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# KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT

## TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL 1997

YORK, NEBRASKA  
MAY 22, 1997

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**NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION**  
**KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER LINCOLN, NE 68508**  
**COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
President of the United States

The Honorable William Graves  
Governor of Kansas

The Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson  
Governor of Nebraska

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration, I submit the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report. The report covers activities of the Administration for Fiscal Year 1997.

Respectfully,



Clayton Lukow  
Compact Chairman

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**1996-1997 MEMBERSHIP**

Representatives of the United States

Clayton Lukow

Kansas Representatives

David L. Pope, Topeka <sup>1</sup>

Terry Blaser, Waterville <sup>2</sup>

Nebraska Representatives

J. Michael Jess, Lincoln <sup>1</sup>

Kenneth Regier, Aurora <sup>3</sup>

**1996-1997 OFFICERS**

Clayton Lukow, Chairman  
Barbara Hasterlo, Secretary  
Denise Rolfs, Treasurer

**1996-1997 COMMITTEES**

Budget Committee

Don Blankenau, Chairperson  
Bob Lytle

Engineering Committee

Keith Paulsen, Chairperson  
Bob Lytle  
Ann Bleed  
Dale Mahan

Water Quality Committee

Dale Lambley, Chairperson  
•  
Glen Kirk  
Denis Blank  
Pat Rice  
Mike Linder

Legal Committee

Don Blankenau, Chairperson  
Leland Rolfs

---

<sup>1</sup> Term continuous but coincides with duties of the state official who administers water law.

<sup>2</sup> Term expires April 25, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Term expires September 19, 1997.

• Position vacant.

**KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 1997**

Balance on hand July 1, 1996: \$20,836.82

Receipts during fiscal year 1997:

|                   |                  |                    |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| State of Nebraska | \$ 7,000.00      |                    |
| State of Kansas   | \$ 7,000.00      |                    |
| Interest Earned   | <u>\$ 428.49</u> |                    |
| Total receipts    | \$14,428.49      | <u>\$14,428.49</u> |

Total funds available: \$35,265.31

Disbursement by the Administration July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Voucher No.</u> | <u>Payee and Purpose</u>               | <u>Amount</u>   |
|-------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| 10-31-96    | 245                | U.S. Geological Survey, Upgrade        | \$5,600.00      |
| 10-31-96    | 246                | U.S. Geological Survey, Operations     | 2,176.00        |
| 1-31-97     | 247                | Lower Big Blue NRD, Observation Wells  | 1,125.00        |
| 1-31-97     | 248                | U.S. Geological Survey, Operations     | 3,285.00        |
| 2-25-97     | 249                | Larson, Bryant and Porter, FY 95 Audit | 350.00          |
| 3-31-97     | 250                | Barbara Hasterlo, Postage              | 94.14           |
| 3-31-97     | 251                | Alphagraphics, Annual Report Printing  | 279.19          |
| 4-20-97     | 252                | U.S. Geological Survey, Operations     | 2,225.00        |
| 5-29-97     | 253                | Denise J. Rolfs, Travel Expenses       | 71.08           |
| 5-29-97     | 254                | Barbara Hasterlo, Travel Expenses      | 46.09           |
| 6-13-97     | 255                | Barbara Hasterlo, Honorarium           | 750.00          |
| 6-13-97     | 256                | Denise J. Rolfs, Honorarium            | 650.00          |
| 6-25-97     | 257                | U.S. Geological Survey, Operations     | <u>2,225.00</u> |

Total disbursements \$18,875.50

Funds available in Fiscal Year 1997: \$35,265.31

Disbursements 18,875.50

Balance on hand July 1, 1997: \$16,389.81

# KENNEDY AND COE, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

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OFFICES IN:  
KANSAS  
NEBRASKA  
OKLAHOMA  
COLORADO

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

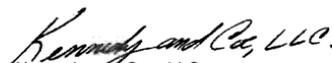
To the Chairman  
**Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration, as of June 30, 1997, and the related statements of activities, cash flows, and revenues and expenses compared to budget for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Administration's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration as of June 30, 1997, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kennedy and Coe, LLC

Topeka, Kansas  
March 5, 1998

MEMBERS OF: AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
SEC PRACTICE SECTION AND PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE  
SECTION OF THE AICPA DIVISION FOR CPA FIRMS

**KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**  
Topeka, Kansas

Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 1997

| Assets                           |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash in bank                     | <u>\$ 16,390</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets       |                  |
| Net assets - unrestricted        | <u>\$ 16,390</u> |
| Total liabilities and net assets | <u>\$ 16,390</u> |

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

**KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**  
Topeka, Kansas

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 1997

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Unrestricted Net Assets                        |           |
| Revenues:                                      |           |
| Kansas contribution                            | \$ 7,000  |
| Nebraska contribution                          | 7,000     |
| Interest                                       | 428       |
| Total revenues                                 | 14,428    |
| Expenses:                                      |           |
| Surface and ground water investigations        | 16,635    |
| Water quality committee                        | -         |
| Staff travel                                   | 117       |
| Auditing and accounting services               | 350       |
| Printing annual report                         | 279       |
| Fidelity bond                                  | -         |
| Secretary - Treasurer services                 | 1,400     |
| Office supplies and postage                    | 94        |
| Miscellaneous                                  | -         |
| Total expenses                                 | 18,875    |
| Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets | (4,447)   |
| Net assets, beginning of year                  | 20,837    |
| Net assets, end of year                        | \$ 16,390 |

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

**KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**  
Topeka, Kansas

Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended June 30, 1997

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities:   |            |
| Increase (decrease) in net assets       | \$ (4,447) |
| Net cash (used) by operating activities | (4,447)    |
| Cash flows from investing activities    |            |
|   | -          |
| Cash flows from financing activities    |            |
|   | -          |
| Net (decrease) in cash                  | (4,447)    |
| Cash, beginning of year                 | 20,837     |
| Cash, end of year                       | \$ 16,390  |

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

KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
 COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
 Topeka, Kansas

Statement of Revenues and Expenses Compared to Budget  
 Year Ended June 30, 1997

|  | Budget            | Actual            | Variance<br>Favorable<br>(Unfavorable) |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Revenues:                                  |                   |                   |  |
| Kansas contributions                       | \$ 7,000          | \$ 7,000          | \$ -                                   |
| Nebraska contributions                     | 7,000             | 7,000             | -                                      |
| Interest                                   | 400               | 428               | 28                                     |
| Total revenues                             | <u>14,400</u>     | <u>14,428</u>     | <u>28</u>                              |
| Expenses:                                  |                   |                   |  |
| Surface and ground water investigations    | 16,650            | 16,635            | 15                                     |
| Water quality committee                    | 2,000             | -                 | 2,000                                  |
| Staff travel                               | 200               | 117               | 83                                     |
| Auditing and accounting services           | 350               | 350               | -                                      |
| Printing annual report                     | 125               | 279               | (154)                                  |
| Fidelity bond                              | 100               | -                 | 100                                    |
| Secretary - Treasurer services             | 1,400             | 1,400             | -                                      |
| Office supplies and postage                | 75                | 94                | (19)                                   |
| Miscellaneous                              | 100               | -                 | 100                                    |
| Total expenses                             | <u>21,000</u>     | <u>18,875</u>     | <u>2,125</u>                           |
| Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenses | <u>\$ (6,600)</u> | <u>\$ (4,447)</u> | <u>\$ 2,153</u>                        |

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

KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
 COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
 Topeka, Kansas

Notes to Financial Statements  
 Year Ended June 30, 1997

Note A - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration (the Administration) is an interstate administrative agency established, upon adoption of rules and regulations pursuant to Article III (3,4) of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact on April 24, 1973, to administer the Compact.

The following is a summary of the more significant policies:

1) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis financial accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. All activities of the Administration are classified as unrestricted for financial reporting purposes.

2) Function

The major function of the Administration is to establish "such stream-gaging stations, ground water observation wells, and other data-collection facilities as are necessary for administrating the compact".

The purpose of the compact is to:

- A) Promote interstate comity between the States of Nebraska and Kansas.
- B) To achieve equitable apportionment of the waters of the Big Blue River Basin between the two states and to promote orderly development thereof.
- C) To encourage continuation of the active pollution-abatement programs of the waters of the Big Blue River Basin.

3) Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles may require the management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures.

MINUTES OF  
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order

The Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration annual meeting was held May 22, 1997, in the Board Room of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District office in York, NE. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Clayton Lukow, Compact Chairman.

Introductions and Announcements

Introductions of attendees were made. Those in attendance were:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Clayton Lukow    | Compact Chairman, Holstein, NE                         |
| Michael Jess     | Nebraska Commissioner, Lincoln                         |
| David Pope       | Kansas Commissioner, Topeka                            |
| Denise Rolfs     | Compact Treasurer, Topeka                              |
| Barbara Hasterlo | Compact Secretary, Lincoln                             |
| Kenneth Regier   | Nebraska Citizen Representative, Aurora,               |
| Don Blankenau    | Nebraska Dept. of Water Resources, Lincoln             |
| Keith Paulsen    | Nebraska Dept. of Water Resources, Lincoln             |
| Ann Bleed        | Nebraska Dept. of Water Resources, Lincoln             |
| Terry Blaser     | Kansas Citizen Representative, Waterville              |
| Bob Lytle        | Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, Topeka                    |
| Linda Weiss      | U.S. Geological Survey, Lincoln                        |
| Glenn Engel      | U.S. Geological Survey, Lincoln                        |
| Dave Clabaugh    | Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District<br>Beatrice, |
| John Turnbull    | Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District<br>York,     |
| Greg Craig       | Little Blue Natural Resources District<br>Davenport,   |
| Richard Kern     | Nebraska Natural Resources Commission,<br>Lincoln      |

Minutes of the 1996 Meeting

Chairman Lukow stated that the minutes for 1996 annual meeting had been reviewed and signed by both states and were distributed prior to the 1997 meeting. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes stood approved as distributed.

