advantages and disadvantages. The consultant will meet with the SC to review preliminary analysis and brainstorm criteria to rank strategy components. During the meeting, the consultant will work with the SC to evaluate components relative to the ranking criteria and develop a ranking of the components. The consultant will lead a discussion to develop a consensus recommendation for screening components from further consideration. Based on this evaluation and the results of the meeting, the consultant will prepare a draft Management Strategy Component Evaluation Report and will submit the report to the SC for review. The consultant will revise the report to reflect SC comments and will issue the revised report to the RRBC. The consultant will present the revised draft report to RRBC, make final revisions to reflect RRBC comments and reissue the draft Management Strategy Component Evaluation Report.

Task 8: Public Presentations of Preliminary Management Strategy Evaluations. The consultant will conduct series of public meetings with NRDs and IDs to present findings of draft report and solicit additional input. It is anticipated that up to 4 meetings will be held. The consultant will present input from the public meetings to a joint meeting of the RRBC and SC. The consultant will revise and issue a final Management Alternatives Evaluation Report

Task 9: Identify Alternative Strategies. The consultant will meet with the SC to brainstorm alternative strategies consisting of combinations of preferred components identified in previous tasks. Brainstorming will also be used to identify criteria against which alternatives will be evaluated and method to be used to conduct evaluation. The consultant will prepare a memorandum recommending alternatives to be considered for further study. The consultant will meet with the RRBC to present the SC recommendations and will issue a memorandum identifying final list of strategies to be evaluated, evaluation criteria and method.

Phase III: Evaluation of Alternative Strategies

Task 10: Preliminary Evaluation of Strategies. The consultant will conduct a preliminary evaluation of all strategies relative to the evaluation criteria and develop preliminary evaluation scores. The consultant will present the preliminary evaluations to SC, and make revisions to reflect SC comments. The consultant will prepare a draft Strategy Evaluation Report and will issue the report to the RRBC. The consultant will present draft Strategy Evaluation Report to the RRBC, and will revise the report to reflect RRBC comments.

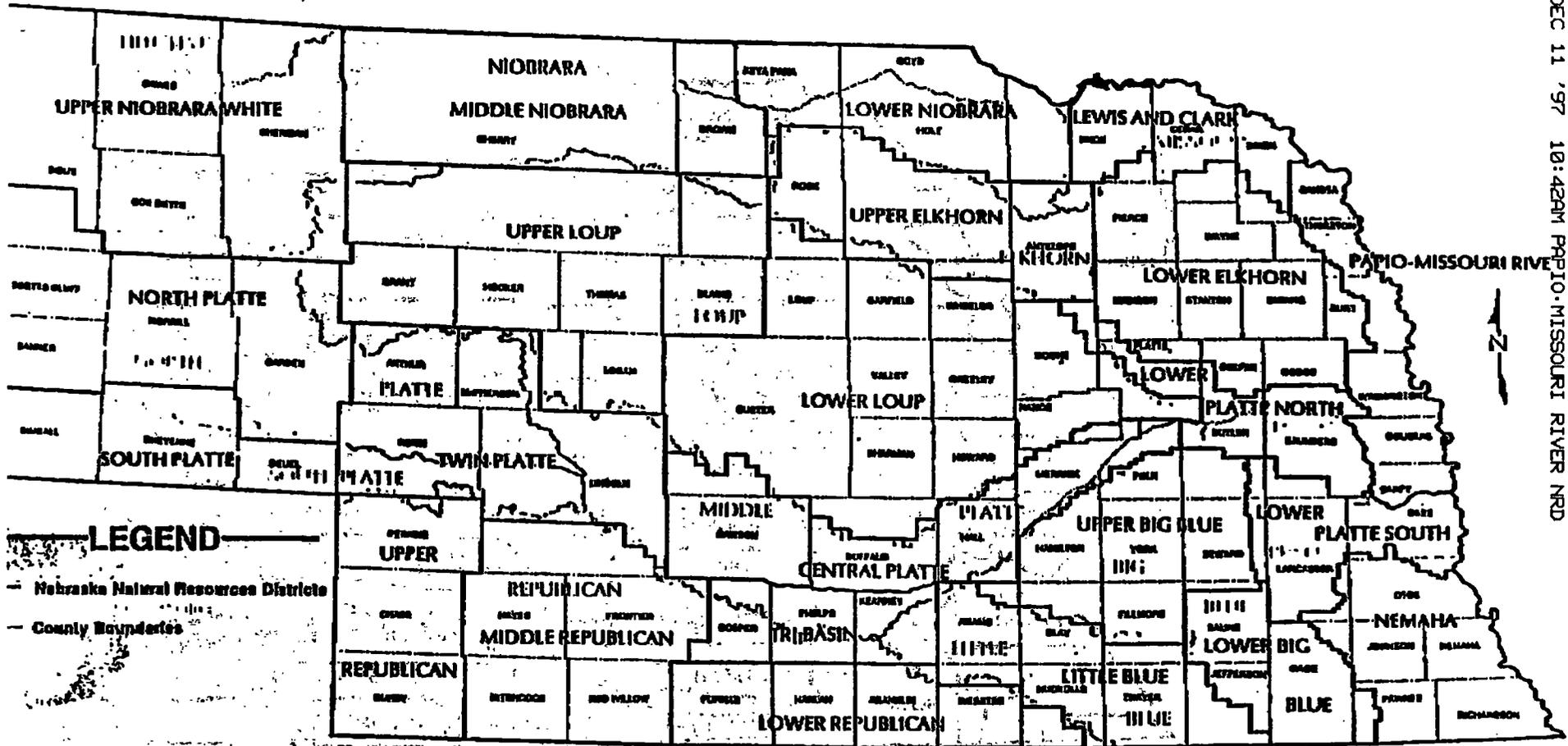
Task 11: Public Presentations of Preliminary Management Strategy Assessments. The consultant will conduct a series of meetings at NRDs and irrigation districts to present findings and recommendations contained in the draft Strategy Evaluation Report. The consultant will collect public comments for presentation to a joint meeting of the RRBC and SC. Based on direction from the RRBC and SC, the consultant will revise and reissue the Strategy Evaluation Report.

Phase IV: Implementation Plan

Task 12: Develop Preliminary Implementation Plan. The Consultant will meet with the SC to identify potential funding sources and develop a recommendation for funding of plan. The consultant will prepare a detailed implementation schedule and Plan summary. The consultant will prepare draft LB 108 Implementation Plan (Plan) incorporating previous report along with funding plan, implementation plan and schedule. The consultant will issue the draft Plan to SC for review, will meet with the SC to collect comments and revise the Plan to reflect SC comments. The consultant will meet with the RRBC, present the draft Plan, collect comments, and revise the Plan to reflect comments.

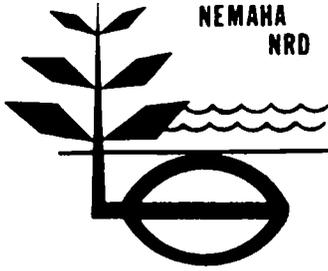
Task 13: Public Presentation of Plan. The consultant will conduct a series of meetings with NRDs and IDs to present Plan, and collect public comments. The consultant will present public comments to a joint meeting of the SC and RRBC, make revisions as directed and issue a final plan for adoption by each NRD.

Note: LB 108 requires the NRDs hold public hearings on the management area designation. These hearings could be incorporated into Task 13 or held following the completion of Task 13.



NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND COUNTY NAMES

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission January 1980



nemaha

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

125 Jackson • P.O. Box 717 • Tecumseh, Nebraska 68450

Telephone: (402) 335-3325 • Fax: (402) 335-3265

December 4, 1997

Vince Kramper, LB 1085 Committee Chair
% Natural Resources Commission
310 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94876
Lincoln, NE 68509-4876

Dear Vince:

Following is a response to your questionnaire:

1. The Nemaha NRD is continually striving to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Internally we restructure our staff organization to take advantage of individual strengths and teamwork, utilize computerization to free up staff time for projects, and coordinate travel and projects to minimize travel expenses. We also use in-house training to keep skills current while reducing costs. The staff is also encouraged to coordinate scheduling to take advantage of favorable weather or other timing factors. External to the staff operation we seek as many partnerships and grant funds as possible.
2. Two things that the NRD can do, and are planned, is to make greater use of a voice mail/answering system and computer link ups with NRC and others.
3. One of the greatest examples of cooperation between NRDs is through the state association. Not only do staff from different NRDs get together to share information and do joint projects but specific programs such as trees, WHIP, and Chemigation are sometimes shared. Do not underestimate this cooperation that we tend to take for granted. This saves each District thousands of dollars per year and is not routinely done by counties or school districts.



C-105

4. The NRDs work closely with the counties. We have built numerous road structures with the counties that have saved the counties money as well as provided grade stabilization and flood control. Other components of our watershed development as well as land treatment have been coordinated with the counties for mutual benefits. We also work closely with the NRCS, the Corps of Engineers, State Forest Service, the Game and Parks Commission, County Extension, and DEQ which allows programs to be carried out that could not be done independently.
5. NRDs and other units of local government need to continue to maintain strong partnerships, strive to make programs and projects compatible, identify and reduce duplication of services, and do a better job of directing the public to the agency that can help them.

I hope that this summary will be helpful to you. If you have any questions I would be pleased to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Rohrbaugh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paul Rohrbaugh
General Manager

UPPER NIOBRARA - WHITE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

L.B. 1085 INPUT

1. Two or more things that our NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - Computerized Program Processing
 - GIS Software
 - Staff Training via workshops, seminars
 - NRD & NRCS Joint Staff Meetings
 - Public Education, Press Releases & Public Service Announcements
 - Board Meeting Packets for Directors
 - Accounting Software

2. Two or more things that we feel our NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - Centrex Plus System for Phone Service
 - Departmentalize
 - Utilize GPS Units
 - Self supporting programs (No property tax subsidies)
 - Internet capabilities

3. Examples of cooperative efforts our NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - Environmental Education Institute
 - Nitrogen Certification
 - Collaborate with neighboring NRDs on Chemigation Inspections
 - LB 961 (Natural Resources Enhancement Fund) ad-hoc committee
 - NARD
 - NRC

4. Examples of cooperative efforts that our NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.
 - Conservation and Survey Division (water level measurements)
 - University of Nebraska Lincoln
 - Extension Education (Materials, Test Plots, Info. Meetings)
 - United States Geological Survey (recorder well instrumentation)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (technical assistance)
 - Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (Legislative Issues)
 - Natural Resources Commission (State Programs and Funding)
 - Nebraska Game and Parks (Wildlife Habitat Program)
 - Department of Water Resources (public hearings, well registration)
 - Department of Environmental Quality (studies, chemigation regs. and forms)
 - Nebraska Forest Service (Tree Promotion)
 - Department of Roads (Living Snow Fences, Road Structures)

5. Our ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

- Government ID Cards (govt. discount rates)
- Political Sub-division purchasing power/authority
 - computers, vehicles etc.
- Availability of Government one day air service (west to east)
 - alleviate excess staff travel expense and lodging
- Hold all agency meetings in Broken Bow (centrally locate)
- Availability of State funding to implement new legislative mandates
- Video Conferencing

Responses to 1085 Questionnaire

Middle Niobrara NRD

1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness

Several years ago the MNNRD added a toll free "800" number. This has allowed constituents districtwide to call the office at no charge. This has resulted in better communication with district patrons.

Water quality staff meets regularly with similar staff from adjacent NRD to coordinate programs, help avoid duplication, provides program efficiency.

Reduced duplication of activities at sub-office location.

Starting holding regular staff meetings

2. Please list two or more things you feel your district could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

Better coordination of vehicle and equipment use

Improve district's computer data base system. Upgrade to a network type system rather than a individual station system

Eliminate the sales and rental of products or equipment that are no longer cost effective

Improve investment of surplus district funds

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your district has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness

Cooperates with 2 other NRDs on the publication of a water quality newsletter which saves on printing and distribution costs. It also reduces the MNNRD staff time necessary to publish the newsletter.

Shares equipment such as drills and soil probes with other NRDs to avoid unnecessary equipment purchase costs

Coordinated dinners with local state Senators with 4 other NRDs to reduce duplication and planning costs.

Works together with adjacent NRDs on education activities such as fairbooths, range judging contests, water fairs etc. to reduce cost and staffing demands

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations

Shares the cost of NRCS clerks with adjacent NRDs. This helps eliminate duplication and provides better coordination

Contracts with Cooperative Extension to carryout 2 grant projects for the NRD. This allows the NRD to better accomplish its groundwater management goals without the need for hiring additional staff and equipment. It also allows the NRD to use Extension Service staff time as in-kind assistance.

Cooperated with the City of Valentine to construct 2 erosion control projects near the community. The financial assistance provided by the community allowed the NRD to address some erosion concerns that could not have been completed within the NRD's budget.

The district enlisted the assistance of the Nebraska Public Power District biologists to complete a clean lakes study on a reservoir near Valentine. This allowed the NRD to complete the necessary biology without paying for additional consulting services.

Cooperates with the Community of Springview to do maintenance at a district owned recreation area. This reduces the need for the NRD to hire maintenance staff and maintenance equipment

Shares equipment with cooperative extension. This help avoid the purchase or rent of equipment that would see limited use throughout the year

Reimbursed a Cooperative Extension employee to assist with district information and education programs. This allowed the NRD to hire a quality individual on a part-time basis. A full time position could not be justified.

5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient or effective manner.

Look at the possibility of developing a cooperative purchasing program which may allow NRD to buy equipment/vehicles at lower costs.

More sharing of NRD equipment with other districts.

Eliminate NRCS Clerks replace with NRD technicians

Better coordination of statewide meeting schedule to reduce travel costs for some NRDs, ie meetings on back to back days, carpooling, centralized locations etc.

Receive more communication from other NRD on their projects and how the NRD might assist



**LOWER NIOBRARA
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

410 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 350

Butte, Nebraska 68722 - 0350
Phone (402)775-2343

L. B. 1085 Meeting and Input Request

1. To increase efficiency and /or effectiveness the LNNRD has:
 - a. Added a Water Resources Coordinator to our staff to implement our Groundwater Quality Management Plan.
 - b. Purchased technical equipment to make staff more efficient.
 - c. Purchase select items with four other NRD's to reduce cost to us and to the producer.
 - d. Purchase items in bulk, when ever possible, to reduce cost.
 - e. Offer free nitrate analysis to the public.
2. To further increase our efficiency and/or effectiveness we could:
 - a. Work closer with neighboring NRD's on chemigation and nitrogen certification.
 - b. Add internet access.
 - c. Share equipment with other NRD's that is cost prohibitive to purchase individually.
 - d. Share professional services with other NRD's.
3. Examples of cooperative efforts with other NRDs include:
 - a. The Holt County Groundwater Education Program (HCGEP) is a 319 project shared between the LNNRD and the UENRD.
 - b. The LNNRD Water Quality Committee worked in conjunction with the UENRD Water Quality Committee on developing similar Groundwater Quality Management Plans.
 - c. A water quality study was conducted in the Brazile Triangle which was a cooperative effort between LNNRD, UENRD and LCNRD.
 - d. LNNRD and UENRD jointly supported a 1976 Baseline Survey of the Groundwater Chemistry in Holt County.
4. Cooperative efforts with other units of government include:
 - a. We are currently co-located with the Boyd County NRCS office which we work in conjunction with on most soil and water conservation issues and programs.
 - b. We worked closely with the Extension Service in development of our GQMP and in implementing our nitrogen certification classes.
 - c. Work with NRCS and FSA on WQIP and EQIP.
 - d. Provide clerical assistance to four NRCS offices in exchange for technical assistance.
5. The LNNRD could better cooperate with other NRDs and local units of government by:
 - a. Sharing information and ideas on programs and projects.
 - b. Keeping counties better informed of policies and programs.
 - c. Work with all units of government on information and education programs.



**LOWER NIOBRARA
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

410 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 350

Butte, Nebraska 68722 - 0350
Phone (402)775-2343

L.B. 1085 QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Has your county worked cooperatively with the NRD in your area on projects or programs of mutual interest? If so, what types of programs or projects.
 - a. Road side erosion. The NRD sells grass to the county at or below cost.
 - b. The NRD does not charge the county for use of equipment for road side seedings.
 - c. NRD participates in county government day.

2. Has your local NRD(s) ever approached your county to ask about some activities that the two governments might work on together.
 - a. Yes, critical area treatment structures to alleviate roadside erosion.

3. Do you have any ideas as to how the NRD(s) in your area could be of assistance to your county government?
 - a. Through information and education programs.

4. Do you have any suggestions as to how your NRD(s) might improve their services to the public or how they might operate more efficiently?
 - a. Through the sharing of information and employees.

5. In what respects have you considered your past dealings with NRDs successful? Are there any instances where past dealings with NRDs have created any difficulties for your county?
 - a. The local NRD and the county work together on concerns of mutual interest.

NORTH PLATTE

Natural Resources District

Chimney Rock
on the Oregon Trail

P.O. Box 36 ● 1054 Rundell Road ● Gering, NE 69341 ● Phone: 308-436-7111 ● Fax: 308-436-2452

November 26, 1997

Mr. Vince Kramper
Natural Resources Commission
P O Box 94876
Lincoln, NE 68509-4876

Dear Vince:

Enclosed is our response to your request for input for the second LB 1085 study on efficiency and program effectiveness. If you have questions or comments please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Cacek
Manager

Enclosure (1)
cc: LeRoy Pieper
Dean Edson

C-115

NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Second LB1085 Study
Response to Requests for Information

Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

1. Adopted modern technological advances, including Geographic Information System (GIS) capability, Global Positioning System (GPS) capability, and electronic data-logging equipment on observation wells. Data from these devices can be downloaded with lap-top computers.
2. Increased electronic record-keeping for information such as water-quality data and tree sales information.
3. Made greater use of electronic means of communications, including facsimile, electronic mail, and cellular telephones.

Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

1. Reorganization of staff to be responsive to changes in statutory responsibility and new developments in local resources issues.
2. Increase public awareness of NRD programs and activities, as well as natural resources issues.
3. Continue to adopt the latest technological advances, including electronic filing of reports and documents.

Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

1. The North Platte NRD and the other 22 Districts are members of a statewide association, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, which provides employees' benefits and allows districts to monitor and influence both federal and state legislation to benefit natural resources.
2. Various NRD staff groups, including information and education specialists, water specialists, and tree specialists, meet periodically to share information and address common issues for the good of all NRDs.
3. The North Platte NRD shares educational equipment, especially a hydraulic model known as a stream table, with other NRDs.
4. The NRD sometimes shares staff for statewide events, such as Husker Harvest Days and the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival, and other Districts' events, such as the South Platte NRD water festival at Sidney.
5. The North Platte NRD and four other western NRDs (South Platte, Upper Niobrara White, Middle Niobrara and Upper Loup) cooperated to sponsor the Environmental Education Institute, a two-week summer course in conservation for teachers, from 1988 until 1994. The five NRDs worked with Chadron State College to provide the institute.
6. North Platte NRD, four other NRDs in the Platte River basin, and numerous other organizations are seeking funding for a hydrology study of the Platte River Basin in Nebraska. If funded, the study will provide information for more effective

management of Platte River flows, benefitting not only the North Platte NRD and its residents, but also the State of Nebraska.

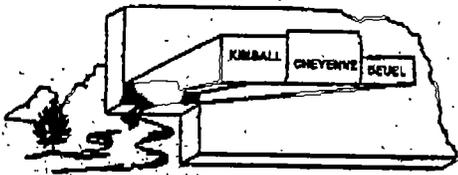
Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.

1. Global Positioning System (GPS) initiative in cooperation with Scotts Bluff County, other counties, and municipalities. GPS equipment has been cooperatively purchased and shared among the cooperating entities. It is used for a variety of purposes, including locating NRD observation wells without using more traditional methods of surveying, thereby saving staff time and money.
2. The North Platte Valley Water Quality Project (1992-96): Partners included the University of Nebraska, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project's aim was to address a problem with nitrate contamination in the groundwater of central Garden County.
3. The Dutch Flats Groundwater Quality Project (1995-99): Another project designed to prevent or reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater (in Scotts Bluff County), the Dutch Flats Project is sponsored by the North Platte NRD in cooperation with the University of Nebraska, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
4. The Groundwater Information Program (1997-99): This involves the installation and operation of a network of up to 140 observation wells in the North Platte Valley to gather information about groundwater quality and quantity and the relationship between surface water and groundwater in the North Platte basin. Partners include the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.
5. Aquifer tests: In cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the North Platte NRD is conducting aquifer tests for up to nine municipalities in the North Platte Valley. These tests will provide information about the aquifer's transmissivity, conductivity, and yield -- data valuable to municipalities in establishing wellhead protection areas and undertaking other source water protection efforts.
6. Cooperative water investigations: Working with the U.S. Geological Survey, the NRD has performed a district-wide surface water quality reconnaissance, district-wide groundwater quality reconnaissance, and a study of nitrate contamination in Garden County.
7. The NRD has worked on urban forestry issues with municipalities, including Scottsbluff and Gering.
8. The NRD has worked with cities and counties on flood-control projects, including the City of Oshkosh on Dormann Dam and the City of Gering on South City Drain.
9. The NRD has worked to secure funding for Gering Irrigation District to make repairs to a canal and spillway.
10. The NRD has worked with Scotts Bluff County and three irrigation districts to make improvements in the Gering Valley Drain and related side drains, and to build 10 flood-control dams in the watershed.

11. The NRD has rehabilitated the delivery system for Union Irrigation District in Garden County.
12. The NRD has worked with the cities of Scottsbluff and Gering to make improvements in city parks.
13. The NRD and Banner County cooperated in obtaining funding for construction of the Harrisburg Water System.
14. The NRD routinely works with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in administering cost-share programs to benefit soil and water.
15. The NRD routinely works with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service to administer the state's chemigation program.
16. The NRD has conducted numerous investigations with counties and cities over flooding and drainage problems within their jurisdictions.
17. The NRD routinely provides municipalities with groundwater quality and quantity data gathered from its network of dedicated observation wells, domestic wells, and irrigation wells.
18. The NRD routinely provides presentations for school districts about soil and water conservation, the benefits of trees, and other topics.
19. The NRD cooperates with Educational service Unit 13, the Scotts Bluff County Cooperative Extension Office, Nebraska Public Power District, Scotts Bluff County Department of Health and others to sponsor Water Wonders, a water awareness festival for about 1,000 students.

Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

1. NRDs can improve and standardize the use of electronic capabilities.
2. NRDs and other entities can work for more regular and open communication to identify common needs and issues of common interest.
3. NRDs and other entities can work for better communications in the area of regulatory issues, such as wellhead protection, recreational pursuits, and environmental issues.



SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

551 Parkland Drive, PO Box 294 Sidney, Nebraska 69162
(308) 254-2377 FAX (308) 254-2783

November 10, 1997

Vince Kramper, LB1085 Committee Chair
Natural Resources Commission
P.O. Box 94876
Lincoln, NE 68509-4876

Re: LB1085 Input Request

Dear Mr. Kramper:

I have reviewed your memorandum regarding the second LB1085 study and discussed this matter with my Board of Directors at their regular meeting Tuesday, December 9, 1997. The following responses are provided to the five specific items you posed in your memorandum:

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages >	4
To	Vince Kramper	From	Rod Horn
Co.	NRC	Co.	South Platte NRD
Dept.		Phone #	308-254-2377
Fax #	402-471-3132	Fax #	308-254-2783

1. List things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

- Installation of advanced office equipment and computer technology
- Cooperative working relationship with private, state and federal natural resources partners
- Long range implementation planning process that involves director and staff participation
- Develops annual staff goals and visions with periodic reviews
- Administration of the district's Personnel Policies, and maintenance of current job descriptions
- Administration of the district's Operating Policies
- Administration of the district's Safety and Loss Prevention Program
- Hold staff accountable for increased efficiency and/or effectiveness
- Staff and director networking--board and committee structure
- Maintain cost analysis evaluation of programs
- Hold board and committee meetings on the same day
- Hold regular staff meetings and scheduling
- Resubdistricting

2. List things that your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness

- Continually seek project and program interlocal agreements with other entities
- Contract services when deemed necessary or appropriate by the board of directors
- Increase use of part-time assistance
- Enhance importance of existing Internship Program
- Possible structured flex time policy for staff to meet customers and/or staff time schedules and needs
- Seek outside consultation to determine the effectiveness and/or efficiency of district staffing and operations. Use Certified Public Accountant to identify strong and weak areas of the district
- Pursue aggressively with available resources options for grant funding to leverage district funds to execute projects and programs
- Keep major purchases and bids under a structured environment
- Continued focus on safety and maintenance

LB1085 Input Request
 November 10, 1997
 Page 2

3. List examples of cooperative efforts your district has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

- o **Projects and Programs administration across district boundaries**
 Examples: 1. **Chemigation Inspections and Conservation Tree/Shrub Plantings**
 2. **Information/Education Programs through the Federal 319 NPS Program with several entities in Colorado**
- o **Cooperative Hydrology Study of the Platte River and Basin in Nebraska (Environmental Trust Fund application approval pending).**
- **Car pool with other NRD directors/staff and/or other individuals to similar functions**
- **Use of technology exchange (example: E-mail, fax, etc.)**
- **Hold specialized program round tables (example: tree planters)**
- **Use of conference calls to help reduce traveling expenses**

4. Cooperative efforts with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient and effective operations

<u>Cooperating Entity(ies)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
USDA-NRCS County Offices	?-1997	Soil/water conservation and natural resources management
NE Game & Parks Commission	?-1997	Wildlife Habitat Program
UNL Conservation & Survey Division	?-1997	Cooperative Water Well Observation Program
NE Forest Service	?-1997	Conservation plantings/Urban Forestry Programs
Cheyenne County Commissioners NRCS/NRC	1980-86	Cheyenne County Soil Survey
City of Sidney	1981-97	Representation on Sidney Tree Board
Deuel County Commissioners UNL Conservation & Survey Division NRCS/NRC	1994-97	Deuel County Soil Survey
City of Bayard City of Bridgeport Village of Broadwater Village of Bushnell City of Chappell Village of Dalton Village of Dix Village of Gurley City of Kimball Village of Lewellen Village of Lodgepole City of Oshkosh Village of Potter City of Sidney	1992	Feasibility study on the development of a regional landfill

LB1085 Input Request
November 10, 1997
Page 3

Cheyenne County
Deuel County
Garden County
Kimball County
Morrill County

City of Sidney Cheyenne County Commissioners	1990-97	West Sidney Gas Plant- Hydrocarbon contamination concerns
Cooperative Weather Observer for National Weather Service	1992-97	Monitoring rain gauge station
NDEQ, DWR, NRC, NRCS, Game & Parks Commission,	1993	A Study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination in Deuel County, Nebraska: A Special Protection Area Report
City of Sidney	1993	Community Forestry Program
Village of Potter	1994-97	Community Forestry Program
Village of Big Springs	1994-96	Community Forestry Program
City of Chappell	1993-97	Community Forestry Program
City of Kimball	1995-97	Community Forestry Program
City of Sidney NE Forest Service	1993-97	Conservation Tree Planting-water well field
Deuel County Panhandle Area Development District/ RC&D	1993	RC&D McFee Roadstructure
Lower Platte South Water Conservancy District - Sterling, Colorado Colorado State University - Cooperative Extension Panhandle Area Development District/ RC&D	1995-97	Federal 319 NPS Project
NDEQ, DWR, NRC, NRCS, Game & Parks Commission	1997	A Study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination in Eastern Cheyenne County: A Ground Water Management Area Report
Village of Gurley NE Mandates Management Initiative	1997	Dealing w/ EDB/Benzene contamination and well capacity issues
City of Kimball	1997	Wellhead Protection Program

LB1085 Input Request
November 10, 1997
Page 4

Cheyenne County Commissioners	1997	Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
Bessey Nursery Advisory Committee		Conservation tree planning
Kimball County Local Emergency Operations Plan	1997	Emergency preparedness

5. Provide ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

- Work with public power districts to search for ways to develop interlocal cooperation and agreements
- Work more aggressively with cities/villages and counties about activities that the agencies might work together. Not only for new projects, but also established projects.
- Expand office/shop facilities to accommodate other partners to provide quality service to customers
- Share personnel, vehicles and equipment through cooperative agreements
- NARD/NRD Cooperative Purchasing
- Seek Interlocal Agreements
- Have specialized position(s) within several districts (example: hydrologist for all Panhandle districts)
- Do not duplicate efforts
- Increase outreach program

Respectfully,



Rod L. Horn
General Manager

RLH/s

pc: Dean Edson, NARD Executive Director

TWIN PLATTE

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

UNITED NEBRASKA BANK CENTER
111 SOUTH DEWEY STREET
P.O. BOX 1347
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69103-1347
PHONE 308/535-8080

December 7, 1997

Vince Kramper
NE Natural Resources Commission
P O Box 94876
Lincoln NE 68509-4876

Dear Vince:

I am responding to your letter dated November 18, 1997 requesting information for the LB 1085 Committee in regard to the second LB 1085 study which is to address issues of efficiency, duplication and program effectiveness.

- 1. Please list two or more things that your Natural Resources District has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.**

The utilization of computer technology has significantly increased the efficiency for the District. The utilization of computer technology has allowed the District to reduce the number of support personnel and has allowed the District to continue to add programs as well as to maintain exiting programs without adding additional technical personnel funded by the District. The utilization of computer technology has also increased the effectiveness in the delivery of programs.

The utilization of cellular phones has increased the efficiency for the District. As an example, the utilization of cellular phones allows the personnel in the field to add appointments and reduces the need for return trips. The utilization of cellular phones has also increased the effectiveness in the delivery of programs.

The Chemigation Program inspections procedure has been changed to allow the rotation of inspections scheduled to include all of a producers sites in one year, rather than the previous method that rotated the inspections such that a producer could have a site inspected every year. The previous method was originally thought to be necessary to insure compliance, but experience has proven that all the inspections for a producer can be done in one year which improved the efficiency of the District's operation as well as the efficiency of the producers time.



The District's Ground Water Program has been significantly expanded during the last two years which has increased the effectiveness of the Program. The District's Ground Water Management Plan is based on target areas for townships. When elevated levels of contamination occur or when declining ground water levels occur, a target area is established and one-on-one contacts, advisory committees and enhanced information and education activities are carried out in the target area. The re-assignment of existing personnel and the addition of new personnel with outside funding through the Nebraska Enhancement Fund and a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funded 319 Project has allowed the District to provide a more effective Ground Water Program.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your Natural Resources District could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

The effectiveness of programs could be increased with additional cost-share funds. The availability of Federal funds has been reduced and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program funds are not adequate to meet the demands in the District. As an example, the District's Tree Program sales have decreased due to a shortage of cost-share funds.