## Report of the Chairman

Chairman Lukow said he believes the main issue of the compact administration focuses mainly on water quality. Speaking from an extensive agricultural background, he reflected on how the operational part of agriculture has changed during the last 30-40 years. The long term effects of over applying atrazine were not previously known. The premise of "more is better" no longer prevails. It continues to be in the best interests of regulators, farmers and resources-connected agencies to stress best management practices. The Chairman also distributed two magazine articles to each state delegate.

## Kansas Report

### Litigation

The remedies phase of the Kansas v. Colorado lawsuit concerning the Arkansas River Compact continues to be ongoing. The trial portion on the quantification of depletion from the 1986 through 1994 time period ended in December of 1996. The adequacy, implementation and monitoring of Colorado's efforts to comply with the compact are also being considered by the court. Also in dispute and to be determined, is the theory of damages to be awarded to Kansas. The Special Master is preparing a report to the Supreme Court on many of these issues which is expected to be completed fairly soon. Both states will then have the opportunity to file briefs with the Supreme Court concerning the Special Master's report. Several important issues will still need to be resolved. First, the form of payment is undetermined. Kansas has requested that damages be paid in money while Colorado has asked to pay in water. Second, is whether interest be charged against Colorado for the past damages

dating back to 1950. Finally, what is the actual value of the water that was not received at the stateline.

The annual meeting of the Arkansas River Compact was held on December 10, 1996 in Lamar, Colorado. A great deal of time was spent negotiating the proposed Offset Account in John Martin Reservoir to allow Colorado to store water to replace post compact depletions to usable stateline flows caused by well pumping. Several draft resolutions were reviewed by both states and three special meetings of the Compact Administration were held via conference call in early 1997. On March 17, 1997, a final resolution was adopted by the Compact Administration.

### Legislation

During the last legislative session, there were not any bills that were introduced or passed which had any significant impact upon the responsibilities of the Division of Water Resources (DWR). DWR did provide testimony to the House Environment Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding the overall duties of the Division as background because the Committees are comprised of mostly new members. The legislature did address some important issues related to the establishment of water quality standards.

### Water Rights

The Division of Water Resources continues its efforts to reduce the number of applications to appropriate water pending final processing. As of May 1, 1997, a total of 547 applications have been received, with 261 of those already processed. The average time for an initial review of an application after being received has been reduced to about 15 days, and the time to process an application without serious complications has been reduced to around 90 days.

### **Annual Water Use Reports**

The 1996 water use report cards were mailed in January and are due by March 1, 1997. A total of 13,679 reports were sent to water users, and as of May 1, 1997, a total of 13,397 had been returned for a total of 98 percent thus far. In 1988, legislation was passed which allows a civil penalty to be assessed for failure to file a complete and accurate report. Prior to this legislation, compliance was only about 60 percent. Almost 1000 individuals were assessed civil penalties for filing late reports, or not yet filing reports as required by law.

### **Water Rights Database Migration**

The Division of Water Resources changed its water rights database in the fall of 1996. DWR switched from a mainframe database system to a client server database system. This database migration was necessary because the mainframe system that was used would no longer be available and was becoming obsolete. The new database uses Oracle's Relational Database Management System. A great deal of effort was made to prepare the old water right data for the conversion. As a result, errors have been corrected and the new database continues to be more accurate. The new system is more user friendly, more flexible and allows users to conduct inquiries in minutes which used to take overnight. It also allows easy access to the Internet when needed.

### **Subbasin Water Resources Management Program**

The Division of Water Resources initiated the Subbasin Water Resources Management Program (Program) in 1993 to address water resources issues identified in the State Water Plan. The Program utilizes a hydrologic basin approach to deal with ground water declines, streamflow depletions and

water quality concerns. In contrast to historic regulatory programs that have been reactive in nature to water problems, this program is designed to develop comprehensive, long-term water management strategies to implement solutions to water problems within the framework of existing state law on a proactive basis. Community involvement is a crucial component in the philosophy of this program. The result of this program will be implementation of a comprehensive plan to address identified water resources issues in each targeted basin.

Work plans consist of five phases. Phase I is an assessment of all existing information, Phase II entails the installation of additional monitoring devices, Phase III is the development of a hydrologic computer model, if necessary, Phase IV involves the development of alternative management strategies and Phase V is complete implementation. To date, the Program has established projects in three areas of the state:

1. South Central Kansas: Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin - began 1993  
Middle Arkansas River - 1997
2. Northwest Kansas: Beaver, Sappa and Prairie Dog Creek Subbasins - began 1994.
3. Southwest Kansas: Pawnee and Buckner Creek Subbasins- began 1994.  
Upper Arkansas River - began 1996.

## **Water Quality**

Water quality continues to be a major issue in the Kansas River Basin of which the compact region is a part. The Kansas Basin has been targeted for special attention through the Governor's Water Quality Initiative, as discussed at last years annual meeting. More information regarding this issue will be provided in the report of the water quality committee.

## **Nebraska Report**

Commissioner Jess introduced representatives from three Nebraska Natural Resource Districts in the Blue River Basin, who were in attendance: John Turnbull, Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District (UBBNRD), Dave Clabaugh, Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District (LBBNRD), Gregory Craig, Little Blue Natural Resource District (LBNRD). Also introduced was Ken Regier, the Nebraska Citizen Representative, and a member of the Upper Big Blue NRD.

Jess began the Nebraska report by asking the three Nebraska NRD representatives to give a report on their district's activities.

Turnbull (UBBNRD) reported the effect of recent legislation changes which caused his board to rename its Ground Water Control Area a Ground Water Management Area. Turnbull discussed ground water resources in the UBBNRD which covers approximately 3,000 square miles and covers parts of nine counties. The District experienced long term ground water declines from the early 1960's until 1978-1979. During that period, the decline rate averaged of one-half foot per year over the entire District, he said. In 1977, at the request of the UBBNRD board, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) established a regulatory area within the District. The Board's rules and regulations became effective in 1979. Ground water has since recovered to levels observed in 1960. Ground water levels have been fairly level during the last few years, and observation wells reflect fluctuations of one to two feet annually, he said. Much of the recovery is attributed to changes in precipitation, farm practices and farm economics. The Ground Water Management Plan requires 1000-foot well spacing requirements instead of 600 ft. spacing. Each year all water users must also report the number of acres they irrigated. If ground water declines

come close to 1978 levels, the District will require meters on water uses, water use reports, and will implement water allocation. These rules will apply to all agriculture, municipal and industrial uses. Turnbull noted that in his District, agriculture uses 99% of all ground water.

On the quality side, in 1993, the UBBNRD established a district wide Ground Water Quality Management Area with regulations effective January, 1995. This Area was established in an attempt to control nitrate contamination. Nitrate levels ranging from 1-2 parts per million (ppm) to 9 ppm have been recorded. Areas with higher concentration ratings were divided into six to eight townships per area. A three year U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study to determine point and non-point source pollution in area wells is almost complete. The District will select wells for use in long term monitoring.

Concerning regulations for ground water quality, it was said the District restricts fall fertilization practices until November 1 of each year. Application of anhydrous ammonia, dry fertilizers, and liquids are restricted until March 1. The District has not experienced a significant increase in atrazine concentrations. Regulation of pesticides is not a major effort undertaken at present. The District staff works cooperatively with landowners and growers in getting best management practices instituted.

Turning to the Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District (LBBNRD) and the Little Blue Natural Resource District (LBNRD), Clabaugh (LBBNRD) and Craig (LBNRD) gave brief overviews of their District's activities. Written reports were submitted by both NRD's and are contained within the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report, marked as Exhibits L and M respectively.

Jess continued the Nebraska report stating the legislature has delegated responsibility for most ground water related water management activities to the NRD's. Surface water issues continue to be a responsibility of the State agencies.

A state-wide moratorium imposed by the legislature expired at the end of 1996. The moratorium was in effect for the granting of new water rights for surface water uses. Few new applications were filed during the interim. Following termination of the moratorium, most applications were acted upon and approved. Consumptive use applications are no longer granted for applications anywhere in the Republican Basin and the Platte Basin upstream from the Loup River near Columbus.

#### Interstate Litigation

The Nebraska v. Wyoming lawsuit continues to be a large undertaking for Nebraska. A six month hiatus in the litigation gave the parties an opportunity for concerted efforts to negotiate a settlement. Four elements were resolved. The remaining 15 elements were not. The Special Master set a September, 1998 trial date.

#### Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

An effort to resolve problems in the Platte River watershed concerning endangered species and those entities required to get federal permits, licenses and contracts, is ongoing. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to develop a recovery plan for endangered species was signed by each of the participating states and the Interior Secretary. Concentrated efforts to begin the first three-year phase of the recovery plan are expected to begin shortly.

## **Legislation**

Blankenau reported that two bills of significance to water resources were reintroduced in 1997. Legislative Bill 30 (LB30) which modified LB 108, enacted the year before was passed. LB 30 allows NRD's to impose a moratorium on the drilling of new large capacity wells.

A second bill that passed, LB 877, was created to modify existing instream flow provisions which relate to how instream flow applications are evaluated, granted and generally administered by the DWR. The modification will allow instream flow rights to be modified in the future to accommodate additional development within certain classes of use. There are no instream flow applications pending on the Blue River Basin. Current instream flow applications will not affect the Blue River Compact, Blankenau said.