The effectiveness of all the programs could possibly be increased with a dedicated Information and Education Program. Currently, all of the District's personnel provides information and education for the programs they work in, but their time is limited due to the ongoing demands of the programs they are assigned to carry out

The effectiveness and efficiency of the District's personnel could be increased by updating the computer equipment and software

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your Natural Resources District has undertaken with other Natural Resources Districts that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is 96 miles from the east boarder to the west boarder and 69 miles from the south boarder to the north boarder. These distances make it difficult for cooperative efforts with other Natural Resources Districts. These distances, however, have allowed for one area of cooperation. If a neighboring District has a request for a tree planting near our boarder, and they do not have any other planting sites near that site, if our District has some other planting sites in the area, we will cross the boarder and do the site if requested by the District. Due to distances, this cooperation can significantly increase efficiency.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District recently built a water model in a trailer that was funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant. The trailer has been used throughout the Twin Platte Natural Resources District as well as in the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Upper Loup Natural Resources District. I anticipate that the trailer will continue to be used in all of our neighboring Natural Resources Districts.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is cooperating with the Central Platte, Tri-Basin, South Platte and North Platte Natural Resources Districts in a application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund for a project titled "Cooperative Hydrology of the Platte River". If funding is approved by the Environmental Trust Fund, the three year project would receive funding from the five Natural Resources Districts as well as other sponsors and partners and would be carried out by the five Natural Resources Districts as well as other sponsors and partners.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District, in cooperation with the Middle Republican Natural Resources District and in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division and U.S. Geological Survey, has developed the Platte/Republican Ground Water Computer model.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District, in cooperation with the Upper Loup Natural Resources District and in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division and U.S. Geological Survey, has developed the South Central Sandhills Ground Water Computer model.

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District cooperates with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in providing Secretarial support in the North Platte Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office.

4. **Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your Natural Resources District has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.**

Refer to the attached list title "Twin Platte Natural Resources District - Projects in Cooperation with Other Government Agencies".

5. **Please provide your ideas of how Natural Resources Districts could better cooperate with other Natural Resources Districts and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.**

Although I believe that there is always ways to improve any operation, I am finding it difficult to come up with ideas of how Natural Resources Districts could better cooperate with other Natural Resources Districts and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner, as I continually ask myself this question and when I have had ideas, I have sought to implement them where possible or feasible. The only idea that I have at this time is I believe that Natural Resources Districts and other local units of government could realize financial savings and efficiencies and improve operations and effectiveness by sharing purchases and utilization of computer software.

I believe that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is carrying out excellent cost effective programs.

I appreciated the opportunity to provide you information in regard to the Commission's study of Natural Resources Districts. I would be happy to discuss the activities of the District with you or the Special Committee you chair or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Kent O. Miller, P.E.
General Manager

Enclosure

cc+encl. Mike Mosel, NARD Board President
Richard Beran, Lower Loup NRD
John Turnbull, Upper Big Blue NRD
LeRoy Pieper, NNRC
Richard Mercer, NNRC
Clifford Welsh, NNRC
Dean Edson, NARD

KOM.A5 VK.120897.WPS

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 Projects in Cooperation with Other Government Agencies

IN COOPERATION WITH	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TWIN PLATTE NRD SERVICES
City of Ogallala	Ogallala Watershed	Prepared and facilitated submitting the application to the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. Provided funds for the local cost-share for the dams built.
City of Ogallala	Ogallala Watershed	Initiated and facilitated the preparation of the Flood Plain Management Study and the Natural Resources Plan and Environmental Assessment prepared by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Provided 50% of the funds for the required aerial photography.
City of Ogallala and Ogallala Schools	Outdoor Classroom	Initiated and continue to facilitate the development of an outdoor classroom along the South Platte River at Ogallala, NE.
City of Ogallala	Urban Forestry Program	Provide funding and technical assistance for tree planting in the City.
City of North Platte	Storm Water Drainage	Provided funds for aerial photography.
City of North Platte	Trails	Initiated development and design for a trails system. Provided funding. Continuing cooperation with City and Chamber Trails Committee.

**Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Projects in Cooperation with Other Government Agencies**

City of North Platte	Urban Forestry Program	Provide funding and technical assistance for tree planting in the City.
City of Hershey	Urban Forestry Program	Provide funding and technical assistance for tree planting in the City.
City of Hershey	Storm Water Drainage	Funded a design for a storm water drainage project.
City of Paxton	Urban Forestry Program	Provide funding and technical assistance for tree planting in the City.
City of Sutherland	Storm Water Drainage	Funded a design for a storm water drainage project.
City of Sutherland	Urban Forestry Program	Provide funding and technical assistance for tree planting in the City.
City of Brule	Brule Watershed	Initiated and facilitating an analysis by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service of the drainage into the City of Brule.
City of Brule	Brule Watershed	Initiated and facilitated additional land treatment measures. Provided funds to the land owner for the landowners costs. City of Brule will assist the landowner with maintenance needs in the future.
City of Brady	Nature Area	Assisted in the development of nature area.
Schools within the Twin Platte NRD	Scholarships	Scholarships for teachers for continuing education in Soil and Water Conservation.
Schools within the Twin Platte NRD	Information	Information and materials for teachers and students for Soil and Water Conservation.

**Twin Platte Natural Resources District
 Projects in Cooperation with Other Government Agencies**

Schools within the Twin Platte NRD	High Plains Water Expo	Coordinated by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with various local agencies. An annual one day event in North Platte for middle school students.
Platte Valley Irrigation District	Ground Water Recharge	Prepared applications and the required supporting documentation for obtaining an incidental ground water recharge water right.
Keith and Lincoln Irrigation District	Ground Water Recharge	Prepared applications and the required supporting documentation for obtaining an incidental ground water recharge water right.
Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District	Ground Water Recharge	Prepared applications and the required supporting documentation for obtaining an incidental ground water recharge water right.
Suburban Irrigation District	Ground Water Recharge	Prepared applications and the required supporting documentation for obtaining an incidental ground water recharge water right.
University of Nebraska	Range Tours	Facilitate and provide resources in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service for Range Tours for producers.
University of Nebraska	Ground Water	Provided funding and personnel assistance for development of ground water computer models.
University of Nebraska	Ground Water	Provided funding and personnel assistance for development of a ground water quality data base and monitoring program.

**Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Projects in Cooperation with Other Government Agencies**

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission	Cost-Share Program	Facilitate and implement the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program.
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Cost-Share Program	Facilitate and implement the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. Provide 25% of the funds for the contracts with landowners.
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Technical Assistance	Develop priorities and provide personnel to carry out the Districts Soil and Water Conservation Program.
United State Geological Survey	Ground Water	Provided funding and personnel assistance for development of ground water computer models.
United State Geological Survey	Ground Water	Provide funding and personnel assistance for ground water monitoring.

KOM A5 CA120897 WPS

LB 1085 STUDY
RESPONSE FROM
CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

- 1. Things CPNRD has done to increase efficiency or effectiveness.**
 - a. Computerized program records (tree planting, groundwater management, bookkeeping, etc.).
 - b. Cell phones in field vehicles.

- 2. Things CPNRD could do to increase efficiency and effectiveness.**
 - a. Develop Geographic Information System (GIS) and interconnect with county departments (Assessor, Highway, etc.), cities, NRCS and FSA.

- 3. Examples of cooperative efforts with other NRDs.**
 - a. CPNRD and several other adjoining NRDs have reciprocal agreements on operator certification for groundwater quality management. (certification in one NRD is good in either NRD.)
 - b. Have had several joint projects with Lower Loup NRD on drainage along borders. One district takes lead and administration responsibilities.
 - c. Cooperative effort with Tri-Basin on monitoring wells (cross-sections across Platte River).
 - d. Cooperative hydrology study of Platte River and Basin with four other NRDs (and others).

- 4. Cooperative efforts with other units of government.**
 - a. Crane Viewing Areas - Cooperative effort involving CPNRD, Hall and Buffalo County Board, State Department of Roads, two County Highway Departments, three County Sheriff Departments and others.
 - b. Moore's Creek Flood Control Project - Project jointly sponsored by: CPNRD, City of Grand Island, Hall County and Merrick County, and coordinated with Nebraska Department of Roads.
 - c. Wood River Floodway - Cooperative effort with CPNRD, City of Grand Island, Hall County and Buffalo County.

- d. **Kearney Northeast - Cooperative effort for flood control: CPNRD, Buffalo County, and City of Kearney.**
 - e. **Warm Slough/Dry Creek - Cooperative effort for flood control sponsored by CPNRD, Cities of Central City and Grand Island, and Counties of Hall and Merrick.**
 - f. **Buffalo Creek Flood Control Project - Cooperatives effort sponsored by CPNRD, City of Lexington and Dawson County.**
 - g. **Road Structure Program - Program to replace bridges with flood control structures - Cooperative program with various County Highway Departments.**
 - h. **Etc., etc., etc.**
- 5. How NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs.**
- a. **If we think of something we'll do it.**



LOWER PLATTE NORTH

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

511 COMMERCIAL PARK ROAD, P.O. BOX 126, WAHOO, NEBRASKA 68066-0126
PHONE (402) 443-4675 • FAX (402) 443-5339

E-MAIL lpnprd@nrcdec.nrc.state.ne.us

M E M O R A N D U M

RECEIVED

DEC 10 1997

NEBRASKA NATURAL
RESOURCE COMMISSION

To: Dayle Williamson
From: John Miyoshi
Subject: LB 1085 Input Response
Date: December 9, 1997

I. To increase efficiency the District has:

- ✍ Reduced Board size from 21 to 19.
- ✍ Rather than fund wholly, the District now cost-shares on most projects with either individual(s) or other units of government.
- ✍ Offer as a service assistance with FEMA applications, technical assistance, grants and other assistance to small units of government where we have more expertise.
- ✍ More use of interlocal agreements for cooperative projects.

2. Things our District could do to be more efficient:

- ✍ Physically combine location with other units of government. NRCS, FSA, county zoning, flood plain management.
- ✍ Regional government host for similar, but expensive programs. GIS, permits, land records.
- ✍ Cooperative use of specialized personnel and equipment.

Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources.
Printed on Recycled Paper and is Recyclable

C-133



3. Cooperative efforts with other NRD's:

- ✎ Platte River Corridor Alliance.
- ✎ Platte River Corps of Engineers Study.
- ✎ Employees, NRCS clerks, technicians and part time help.
- ✎ Elkhorn River Breakout Project.
- ✎ Conservation cost-share for landowners who live on boundary
- ✎ Cooperative tree planting efforts for bordering landowners.

4. Cooperative effort with other units of government.

- ✎ Platte River Corridor Alliance
- ✎ Lower Platte Instream water users.
- ✎ County Road Structure program
- ✎ Construction and operation of Rawhide flood control project.
- ✎ Flood studies.
- ✎ Community Forestry Program

5. Possible cooperative efforts.

- ✎ Sharing of employees with special skills such as engineering, GIS, computers.
- ✎ Sharing of special use equipment such as back hoe, dozers, wood chipper.

Memorandum

Date: December 2, 1997
To: Vince Kramper, LB 1085 Committee Chair
From: Glenn D. Johnson, General Manager
Subject: Response to LB 1085 Input Request

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input at this early stage in the second phase of the LB 1085 Study and report preparation. I will follow the outline of your November 18 memo in this response. Some of these responses are activities that make the NRD more effective in carrying out its mission and actions; others help the NRD be more efficient in terms of cost, staffing, overall effort; and others provide a way to be both more efficient and effective.

- 1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.**

The NRD's planning process includes use of strategic planning and the setting of priorities. The Long Range Implementation Plan and the annual budget and long range budget are closely tied together.

The District is using a program performance evaluation process to review existing programs and make appropriate changes to the programs.

The NRD's subcommittee structure was overhauled to clearly define areas of responsibility and reduce the number of subcommittees.

The team approach has been used in the implementation of the NRD's ground water management plan.

Use of technology, such as GPS, computers, cellular phones, GIS mapping.

The use of citizen advisory committees for several projects and programs have made those projects and programs more effective in implementation.

The use of a crew from the NE Department of Corrections under an Agreement to perform operation and maintenance on NRD projects.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

More coordination through the NARD of meetings, training, etc.

More and better use of electronic communication between the office and the Directors, between the office and other NRDs and agencies.

Sharing of specialized equipment and personnel with other NRDs or agencies or private sector.

Better use of the Interlocal Agreement authorities.

Increased information sharing at conferences and workshops

Support consolidation of state natural resources agencies into one Natural Resources Agency to avoid duplicative effort, reviews, and splintered authorities (e.g wellhead protection, safe drinking water, and groundwater wells)

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance, with two other NRDs and eight state agencies.

The Platte River Ice Jam Agreement with two other NRDs and five counties.

Cooperative information and education efforts with various NRDs.

Conservation technical staffing in NRCS offices

Chemigation, well decommissioning, and tree planting services across NRD borders by mutual agreement.

Interlocal Agreement with the Papio-Missouri River NRD on the ownership, planning and development of the Rock Island Railroad Bridge over the Platte River as a recreation trail.

Cooperating in the installation and operation of ground water monitoring wells near the borders.

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that have resulted in more efficient or effective operations.

The Antelope Valley Major Investment Study in Lincoln with the City and the University of Nebraska.

Platte River Ice Jam Agreement with two other NRDs and five counties.

Community Water System Protection Area agreements and implementation with Valparaiso, Ceresco, and Cass Rural Water District .

Acquisition of flood plain and relocation of buildings with the City of Ashland.

Planning, construction, and operation of road structures.

Community Forestry program.

Trails development and management with Lincoln, Elmwood, Valparaiso, and Eagle.

Division of urban stormwater planning, development, and operation with Lincoln.

Operation of stream gage network.

Section 319 , Clean Lakes Coordinator position with Lancaster County.

5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other local units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

Development of a standardized, comprehensive surface water flow and quality network and monitoring program.

Development of a standardized, comprehensive ground water flow and quality network and monitoring program.

Sharing of specialized equipment and personnel.

Improved and more consistent communications between agencies. (e.g. being informed of NDEQ water sampling efforts and results within NRD could help avoid duplication)

We noted the LP1085 Questionnaire for Counties which was enclosed with the November 18 memo. Hopefully, a similar questionnaire was sent to the villages and cities, as this NRD has an even greater level of cooperation with them.

GDJ/gdj

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

1. Actions the URNRD has taken to increase efficiency and effectiveness

Efficiency

- a. Acquired state-of-the-art computer hardware and software to modernize word processing procedures, budget planning and preparation, and communications. This has eliminated much handwriting of material as an intermediate step to final copy word processing; essentially eliminated use of the adding machine, filling in of budget forms with pencil and then by typewriter; and cut down cost of and time involved with communications through the use of e-mail.
- b. Reassigned some personnel in order to improve equipment maintenance; to more fully utilize the skills and time of the staff; and to cut down on over-time pay to some individuals while others were being underutilized.

Effectiveness

- a. Established a District-wide water quality management plan, adopted rules and regulations to carry out the plan, and instituted an intensive education and information program to improve the overall effectiveness of the plan and the rules and regulations.
- b. Extended most water quantity control rules and regulations to areas not previously covered, making the moratorium on new wells and metering effective throughout the District. This action will help to diminish the rate of the decline in groundwater levels in the District.
- c. The use of new computer hardware has enabled the staff to conduct improved analyses of data and information, and to provide more extensive and useful information to the Board and to the public.