## **Adjudications**

According to Keith Paulson, during 1996, cancellation orders were issued to a group of users in the upper end of the Basin near the Seward area and to another group of users in the Big Indian Creek Basin, in the lower end of the Basin.

Follow-up investigations continued to determine whether applications approved previously had been fully perfected. In some instances, DWR inspectors have found significant changes in the design and construction of dams. A few partial and full cancellations were made in the Basin. No adjudications are planned in 1997.

Paulsen also reported that timely rains were recorded during May through September, 1996. This enabled stateline flows at both stateline measuring sites to exceed the Compact target flows in 1996.

## **Federal Agency Report**

Glenn Engel gave the USGS report which was distributed. A copy of the report is contained within the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report, marked as Exhibit N.

Engel reported that recorder upgrades at the stateline gaging stations were made in 1996. Data collection platforms were installed in October, 1996 and are operating satisfactorily. An Internet address for logging into and viewing the raw data is provided in his written report.

## **Secretary's Report**

Barbara Hasterlo requested that any address changes or additional names of anyone who would like to receive the annual report, be given to her. She thanked everyone for signing the check-in sheet, and noted that extra copies of the 1996 minutes (Twenty-Third Annual Report) were available at the meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Denise Rolfs reported that the FY 1996 audit was completed and showed the Compact in good standing. The auditor gave notification that his firm would no longer be able to provide services for future audits.

The cost of printing the annual report exceeded the budgeted amount, and was subsequently discussed during the Budget Committee's report.

Rolfs distributed copies of the FY 1997 Treasurer's report. The report reflected the following:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Funds Available . . . . .                  | \$ 35,210.75 |
| Total Expenditures . . . . .               | 15,133.33    |
| Balance on hand as of May 22, 1997 . . . . | 20,077.42    |
| Estimated Additional FY97 Expenses . . . . | 3,945.00     |
| Estimated Additional Interest Income . . . | 60.00        |
| Estimated Balance on June 30, 1997 . . . . | \$ 16,192.42 |

Pope questioned the expense of federally-funded gaging stations and wondered what potential changes in Congressional priorities and funding might affect the Blue River Basin. Linda Weiss and Engel, USGS, responded that there are proposed decreases planned, however, none will affect the federally-funded gaging stations located in the Blue River Basin.

(Note: a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was not made nor was a Motion Carried declared.)

**Engineering Committee Report**

Paulsen distributed copies of the Engineering Committee Report. A copy of the report is contained within **Exhibits A through J** and is included in the Twenty-Fourth Annual Report.

This year the Committee did not meet in person but communicated by telephone. He recalled no special duties were required of the Committee during the year.

Paulsen highlighted the report, noting that no unusual changes were indicated. Target flows were met at both Little Blue and Big Blue stateline gages. Equipment changes scheduled at the stateline gages were completed by USGS.

Bob Lytle distributed examples showing how the stateline gage data appears on Internet. Copies of that data are included in **Exhibit K** of the Annual Report.

Jess moved to receive the Engineering Committee Report. Pope seconded the motion. Lukow declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Water Quality Committee Report**

Because Dale Lambley, Chairperson, was unable to attend the meeting, a written report was submitted in his absence. A copy of the report may be found in **Exhibit O**. Pope gave a brief overview of Lambley's report, noting how pleased he was with the cooperative efforts being undertaken.

Turnbull reported that UBBNRD and LBBNRD have been contacted by Tom Franti, Ph.D, Biological Systems Engineering, University of Nebraska, about assisting in a grant program to study pesticide runoff in both Districts. It was said Franti is seeking grants from the EPA, along with other funding sources. His focus of study is in the upper part of the Blue Basin, a similar sized area in the Lower Big Blue Basin in Nebraska, and a portion of the Blue Basin in Kansas.

Pope moved to receive the Water Quality Committee Report. Jess seconded the motion. Lukow declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### Budget Committee

Blankenau distributed copies of the budget report and budget analysis chart. A copy of the report is contained within Exhibit P.

According to Blankenau, the Compact finished the year in good standing. A few items noted in the written report were highlighted. The budgeted amount for publishing the annual report was set at \$ 125. The actual cost incurred was \$ 279. The over run was discussed and it was said selection of a different printer would permit better cost containment. As a result, Blankenau recommended the budgeted amount of \$ 125.00 remain the same for next year.

Finally it was noted that the auditor previously secured for providing the annual Compact audit will no longer be available. As a result, the budgeted amount for auditing was adjusted from \$ 250.00 to \$ 500.00, to reflect the anticipated cost for the new auditing firm.

Blankenau also noted an error on the budget analysis chart, concerning the adopted figures for May, 1997. The amount of **Carry Over from Prior Year** should read \$ 16,197.67 in the adopted column. The **Total Income and Carry Over** column should read \$ 30,577.67. The **Balance End of Year** should read \$ 14,042.67.

The Budget Committee will provide an amended version of the budget analysis, which will be included in the minutes.

Blankenau noted that to date, the funds allocated to the Water Quality Committee have never been used. Lytle commented that the issue of the Water Quality Committee using Compact funds for their activities was addressed at last year's

meeting. Recent communications with Lambley and Denis Blank, NE Dept. of Agriculture, revealed that the Committee did not foresee using these funds.

Pope inquired about needed funds for the stateline gages in 1997. He wondered if the somewhat greater amounts was a one-time expense due to upgrading equipment. Engel confirmed that it was. It was said future budgeted amounts for the annual operation of these gages will be the \$ 9,770.00. Engel said the cost would be equally shared between USGS and the Compact.

Jess moved to adopt the Budget Committee Report. Pope seconded the motion. Lukow declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Committee membership for the upcoming year was assigned as follows:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Budget Committee:      | Don Blankenau, Chairperson<br>Bob Lytle                            |
| Legal Committee:       | Don Blankenau, Chairperson<br>Leland Rolfs                         |
| Engineering Committee: | Keith Paulsen, Chairperson<br>Dale Mahan<br>Ann Bleed<br>Bob Lytle |

Water Quality Committee:            Dale Lambley, Chairperson  
    Ron Fox \*  
    Glen Kirk  
    Denis Blank  
    Pat Rice  
    Mike Linder

\* Ron Fox has retired from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Fox's position on the Water Quality Committee is now vacant. Pope will notify the Compact of his replacement.

The next annual meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 21, 1998, in Lincoln, NE.

There being no further business, Chairman Lukow adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m..



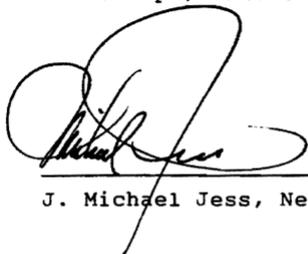
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Clayton Lukow, Compact Chairman



---

David Pope, Kansas Commissioner



---

J. Michael Jess, Nebraska Commissioner

**REPORT OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE  
TO  
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
MAY 31, 1996 - MAY 22, 1997**

The Engineering Committee did not meet during the past year. The Committee was not given any special assignments from the Compact Administration.

The 1996 data were collected in accordance with the agreements with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District (LBBNRD). The data are provided in the following exhibits.

**EXHIBITS**

- A. 1996 USGS daily discharge record, Big Blue River at Barneston, NE # 06882000
- B. 1996 USGS daily discharge record, Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS # 06884025
- C. USGS monthly mean discharges: Big Blue River at Barneston 1970-1996; Little Blue River at Hollenberg 1974-1996
- D. USGS ground water level hydrograph, Gage County, Nebraska
- E. USGS ground water level hydrograph, Jefferson County, Nebraska
- F. LBBNRD Ground water level data
- G. List of wells located in Big Blue River regulatory area
- H. List of wells located in Little Blue River regulatory area
- I. USGS Big Blue River seepage data
- J. USGS Little Blue River seepage data

**REVIEW OF FLOW RECORDS**

During 1996 the mean daily stream flow at both state line gages exceeded the target values established by the compact. Exhibits A and B list both the target values and the mean daily flow at each gage.

**REVIEW OF GROUND WATER LEVEL HYDROGRAPHS**

The ground water level hydrographs for Gage and Jefferson Counties show no definite increasing or decreasing trend.

**REVIEW OF LBBNRD GROUND WATER LEVEL DATA**

The LBBNRD spring water levels were slightly more than a foot lower than they were last year. The fall water levels were one and a half feet higher than the previous fall. The data show no long term increasing or decreasing trend.

**REVIEW OF WELLS IN THE REGULATORY REACHES**

No new irrigation wells were registered within either reach in 1996.

**REVIEW OF SEEPAGE MEASUREMENTS**

Seepage measurements were made on November 5, 6, 1996. These data indicate these stream segments are gaining streams.