2. Actions the URNRD could undertake to increase efficiency and effectiveness

Efficiency

- a. Have staff participate in more workshops, training sessions, and interaction with the staffs of other NRDs to develop new ideas and to improve their ability to utilize current and forthcoming technology in their jobs. The work of this NRD is continually expanding in scope and in complexity. Thus, the capability of the staff must continually be up-graded to meet these demands. Training sessions (some specifically oriented to NRD staffs and others of a more general nature) of one-day, one week, or even longer are needed. If the capabilities of the URNRD staff members to deal with the new challenges are not enhanced, the effectiveness of this NRD will -- over time -- decline.

Effectiveness

- a. The staff needs to conduct more analyses of existing data and analyses to assist the Board and the public to better understand implications of alternative groundwater quality and quantity management approaches. This relates to the need, as specified in 2a., for more education and training for staff in such procedures.
- b. The use of part-time professionals for special needs would improve the work of the NRD, and would assist in the learning process for current staff to meet these special need in the future. Perhaps funds are needed to enable the NARD to hire a few specially trained "circuit riders" to travel to individual NRDs for a week or so to provide assistance and training in certain matters.

3. Cooperative efforts with other NRDs

Efficiency

- a. On a regular basis, NRDs in the Republican River Basin (RRB) exchange ideas on management programs, computer needs, and other on-going activities. This has allowed each NRD to gain from the experiences of others NRDs, rather than "starting from scratch" on issues that are new to it, but on-going in other NRDs. This cooperation improves efficiency, quality and effectiveness of all NRDs in the RRB.

Effectiveness

- a. Cooperation among RRB NRDs in attaining a grant from the Environmental Trust Fund for research on the interrelationship of ground and surface water in the Basin.
- b. The establishment of the RRB Coalition to share ideas and to develop effective management plans for the Basin. The Coalition has provided the base for the development of a proposal aimed at settlement of the Kansas-Nebraska Republican River conflict without going through the costs and risks of a Supreme Court Case.

4. Examples of current cooperative efforts with other government units

- a. A joint educational program with NRCS.
- b. Sharing of equipment and personnel between NRCS and the URNRD.
- c. Sponsorship of workshops, field days, judging contests, and other activities jointly with the Extension Service, NRCS, and the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center.
- d. State agencies such as the Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the University of Nebraska provide continual, excellent, and essential assistance to and cooperation with the URNRD.
- e. Federal agencies such as the USGS and the NRCS also provide continual, excellent and essential assistance to and cooperation with the URNRD.

NOTE: *Any reduction in the funding for the above state and federal agencies/units that would diminish their assistance to and cooperation with NRDs would clearly have a serious detrimental effect on the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of URNRD programs*

5. Actions that could improve cooperation among NRDs, and between NRDs and other agencies and result in more efficient and effective services the public

The issues and problems faced by NRDs are continually changing, and in many instances becoming more complex. There is no way for NRDs to effectively and efficiently face these challenges without continual education and training programs for NRD staff members. Without such education and training, NRDs will gradually become less and less capable of dealing with the new challenges. It has often been stated that when an agency stops getting better, it will soon stop being good. This reflects the need for continual up-grading of skills, abilities and understanding of issues and problems on the part of NRD staffs -- including managers and other personnel.

There are many excellent meetings, conferences and workshops held each year that would provide highly useful information to NRD staff members. However, Nebraska is a large state and NRDs have limited funds and staff time for travel to a "central" location for a meeting, workshop, or seminar that would enhance abilities and effectiveness of NRD personnel. It is not feasible to cover travel, food and lodging for all appropriate NRD staff members to a meeting 200 miles away. Some possible options that would help in this dilemma are:

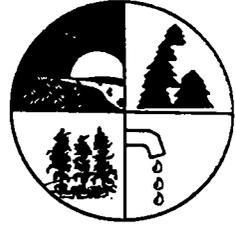
- a. Instead of holding one meeting/conference on a topic it would be helpful if state and/or federal agencies would hold several "regional" meetings across the state on the same topic for NRD staff members. This would make it possible for all appropriate NRD personnel to attend meetings rather than only the managers or a few technicians. Such meetings would provide for the exchange of ideas among staff members of different NRDs, and would enhance the understanding on the part of participating agencies of NRD programs and problems.
- b. Of course, holding regional meetings such as those described above might impose unreasonable time and funding costs on participating state and federal government agencies. An alternative would be to initiate a program on the part of these agencies to develop and utilize distance-learning facilities for interaction with and training for NRD staff members. Perhaps there should be a goal among the NRC, the NARD office, and state and federal agencies to regularly utilize long-distance interactive communication technology to make available at least the most relevant parts of all meetings, conferences, and workshops to NRD staff members who (because of distance) are unable to travel to these events. Staff members from several NRDs could gather in a facility closer to their districts, hear the presentations, and interact with presenters with questions and comments just as if they were in attendance. Perhaps a committee with members from appropriate agencies (and with NRD representation) should be appointed to move rapidly toward utilizing such interactive communication technology on a regular basis.

- c. As a short-term alternative to(a) and (b) above, it should immediately be possible for the NARD or NRC to provide access to publicly sponsored (i.e. by state, extension, university, and federal agencies/units) meetings and even legislative hearings by recording such events on good quality video tapes. These tapes could be made available either free or at a cost to NRDs. The NRDs could then individually or cooperatively use the tapes for information sessions in which all appropriate staff members could participate. This could be a relatively low-cost way of enabling NRDs to take advantage of the tremendous body of important information that is made available through meetings, conferences, seminars and hearings each year. The number and quality of such events are adequate; but the distribution of knowledge presented at such events is generally not adequate.

NOTE: *Any one or all of the three alternatives (i.e. 5a, 5b, and/or 5c) outlined here would contribute to cooperation between NRDs and other units of government and would enhance the ability of NRDs to meet existing and forthcoming challenges. The improved skills and knowledge gained by NRD staff members would certainly provide NRDs with a stronger base for providing more efficient and effective service to present and future generations.*

Middle Republican Natural Resources District

P.O. Box 81 • Curtis, Nebraska 69025 • Phone (308) 367-4281 • FAX (308) 367-4285



DATE: November 25, 1997

TO: Vince Kramper, Chairman
1085 Committee
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Wayne Heathers, Manager

RE: L.B. 1085, Input Second Report

The following comments are offered in response to your memo of November 18, 1997 regarding various topics as listed.

1. List two or more things your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - a. The MRNRD participates in a Basin Coalition with three other NRDs and four Irrigation Districts to more effectively address mutual water use problems.
 - b. Our NRD served as a co-sponsor along with Red Willow County and the City of McCook to implement the McCook Flood Control Project utilizing Nebraska Resource Development Funds. McCook still cooperates with NRD on maintenance of the floodway in this project.
2. List two or more things you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - a. Upgrade computer system to store more data and to retrieve data from outside data banks.
 - b. Review all services as renting grass drills and other equipment for cost effectiveness; and if needed, to raise fees or eliminate service.
3. List examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.
 - a. We have shared supplies as trees and plastic mulch with neighboring NRDs and have cooperated on bulk orders to lower costs.
 - b. We have shared work or loaned and borrowed equipment in working with other NRDs. Some NRDs have a limited need for a certain service and it is more economical to work with another NRD with a bigger program.

4. List examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other units of government that resulted in more efficient or effective operations.

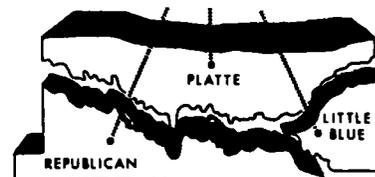
- a. We have provided financial assistance for a Household Hazardous Waste Project in Southwest Nebraska. Other cooperators on the project include the RC&D, Counties and Towns.
- b. Our NRD has cooperated on some road dams with Counties and some public park areas with local communities.