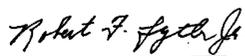
**EQUIPMENT CHANGES AT STATE LINE GAGES**

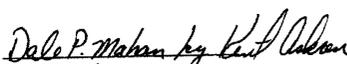
The USGS has installed remote access equipment in accordance with last years agreement. Stage levels at these gages can now be accessed through the USGS computer system by either the Internet or directly through a computer telephone modem. Satellite communication is used to feed stage information from the gage to the USGS computer system.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keith A. Paulsen, Chair  
Nebraska

  
Ann Salomon Bleed  
Nebraska

  
Robert F. Lytle Jr.  
Kansas

  
Dale P. Mahan  
Kansas



Station 06882000 BIG BLUE R AT BARNESTON NEBR

EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT D

MEAN DISCHARGE FROM ADR  
Normal monthly means (All days)

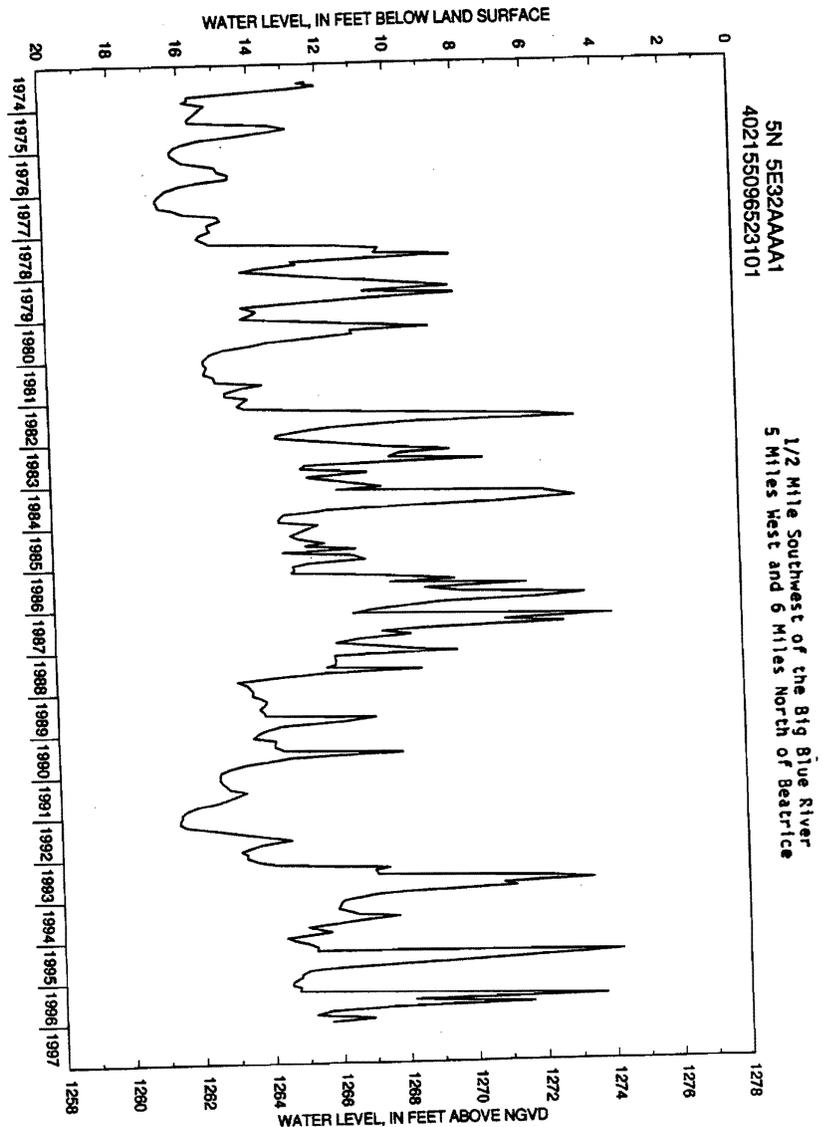
| Year | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   | Jan   | Feb   | March | April | May   | June  | July  | Aug   | Sept  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1970 | 219.1 | 190.7 | 174.3 | 252.1 | 284.2 | 211.6 | 229.1 | 275.6 | 544.7 | 81.3  | 339.4 | 266.2 |
| 1971 | 550.0 | 223.1 | 137.1 | 153.4 | 1595  | 2683  | 326.2 | 2274  | 672.2 | 418.6 | 166.5 | 121.5 |
| 1972 | 106.5 | 220.2 | 137.1 | 115.7 | 129.6 | 146.4 | 181.3 | 1124  | 348.1 | 717.1 | 486.6 | 235.7 |
| 1973 | 148.6 | 458.2 | 305.3 | 1596  | 960.2 | 3035  | 2742  | 1014  | 813.0 | 1082  | 235.0 | 3386  |
| 1974 | 7451  | 1014  | 497.5 | 930.2 | 1181  | 530.3 | 427.6 | 1162  | 623.2 | 130.5 | 248.8 | 121.7 |
| 1975 | 111.4 | 143.1 | 150.3 | 157.2 | 212.0 | 949.6 | 440.3 | 894.5 | 2678  | 627.6 | 231.9 | 160.2 |
| 1976 | 109.7 | 138.8 | 161.0 | 129.1 | 176.8 | 255.8 | 1027  | 433.9 | 235.5 | 238.5 | 88.3  | 66.6  |
| 1977 | 97.6  | 85.7  | 87.4  | 88.4  | 121.7 | 151.0 | 186.8 | 440.2 | 511.4 | 193.5 | 1445  | 2744  |
| 1978 | 376.1 | 464.1 | 211.9 | 135.7 | 148.4 | 4912  | 2394  | 2436  | 1579  | 3263  | 318.9 | 967.0 |
| 1979 | 157.2 | 176.6 | 160.0 | 155.9 | 505.2 | 10560 | 961.8 | 1527  | 1231  | 1407  | 343.9 | 187.2 |
| 1980 | 172.8 | 530.8 | 207.3 | 239.4 | 686.6 | 1444  | 1263  | 305.6 | 1374  | 190.0 | 346.5 | 125.0 |
| 1981 | 247.8 | 120.3 | 132.5 | 129.2 | 151.9 | 148.6 | 165.1 | 389.0 | 149.5 | 319.6 | 649.3 | 615.5 |
| 1982 | 128.5 | 252.2 | 312.4 | 164.2 | 2307  | 1310  | 439.8 | 3765  | 3372  | 2705  | 844.6 | 452.4 |
| 1983 | 457.1 | 236.4 | 220.6 | 504.5 | 2099  | 1218  | 1352  | 1301  | 3802  | 789.9 | 324.0 | 176.7 |
| 1984 | 808.5 | 438.9 | 276.4 | 322.6 | 2876  | 1534  | 5280  | 4646  | 9445  | 1552  | 661.2 | 294.9 |
| 1985 | 369.0 | 259.4 | 546.2 | 338.7 | 693.9 | 506.4 | 339.8 | 1529  | 450.3 | 1306  | 1258  | 1572  |
| 1986 | 1221  | 355.3 | 281.8 | 314.2 | 366.4 | 743.5 | 1560  | 1247  | 789.1 | 7220  | 1896  | 1327  |
| 1987 | 4676  | 811.7 | 721.3 | 434.3 | 417.5 | 7527  | 4449  | 1659  | 3071  | 1193  | 1675  | 1048  |
| 1988 | 353.6 | 466.1 | 413.5 | 335.8 | 457.0 | 401.1 | 407.1 | 443.6 | 239.8 | 480.9 | 199.2 | 134.6 |
| 1989 | 403.8 | 190.6 | 201.5 | 208.5 | 224.4 | 402.9 | 221.6 | 192.2 | 643.6 | 877.5 | 378.7 | 3420  |
| 1990 | 227.5 | 204.4 | 199.3 | 239.2 | 211.5 | 283.8 | 238.7 | 564.3 | 2521  | 1605  | 1563  | 178.1 |
| 1991 | 145.1 | 164.8 | 171.3 | 195.5 | 464.4 | 250.5 | 496.0 | 795.4 | 2298  | 582.5 | 181.3 | 104.9 |
| 1992 | 96.8  | 146.8 | 170.9 | 190.6 | 176.1 | 352.0 | 314.8 | 417.3 | 1022  | 4075  | 1835  | 709.5 |
| 1993 | 418.8 | 562.8 | 520.1 | 246.1 | 1879  | 5914  | 1466  | 2056  | 3567  | 12270 | 1788  | 2503  |
| 1994 | 954.0 | 514.7 | 442.0 | 364.7 | 529.7 | 1232  | 376.9 | 1354  | 1004  | 1400  | 666.9 | 604.8 |
| 1995 | 272.2 | 353.5 | 339.0 | 374.7 | 397.8 | 538.1 | 566.5 | 5207  | 1655  | 975.1 | 742.0 | 287.1 |
| 1996 | 214.6 | 240.6 | 251.5 | 240.8 | 501.7 | 272.2 | 331.2 | 4909  | 2287  | 501.9 | 1034  | 417.8 |

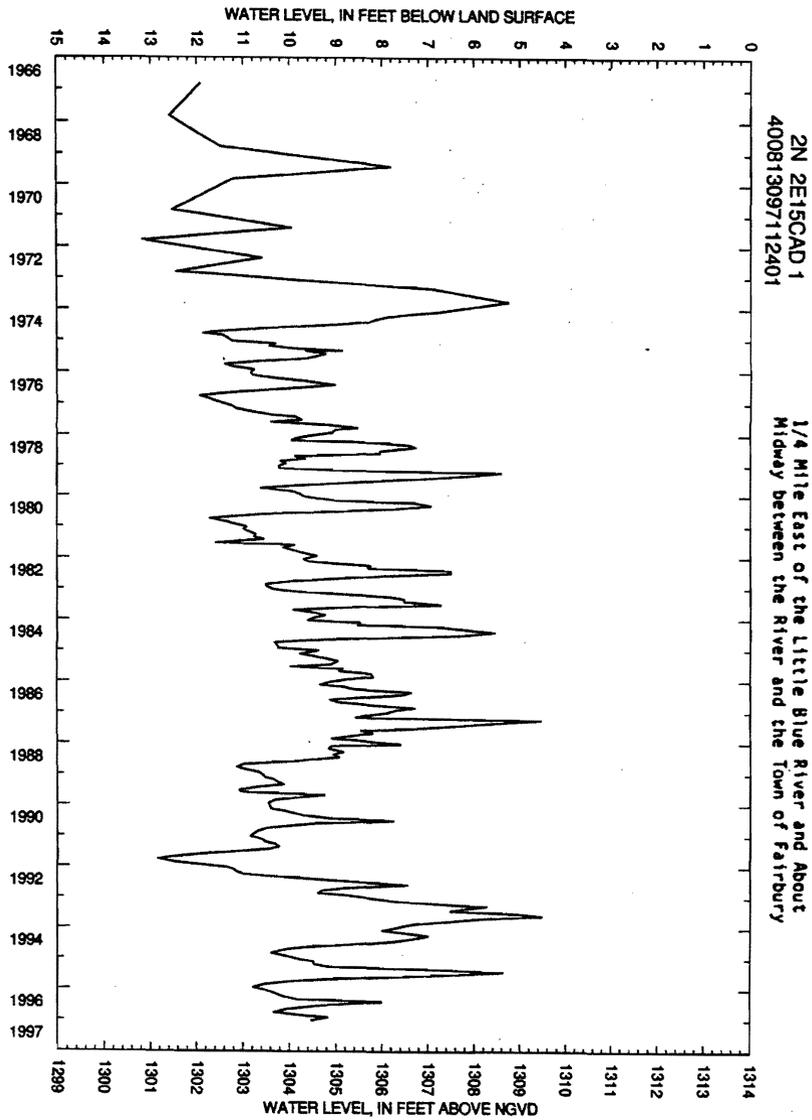
Station 06884025 LITTLE BLUE R AT HOLLENBERG, KS

MEAN DISCHARGE FROM ADR  
Normal monthly means (All days)

| Year | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   | Jan   | Feb   | March | April | May   | June  | July  | Aug   | Sept  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1974 | *     | *     | *     | *     | *     | 328.6 | 346.6 | 451.3 | 368.0 | 167.8 | 224.0 | 99.5  |
| 1975 | 114.3 | 133.9 | 135.3 | 128.7 | 159.6 | 825.6 | 314.9 | 359.4 | 2091  | 1474  | 339.5 | 133.0 |
| 1976 | 106.1 | 147.4 | 141.1 | 120.4 | 176.0 | 215.7 | 838.4 | 285.4 | 166.8 | 279.0 | 238.0 | 117.0 |
| 1977 | 123.5 | 111.1 | 101.8 | 98.5  | 159.0 | 152.2 | 227.8 | 733.6 | 1090  | 317.8 | 1563  | 1320  |
| 1978 | 208.3 | 238.5 | 163.6 | 113.5 | 137.7 | 2635  | 826.4 | 517.9 | 359.2 | 700.7 | 201.2 | 644.3 |
| 1979 | 117.5 | 151.5 | 163.8 | 121.1 | 615.0 | 3693  | 454.6 | 1083  | 465.7 | 497.9 | 274.3 | 130.6 |
| 1980 | 172.4 | 398.0 | 150.3 | 178.0 | 383.8 | 677.9 | 1024  | 219.6 | 485.3 | 142.2 | 132.6 | 49.2  |
| 1981 | 89.7  | 92.5  | 105.2 | 113.1 | 124.2 | 118.1 | 124.9 | 375.9 | 151.4 | 573.5 | 548.1 | 262.6 |
| 1982 | 115.4 | 244.3 | 240.0 | 144.7 | 1009  | 618.6 | 228.3 | 1945  | 908.8 | 2299  | 417.6 | 193.0 |
| 1983 | 255.3 | 150.1 | 160.3 | 206.6 | 556.1 | 389.6 | 388.6 | 858.5 | 1895  | 279.6 | 201.4 | 798.7 |
| 1984 | 1225  | 267.4 | 174.5 | 576.5 | 867.9 | 552.1 | 2040  | 2059  | 4373  | 482.3 | 252.6 | 143.4 |
| 1985 | 231.4 | 170.3 | 239.5 | 169.0 | 442.6 | 239.1 | 232.8 | 942.1 | 475.5 | 320.4 | 2572  | 822.0 |
| 1986 | 613.7 | 251.6 | 234.5 | 226.1 | 216.4 | 271.6 | 1098  | 585.1 | 339.7 | 712.1 | 827.4 | 770.9 |
| 1987 | 2163  | 389.4 | 340.4 | 253.0 | 240.0 | 3205  | 2379  | 1414  | 748.0 | 562.5 | 454.5 | 327.8 |
| 1988 | 181.0 | 206.8 | 209.3 | 213.5 | 315.3 | 219.5 | 230.2 | 189.3 | 165.6 | 237.9 | 94.5  | 117.3 |
| 1989 | 210.6 | 130.3 | 135.5 | 146.2 | 132.0 | 169.0 | 139.7 | 134.0 | 623.3 | 1289  | 356.0 | 854.4 |
| 1990 | 128.0 | 125.3 | 108.4 | 155.5 | 150.0 | 199.7 | 160.2 | 368.9 | 1612  | 294.6 | 771.9 | 113.6 |
| 1991 | 94.6  | 114.6 | 117.5 | 124.4 | 196.3 | 159.8 | 227.6 | 370.2 | 728.5 | 111.2 | 72.5  | 32.0  |
| 1992 | 45.3  | 81.1  | 101.9 | 115.4 | 115.5 | 179.8 | 163.9 | 108.5 | 344.3 | 4746  | 1088  | 725.6 |
| 1993 | 641.5 | 405.4 | 424.1 | 202.9 | 1059  | 3816  | 856.7 | 1102  | 2568  | 9014  | 1290  | 1147  |
| 1994 | 547.1 | 314.7 | 294.0 | 230.5 | 257.5 | 755.7 | 412.5 | 661.3 | 561.8 | 580.6 | 230.7 | 176.6 |
| 1995 | 149.2 | 188.8 | 191.1 | 162.6 | 169.0 | 221.9 | 244.0 | 2302  | 828.3 | 320.4 | 359.5 | 120.3 |
| 1996 | 127.1 | 149.8 | 141.5 | 119.9 | 206.6 | 185.7 | 196.1 | 1572  | 671.4 | 359.8 | 433.7 | 205.7 |

\* Indicates a no-value month





STATIC WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS BIG BLUE COMPACT 1996

| LEGAL | SECTION | TYPE | 05-21-96 | 08-08-96 | 12-04-96 |        |
|-------|---------|------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| 4N-5E | 2       | aaaa | OW       | 90.49    | 92.75    | 91.47  |
| 4N-5E | 2       | cbbb | OW       | 15.73    | 18.05    | 0.00   |
| 4N-5E | 3       | cdbc | IW       | 26.10    |          | 25.03  |
| 4N-5E | 4       | aaaa | OW       | 12.64    | 15.19    | 13.85  |
| 4N-5E | 4       | bbbc | IW       | 18.85    |          | 19.49  |
| 4N-5E | 7       | bbaa | IW       | 83.58    |          | 84.46  |
| 4N-5E | 9       | cbcc | IW       | 72.00    |          | 72.69  |
| 4N-5E | 11      | cccc | OW       | 23.54    | 25.58    | 24.36  |
| 4N-5E | 11      | daca | IW       | 12.94    |          | 15.33  |
| 4N-5E | 12      | bbba | IW       | 23.75    |          | 25.54  |
| 4N-5E | 12      | cccd | OW       | 10.51    | 12.78    | 12.64  |
| 4N-5E | 14      | abbb | IW       | 11.11    |          | 12.41  |
| 4N-5E | 14      | dddd | OW       | 21.49    | 21.36    | 20.57  |
| 4N-5E | 22      | bccc | IW       | 68.30    |          | 75.16  |
| 4N-5E | 25      | aacd | IW       | 19.43    |          | 18.59  |
| 4N-6E | 6       | cbbb | IW       | 91.72    |          | 91.93  |
| 4N-6E | 8       | aabb | IW       | 93.43    |          | 93.64  |
| 4N-6E | 18      | ddcc | OW       | 5.32     | 6.20     | 6.10   |
| 5N-4E | 12      | abba | IW       | 16.01    |          | 17.89  |
| 5N-4E | 13      | badd | IW       | 15.64    |          | 15.16  |
| 5N-4E | 15      | dbbb | IW       | 16.80    |          | 16.06  |
| 5N-4E | 22      | dccc | IW       | 48.60    |          | 48.69  |
| 5N-4E | 23      | babb | IW       | 13.79    |          | 14.17  |
| 5N-4E | 24      | aacd | IW       | 17.94    |          | 17.61  |
| 5N-4E | 25      | ddaa | IW       | 48.29    |          | 48.55  |
| 5N-5E | 7       | cadd | IW       | 59.78    |          | 60.72  |
| 5N-5E | 16      | cbba | IW       | 73.63    |          | 74.21  |
| 5N-5E | 17      | abbb | IW       | 43.21    |          | 43.43  |
| 5N-5E | 17      | cdaa | OW       | 64.92    | 82.00    | 67.19  |
| 5N-5E | 20      | bccd | IW       | 16.11    |          | 18.91  |
| 5N-5E | 21      | dabb | IW       | 51.70    |          | 53.09  |
| 5N-5E | 29      | cbbb | IW       | 12.44    |          | 13.22  |
| 5N-5E | 33      | aadd | IW       | 15.95    |          | 17.51  |
| 5N-5E | 35      | abbb | IW       | 101.74   |          | 102.59 |