5. Provide ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

- a. There should be a review or study of centralizing accounting procedures, pay rolling, billing, etc. among local entities in a given area. The use of electronic deposits and billing should be part of this review.
- b. There should be more cooperation among NRDs and/or other local units of government in seeking mutual benefits from grants. This would make more efficient use of funds and eliminate non-productive competition for the same money.

Tri-Basin NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

1308 Second Street
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949
Telephone (308) 995-6688
Fax (308) 995-6992



Memo

General Manager
JOHN THORBURN

To: Mr. Vince Kramper, LB 1085 committee chairman

Chairman
KAY LAVENE
Bertrand, Nebraska

From: John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD

John Thorburn

CC: TBNRD Directors

Vice Chairman
DAVID NELSON
Upland, Nebraska

Date: 12/04/97

Re: LB 1085 survey

Secretary
PHYLLIS JOHNSON
Bertrand, Nebraska

Treasurer
BRADLEY LUNDEEN
Wilcox, Nebraska

Please find enclosed Tri-Basin NRD's response to your survey request. If you have questions, or you need additional information, feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

RUSSELL EDEAL
Loomis, Nebraska

I really appreciate all the work that your committee has done on behalf of the NRDs by conducting these studies. I realize what a thankless job this has been for you folks. In spite of that, you have made a good effort to represent the views and concerns of both large and small districts. Thank you.

HAROLD D. ERICKSON
Holdrege, Nebraska

DICK HELMS
Arapahoe, Nebraska

GARY LINDSTROM
Wilcox, Nebraska

DAVID NICKEL
Kearney, Nebraska

DAVID OLSEN
Minden, Nebraska

DAVID RAFFETY
Kearney, Nebraska

LARRY REYNOLDS
Lexington, Nebraska

RAY WINZ
Holdrege, Nebraska

Tri-Basin NRD Response to LB 1085
Phase II Survey Request

1. Please list two or more things that your NRD has done to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

The staff and directors of Tri-Basin NRD constantly strive to keep the NRD operating at peak efficiency and to ensure that the greatest possible return is realized for every tax dollar spent. For example, our NRD, in cooperation with local NRCS personnel, has developed a system to rate cost-share applications. This system allows us to compare the projected conservation benefits of one application against another. The rating system also produces a cost to benefit ratio for each application. This system helps us to select those applications which will provide the greatest conservation benefits for the lowest cost. The rating system is used to prioritize expenditures of NSWCP (\$75,000/FY1997-98) and local cost-share funds (\$21,000/FY 1997-98).

Another example of improving operational efficiency is our conservation tree mulch laying program. Conservation mulch is a biodegradable plastic that is laid down on new tree plantings to conserve water and prevent weed and grass competition. The program has always been a moneymaker for the district, but it was difficult to find temporary help to man a crew. There were also considerable expenses for insurance and equipment.

We hired a contractor to lay mulch in 1997. This allowed us to continue to provide this important service, saved the NRD more than \$20,000 in expenses in FY 1996-97 and still turned a profit for the district. Comparable savings are expected in the current fiscal year.

We have also saved our constituents money simply by consulting with them on a regular basis. Tri-Basin NRD operates four Improvement Project Areas (IPAs) to improve cropland drainage. The district maintains the drainage ditches and assesses benefited landowners for expenses. By meeting regularly with our IPA constituents, we found that the most effective way to maintain these ditches was to target a few trouble spots each year, rather than clean out ditches on a set schedule. While it is difficult to precisely quantify the savings achieved through targeted maintenance, they would likely amount to several thousand dollars a year.

I could list several other more mundane, but significant cost saving strategies. These include purchasing supplies in bulk quantities when possible, buying office equipment from state and federal surplus, and pursuing grant funds for special projects.

2. Please list two or more things that you feel your NRD could do to increase efficiency and/or effectiveness.

Tri-Basin's staff and directors are always looking for ways to save money and/or improve effectiveness of our programs and services. I hope that the responses to this survey will be shared among all NRDs so that we can learn about and evaluate some techniques that other districts have implemented.

3. Please list examples of cooperative efforts your NRD has undertaken with other NRDs that resulted in increased efficiency and/or effectiveness.

Tri-Basin NRD's cooperative efforts with other NRDs take many forms. Recent cooperative efforts have primarily involved studies. Three studies are in progress.

On the Platte side of the district, Tri-Basin is sponsoring a study of water quality in Platte River tributaries in cooperation with Central Platte NRD (CPNRD) and USGS. CPNRD and Tri-Basin are also developing a network of groundwater observation wells along the Platte River. Tri-Basin is also a member of a coalition of NRDs and other organizations who are applying for a grant to conduct a hydrology study throughout the Platte River basin.

Tri-Basin NRD is also participating, along with the other three Republican Basin NRDs, in a comprehensive investigation of groundwater/surface water interaction for that basin. Tri-Basin is an active member of the Nebraska Republican Basin Water Management Districts, an informal association of four NRDs and four irrigation districts. This group's meetings provide a valuable forum for the districts to work cooperatively on water resource issues. The meetings also provide an opportunity for the organizations to keep in touch and update each other about ongoing projects and programs.

Tri-Basin NRD and Lower Republican NRD, along with UNL Cooperative Extension, co-sponsor a "Water Jamboree". The Water Jamboree is an annual, two day, educational field program that teaches fifth grade students about water resources. Over 500 students from nearly every school in both districts attend this event.

Tri-Basin and neighboring NRDs cooperate on an almost daily basis in various ways. We share information and contacts. We try to support each other's legislative efforts. We occasionally swap chemigation inspections and tree planting jobs between districts. We carpool to meetings. Cooperation is part of this NRD's way of doing business.

4. Please list examples of cooperative efforts that your NRD has undertaken with other units of government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

Tri-Basin NRD works closely with local, state and federal government agencies. A list of cooperative efforts that fall into this category would run several pages. Following are just a few significant recent examples.

Natural Resources Districts have always been closely associated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Tri-Basin provides three field office secretaries to NRCS offices within the district. The secretaries free up NRCS technicians so that they can spend more time in the field working with constituents. We also cooperatively fund an NRCS Irrigation Water Management Specialist (IWMS) position, along with Central Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID). This specialist provides assistance to help farmers improve the efficiency of their irrigation systems and their irrigation methods. Our IWMS position is a great cooperative success story. Through his efforts, we have provided information to hundreds of farmers and saved millions of gallons of groundwater and surface water.

CNPPID and Tri-Basin are currently working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a project to improve water management at Funk Waterfowl Production Area. This project involves creating an outlet for the Funk Lagoon basin and clearing five miles of creek channel. The project is being constructed by CNPPID, with operations and maintenance work to be done by Tri-Basin and Fish and Wildlife. Farmers along Lost Creek will also benefit from improved drainage.

A final example of cooperation between units of government involves Tri-Basin, the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RBJV, which is itself a good example of inter-agency cooperation) and the City of Holdrege. The city would like to convert their old landfill into a park. Adjacent to the landfill is a large wetland, which was drained in the 1970's. Tri-Basin is currently working with the city and RBJV to restore the wetland. The city and the NRD have also applied for an Environmental Trust grant to aid the restoration, and to develop facilities for handicapped accessible wildlife viewing.

5. Please provide your ideas of how NRDs could better cooperate with other NRDs and other units of local government to provide services to the public in a more efficient and/or effective manner.

There are always opportunities to increase "horizontal integration" and to reduce redundancy of services between local units of government. Some smaller local government agencies, such as county weed superintendents, county surveyors and drainage districts could be phased out and their functions absorbed by NRDs without great difficulty. There is also a need for increased regular communication between municipalities, counties and NRDs. Undoubtedly, the information provided by this survey, if it is distributed to NRDs, will also give us some new ideas.