OW - OBSERVATION WELL

IW - IRRIGATION WELL

BIG BLUE RIVER BASIN  
WELLS LOCATED IN REGULATORY AREA

| Registration Number | Location   | Completion Date | Depth | Registration Pumping Capacity (GPM) |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| G-69638             | 2N-7E-04DD | 08-24-84        | 99    | 800                                 |
| G-3877M             | 2N-7E-17BB | 10-20-88        | 87    | 500                                 |
| G-50085             | 4N-5E-01BA | 05-26-76        | 130   | 800                                 |
| G-38314             | 4N-5E-02DD | 01-16-73        | 188   | 1,300                               |
| G-72859M            | 4N-5E-02BB | 06-08-80        | 187   | 1,500                               |
| G-72860M            | 4N-5E-02BD | 06-08-90        | 187   | 1,500                               |
| G-56152             | 4N-5E-04BB | 04-14-77        | 91    | 1,000                               |
| G-34172             | 4N-5E-10AC | 05-03-70        | 91    | 750                                 |
| G-36485             | 4N-5E-11BC | 03-28-72        | 82    | 750                                 |
| G-54048             | 4N-5E-12BA | 03-01-76        | 121   | 600                                 |
| G-47820             | 4N-5E-12BB | 11-01-75        | 117   | 1,200                               |
| G-70741             | 4N-5E-12BD | 04-25-88        | 188   | 700                                 |
| G-81769             | 4N-5E-13CD | 04-22-94        | 65    | 250                                 |
| G-54260             | 4N-5E-14AA | 06-01-74        | 70    | 800                                 |
| G-54261             | 4N-5E-14AB | 05-02-70        | 70    | 800                                 |
| G-69619             | 4N-5E-24BA | 08-16-84        | 45    | 500                                 |
| G-54047             | 4N-5E-24BB | 03-01-76        | 84    | 800                                 |
| G-68243             | 5N-5E-20CB | 06-23-82        | 52    | 1,300                               |
| G-64213             | 5N-5E-21DC | 07-28-80        | 99    | 800                                 |
| G-59128             | 5N-5E-29AA | 04-25-77        | 60    | 400                                 |
| G-61085             | 5N-5E-29BC | 04-24-78        | 88    | 800                                 |
| G-61086             | 5N-5E-29CB | 04-23-78        | 80    | 1,000                               |
| G-50086             | 5N-5E-33AC | 05-26-76        | 123   | 800                                 |
| G-59727             | 5N-5E-33CB | 04-19-78        | 91    | 1,200                               |
| G-72465             | 5N-5E-35CC | 04-12-90        | 204   | 800                                 |
| G-72756             | 5N-5E-35DC | 02-20-90        | 274   | 800                                 |
| G-73992             | 5N-5E-30AC | 06-24-91        | 92    | 700                                 |

M = Municipal; not subject to regulation

I = Industrial; not subject to regulation

LITTLE BLUE RIVER BASIN  
WELLS LOCATED IN REGULATORY AREA

| Registration Number | Location   | Completion Date | Depth | Registration Pumping Capacity (GPM) |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| G-7013M             | 1N-3E-04BA | 11-15-86        | 199   | 210                                 |
| G-69689             | 2N-2E-25AB | 12-31-84        | 108   | 500                                 |
| G-44015             | 2N-2E-27DB | 07-15-74        | 136   | 265                                 |
| G-59427             | 2N-2E-26AB | 01-30-78        | 40    | 450                                 |
| G-66380             | 2N-2E-26AC | 07-31-77        | 40    | 175                                 |
| G-66381A            | 2N-2E-26AB | 04-10-81        | 40    | 175                                 |
| G-66381B            | 2N-2E-23DC | 04-10-81        | 42    | 175                                 |
| G-66381C            | 2N-2E-26AB | 04-10-81        | 42    | 175                                 |
| G-66381D            | 2N-2E-23DC | 04-10-81        | 41    | 175                                 |
| G-66381E            | 2N-2E-26AB | 04-10-81        | 38    | 175                                 |
| G-66381F            | 2N-2E-26AB | 04-10-81        | 28    | 175                                 |
| G-58158             | 2N-2E-16AA | 09-15-77        | 28    | 660                                 |
| G-76103M            | 1N-3E-17CA | 09-20-78        | 229   | 150                                 |
| G-76386             | 2N-2E-26DC | 07-12-79        | 40    | 480                                 |
| G-86458             | 2N-2E-27DB | 10-26-94        | 132   | 670                                 |
| G-86459             | 2N-2E-27DB | 10-25-94        | 155   | 550                                 |

M = Municipal; not subject to regulation

## EXHIBIT I

Big Blue River Seepage Investigation  
Current Meter Measurements  
Downstream Order

|   | Nov. 6, 1996<br>(cfs) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Big Blue River 1.5 miles north of DeWitt in the SW1/4NE1/4 of 12-5N-4E                                | 175                   |
| Clatonia Creek 1 mile northeast of DeWitt in the NW1/4NW1/4 of 17-5N-5E                               | 1.70                  |
| Turkey Creek 1.5 miles west of DeWitt in the SE1/4NW1/4 of 15-5N-4E                                   | 26.6                  |
| Turkey Creek 0.5 miles south of DeWitt in the SE1/4NW1/4 of 24-5N-4E                                  | 28.0                  |
| Turkey Creek 1.5 miles southeast of DeWitt in the NW1/4SW1/4 of 29-5N-5E                              | 29.5                  |
| Big Blue River 2.5 miles southeast of DeWitt in the NW1/4NE1/4 of 33-5N-5E                            | 215                   |
| Soap Creek 3.5 miles southeast of DeWitt in the SE1/4SW1/4 of 27-5N-5E                                | .45                   |
| Unnamed tributary to the Big Blue River 1 mile north of Hoag in the NW1/4NE1/4 of 10-4N-5E            | 0                     |
| Snake Creek 2 miles northeast of Hoag in the NW1/4NW1/4 of 1-4N-5E                                    | .09                   |
| Big Blue River 1 mile east of Hoag in the NE1/4NW1/4 of 13-4N-5E                                      | 213                   |
| Cub Creek 2 miles south of Hoag in the SW1/4SW1/4 of 24-4N-5E   | 2.96                  |
| Bottle Creek 1.5 miles northwest of Beatrice in the NW1/4SW1/4 of 30-4N-6E                            | .39                   |
| Unnamed tributary to the Big Blue River 0.5 miles northwest of Beatrice in the SW1/4SW1/4 of 29-4N-6E | .56                   |
| Indian Creek at Beatrice in the SE1/4SE1/4 of 28-4N-6E  | 3.78                  |
| Big Blue River at Beatrice in the SW1/4NW1/4 of 3-3N-6E   | 228                   |

## EXHIBIT J

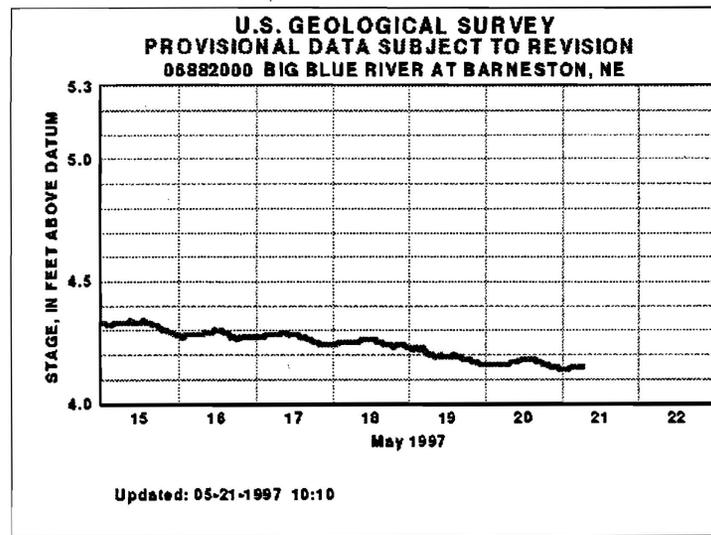
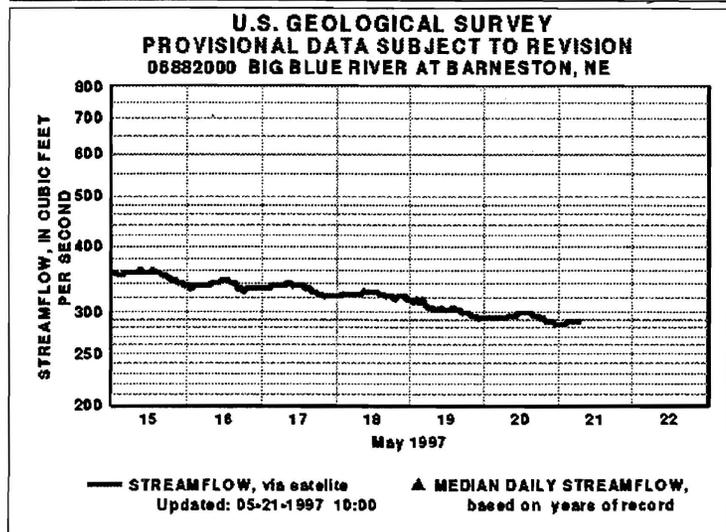
Little Blue River Seepage Investigation  
Current Meter Measurements  
Downstream Order

|  | Nov. 5, 1996<br>(cfs) |
|--|-----------------------|
| Little Blue River 2.7 miles south of Alexandria in SE1/4SE1/4 of 23-3N-1W                | 96.9                  |
| Big Sandy Creek 0.8 miles south of Alexandria in SE1/4SE1/4 of 11-3N-1W                  | 23.1                  |
| Big Sandy Creek 1.2 miles west of Powell in SE1/4SE1/4 of 16-3N-1E                       | 28.4                  |
| Little Blue River 1.2 miles southwest of Powell in SE1/4SE1/4 of 22-3N-1E                | 126                   |
| Little Sandy Creek 2.0 miles east of Powell in NW1/4NE1/4 of 19-3N-2E                    | 1.75                  |
| Whiskey Creek 2.1 miles northwest of Fairbury in SW1/4SE1/4 of 33-3N-2E                  | .46                   |
| Little Blue River 1.3 miles northwest of Fairbury in NW1/4NE1/4 of 9-2N-2E               | 130                   |
| Tributary to Little Blue River 0.8 miles southwest of Fairbury in NE1/4SW1/4 of 22-2N-2E | 0                     |
| Little Blue River 0.8 miles south of Fairbury in NW1/4NE1/4 of 26-2N-2E                  | 133                   |
| Brawner Creek 0.4 miles southeast of Fairbury in SE1/4NE1/4 of 23-2N-2E                  | .07                   |
| Rose Creek 4.0 miles southwest of Endicott in NW1/4NW1/4 of 12-1N-2E                     | 10.8                  |
| Smith Creek 0.2 miles northwest of Endicott in NW1/4SE1/4 of 5-1N-3E                     | .17                   |
| Little Blue River 0.3 miles south of Endicott in SE1/4SW1/4 of 4-1N-3E                   | 146                   |
| Rock Creek 0.3 miles southeast of Endicott in SE1/4SE1/4 of 4-1N-3E                      | .85                   |
| Coon Creek 2.6 miles northwest of Steele City in NW1/4NE1/4 of 15-1N-3E                  | .46                   |
| Little Blue River 0.5 miles south of Steele City in NW1/4NW1/4 of 30-1N-4E               | 161                   |
| Little Blue River 0.6 miles west of Hollenberg in NE1/4SW1/4 of 8-15N-4E                 | 161                   |

**USGS PROVISIONAL DATA SUBJECT TO REVISION**  
**06882000-- BIG BLUE RIVER AT BARNESTON, NE**

| Latest Conditions |       |            |            |
|-------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Date              | Time  | Flow (cfs) | Stage (ft) |
| 05/21             | 07:00 | 288        | 4.2        |

[View table of flood thresholds](#)



- [Download provisional data](#)
- [Return to Current Streamflow Conditions table](#)

| Flood Thresholds |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Flood Stage (ft) | Flow at Flood Stage (cfs) |
| 20.0             | 14,800                    |

**For further information contact:**

**SURFACE WATER CONTACT**  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 Rm 406 Federal Building  
 100 Centennial Mall North  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  
 Telephone: (402) 437-5082

E-mail address: [swinfo@ne20dnelnc.cr.usgs.gov](mailto:swinfo@ne20dnelnc.cr.usgs.gov)

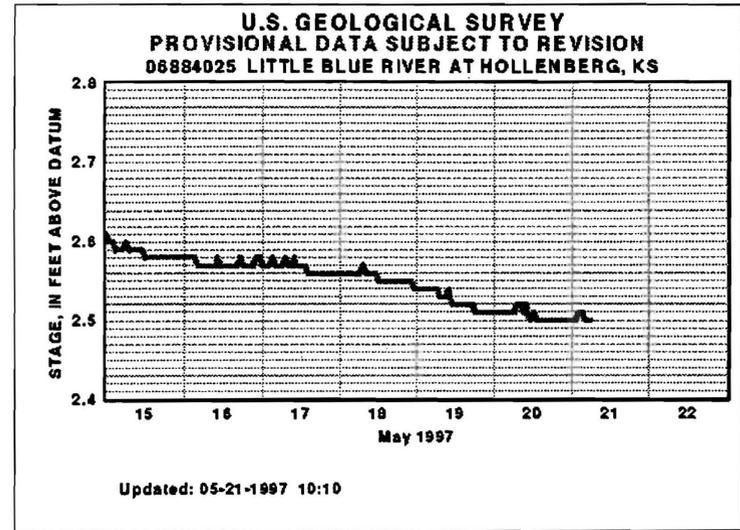
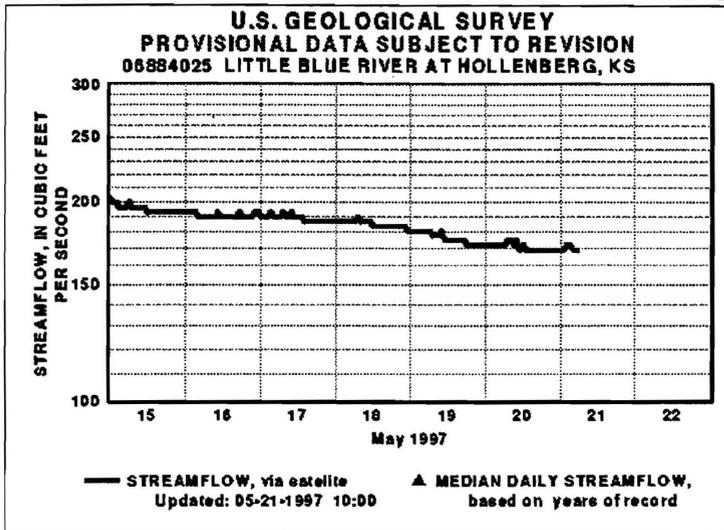


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**USGS PROVISIONAL DATA SUBJECT TO REVISION**  
**06884025- LITTLE BLUE RIVER AT HOLLENBERG, KS**

| Latest Conditions |       |            |            |
|-------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Date              | Time  | Flow (cfs) | Stage (ft) |
| 05/21             | 06:00 | 169        | 2.5        |

[View table of flood thresholds](#)



- [Download provisional data](#)
- [Return to Current Streamflow Conditions table](#)

| Flood Thresholds |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Flood Stage (ft) | Flow at Flood Stage (cfs) |
| 15.0             | 14,000                    |

**For further information contact:**

**SURFACE WATER CONTACT**  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 Rm 406 Federal Building  
 100 Centennial Mall North  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  
 Telephone: (402) 437-5082

E-mail address: [swinfo@ne20dne1nc.cr.usgs.gov](mailto:swinfo@ne20dne1nc.cr.usgs.gov)



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## ACTIVITIES IN LOWER BIG BLUE NRD

After several years of studies, the entire Lower Big Blue NRD was declared a Groundwater Management Area on February 3, 1997, to deal with non-point source contamination of groundwater. The NRD is using a three phase approach that is based on levels of contaminants in the groundwater, to deal with groundwater quality problems. Preventing and reducing nitrate-nitrogen levels is the primary focus. Well permits are needed from the NRD prior to construction of any well that will pump over 50 gpm. The Phase I area relies on educational and voluntary efforts to prevent and reduce possible contamination. Phase II and III areas have mandatory requirements of landowners for educational training, soil and water sampling, and reporting of best management practices.

The district currently has a 60 square mile under the Phase II requirements. Over one hundred operators have been certified as required and will be reporting uses of best management practices next year. In the Phase II area, the application of commercial fertilizer is prohibited until after November 1st.

Construction of two more structures in the Swan Creek watershed will begin this year. This will leave just one more dam to complete the seventeen planned structures in this 160,000 acre watershed. This flood control project was begun 1983.

Following an EPA Clean Lakes study, an application from the Nebraska Environmental Trust was approved for Big Indian Lake in April of 1997. The Trust provides money from the state lottery for environmental projects. The \$32,000 grant money will be used to correct shoreline erosion problems identified in the Clean Lakes Study.

120,000 acres in the Lower Turkey Creek has been approved as one of twenty-five priority areas in the state for EQIP. Emphasis in this project area will be on erosion control, flood prevention and increased efficiency in nutrient and pesticide usage to protect surface and groundwater.

Sicity Creek is a 19,000 acre watershed in Gage county that has been targeted for conservation practices using whole farm planning. Currently 10 plans are being developed.

Horseshoe Creek consists of 67,000 acres--15,000 acres in Nebraska and the rest in Kansas. It has been submitted for an EQIP project.

MAY 1997

## REPORT TO THE LITTLE BLUE RIVER BASIN COMPACT COMMISSION

Activities of the Little Blue NRD continue to have an impact on the water quality and quantity issues in the Little Blue River Basin.

In October, 1996, a Ground Water Management Area was declared in the entire Little Blue NRD and encompasses 1.5 million acres. The focus of the program is preventive in nature and includes such activities as monitoring of ground water quality and quantity, education of rural and urban constituents concerning water issues, emphasis on demonstration and implementation of best management practices and new technology. The district has expanded its monitoring networks and at present is studying two areas of the district for boundary delineation for a higher level of water management based on the current nitrate levels.

The District continues to develop a rural water project south of Fairbury. The project is somewhat unique because it crosses the state line and will serve the domestic needs of residents in Kansas and Nebraska. Fairbury will be the source of treated water. Currently we have 98 users signed up, 52 from Nebraska and 46 from Kansas. Easements have been acquired, engineering nearly completed, permits are underway, and we are awaiting funding approval from the Federal Government. We expect a letter of approval in July at which time bids will be let for fall construction.

Because of NRCS's workload and Federal cuts in the watershed planning staff, the District hired a part-time technician to work in the State NRCS Office to facilitate the development of the Little Sandy Creek Watershed in Jefferson, Fillmore, Saline and Thayer Counties. This watershed is one of the most erosive and critical areas of our district. The technician has been conducting the hydraulic analysis of the basin and will begin site evaluations and an economic analysis for several potential watershed dams. Her efforts are hoped to keep the watershed on track for construction in the next several years. Incidentally, the district will be cooperating with the University and Dept. of Ag. in stream sampling from a portion of this watershed beginning in June.

Conservation practice installation, construction of small farm dams, decommissioning of old wells, cost assistance for irrigation management practices and chemigation inspections continue to be a big part of the NRD's workload; all aimed at protecting and preserving the resources of the basin.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT  
U.S. Geological Survey - 1996 Water Year  
May 22, 1997

KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER  
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION  
May 22, 1997

Water Quality Committee

REPORT

Those who were in attendance at the May 18, 1995 meeting of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration will recall that the Water Quality Committee set forth two (2) key tasks or objectives, the completion of which were necessary to providing a foundation for future water quality protection efforts in the Big Blue River Basin. These objectives were:

- 1) the design, funding and conduct of a baseline farm practices survey designed to determine the farm management, tillage and chemical use practices presently utilized by corn and grain sorghum producers in the basin; and,
- 2) the funding and initiation of a basin wide water quality monitoring system.

The Water Quality Committee is pleased to report that both efforts are now in place.

**Farm Practices Survey:** Data obtained from the basin wide survey is to be used to guide future on-farm water quality protection educational, BMP research and incentive programs in the Big Blue River Basin. Jamie Green of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Dale Lambly of the Kansas Department of Agriculture have served to co-chair and coordinate efforts of the Big Blue River Basin Farm Practices Survey working group. Governmental working group participants included representatives from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL), Kansas State University (KSU), National Agricultural Statistics Service - Nebraska (NASS-NE), National Agricultural Statistics Service - Kansas (NASS-KS), Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region VII (EPA), the Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District, the Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District and the Little Blue Natural Resource District. Private sector participants included representatives of the Kansas and Nebraska corn growers and grain sorghum producers associations.

The survey working group held a final work session in Beatrice, Nebraska on July 17, 1996 for the purpose of editing the draft survey questionnaire document prior to printing and to review field procedures to be used during the fall data collection period. Data collection took place during November and December, 1996. Information was collected through personal on-farm visits with growers. The survey was conducted such that four (4) individual data summaries will be provided, one (1) for each participating Nebraska NRD plus one (1) for the Kansas lower basin area. The data collected is being processed by NASS and should be available for distribution by early June, 1997.

The Water Quality Committee would like to express its appreciation for work done by the participants of the survey work group. EPA-Region VII, NASS and cooperating farmers in the basin also deserve some special recognition. EPA-Region VII provided significant funding support for the effort. NASS Headquarters volunteered to print and supply the blank questionnaire forms used in the survey and is also assisting by doing a portion the computerized data analysis. NASS-KS has reported that farmers contacted appeared to have a greater interest and be more willing to participate in this survey than has been the case in many of the more traditional agricultural statistics data collections.

The U.S. Geological Survey is presently operating two streamflow gaging stations for the Compact Administration: The Big Blue River at Barneston, NE, and Little Blue River near Hollenberg, KS. Daily discharge records were computed at the two sites. Dataloggers were upgraded to real-time data collection platforms in October 1996 at the request of the Compact Administration and are being maintained for transmission of gage heights. The two sites were also added to the Nebraska District's Homepage on the Internet for easy access of the previous seven days. The Internet address of the streamflow is:

[http://www-ne.cr.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen\\_tbl\\_pg](http://www-ne.cr.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen_tbl_pg)

Low-flow measurements or inspections of zero flow were made at sites in the Big Blue River and Little Blue River basins in November 1996. Flows were less than average for November in both basins--Big Blue River at Beatrice (Ave.=254 cfs, 1996 meas.=228 cfs), Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS (Ave.=203 cfs, 1996 meas.=161 cfs).

The average daily discharge of the Big Blue River at Barneston for the 1996 water year was 937 cfs, as compared to the average discharge for the 1995 water year of 983 cfs and compared to the average discharge for the period of record (1933-95) of 865 cfs. The minimum daily discharge during water year 1996 was 125 cfs on February 3, 1996, during ice effect. Daily flows were not less than the compact flow schedule for any day, May through September. The minimum flow during these months was 244 cfs on September 15.

The average daily discharge of the Little Blue River near Hollenberg, KS for water year 1996 was 366 cfs, as compared to the average discharge for the 1995 water year of 441 cfs and compared to the average discharge for the period of record (1975-95) of 570 cfs. The minimum daily discharge during water year 1996 was 82 cfs on January 8, 1996, during ice effect. Daily flows were not less than the compact flow schedule for any day, May through September. The minimum flow during these months was 108 cfs on September 13.

The daily records for the two gaging stations, the hydrographs of the two ground-water observation wells in Gage and Jefferson Counties, Nebr., and a listing of the low-flow measurements were provided to the Compact's Engineering Committee. Current stage-discharge rating tables for the two stream gages and tables of monthly mean flows for each year for the gaging stations since 1970 were also provided.

The estimate of the Compact Administrations's share of the cost to operate the two streamflow gaging stations for the period July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999 and the cost for doing another low-flow measurement run during 1998 were given to the Budget Committee.

**Basin WQ Monitoring:** A meeting of Water Quality Committee members or their designees was held with representatives of CIBA Crop Protection on August 20, 1996 in Topeka. Specific items discussed included:

- 1) the financial or other assistance which CIBA (the manufacturer of atrazine herbicide) might be willing to provide in establishing a basin wide water quality monitoring program;
- 2) development of Best Management Practices cost-benefits or economics information necessary to support farmers in determining their on-farm costs and options.

Agency, grower association and pesticide industry representatives came together again in Topeka on September 10, 1996 at the invitation of Dale Lambley. After discussions, work groups were formed as outlined below.

**Basin Water Quality Monitoring Design Group:**

**Members:** Steve Walker, chair (NE-DEQ), Dennis Tierney (CIBA), Phil Barnes (KSU), Dan Devlin (KSU), Bob Angelo (KDHE), Tom Franti (UNL) and Jere White (KCGA & KGSPA)

**Task:** development of proposed design for a Blue River Basin water quality monitoring program, including defining appropriate sample site locations.

**GIS Land Use Mapping Support:**

**Members:** Cathy Tucker-Vogel (Kansas Water Office); Tom Franti (UNL) and Dale Lambley (KDA) assisting.

**Task:** to provide support to the WQ Design Group by collecting available data and preparing GIS land use coverages of the Big Blue River Basin. Development to include mapping layers of row crop intensity and precipitation levels.

As a consequence of activities of the WQ Design Group, a basin wide water quality monitoring program has been put into place. The program is utilizing a system of automatic and grab sampling. Analysis is by GC/MS and immunoassay techniques. Roy Spalding and associates (UNL) are conducting analysis of check samples. Actual sample collection began the second week of April, 1997. Special recognition needs to be given to NDEQ and KSU for work being done by their staffs in the sampling effort. Special recognition is also due CIBA who provided automatic samplers and funding support.

**Economics Studies:** During the September 10, 1996 meeting, the group also established a BMP & Prevention Program Economics Group:

**Members:** Jere White, chair (KCGA & KGSPA), Jack Moors (NCGA), Rex Martin (CIBA), Roger Selley (UNL), Jamie Green (NDA), Rex Martin (CIBA), Tom Tunnell (KFCA) and Dan Devlin (KSU).

**Task:** To assess adequacy of our current capacity to answer basic prevention program economics questions including a) adequacy of real farm economic impacts data, b) cost/benefits of specific BMPs, and 3) on site and off site cost/benefits of the prevention program. The bottom line is: Do we have the economic information we need to assist producers in making choices and to answer water users questions? The committee will assess, then provide recommendations and guidance relative to present capacity and needs. Work has commenced in this area.

The Water Quality Committee would like to end this report by expressing their appreciation to the many agencies, associations and individuals who are assisting the Big Blue River Basin water quality protection effort. Their initiative, knowledge and willingness to work together has made the Committee's work easy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Lambley, Chair  
Water Quality Committee

EXHIBIT P

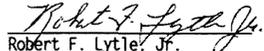
REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE TO KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE COMPACT  
ADMINISTRATION 1996-1997

The Budget Committee discussed the budget analysis several times before finalizing the attached table. In accordance with tradition, the Compact treasurer was consulted as well. In general, the budget is without serious problems with an estimated balance of \$16,143.67 for the end of the 1997 fiscal year. Projected balances for FY 98 and FY 99 indicate a continuing decline. It should be noted, however, that if the Water Quality Committee fails to spend the funds budgeted, the decline will be less.

There are several items in the budget which should be noted. First, the expense associated with publishing the annual report was \$279.19, which is over twice the budgeted amount. Unanticipated problems arose with the regular printer which required the secretary to secure the services of a different print shop at a much higher cost. Since the printing of the annual report, the services of another printer have been secured for next year's annual budget. It is expected that printing costs next year will not exceed \$125.00. Second, the annual audit was done for \$350.00 this year. Unfortunately, the auditor who handled this matter will not provide an audit in future years. Accordingly, the Committee recommends increasing the amount budgeted for the annual audit to \$500.00 in FY 98 in anticipation of higher auditing costs. Finally, the Budget Committee recommends the annual assessment for both states remain at \$7,000.00.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Don Blankenau  
Chairman

  
Robert F. Lytle, Jr.

DB:RFL:jh

BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION BUDGET ANALYSIS

|                                    | 96<br>Actual       | FY97                |                        | FY98                |                    | FY99<br>Proposed   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                    |                    | Adopted<br>May 1996 | Estimated<br>(To Date) | Adopted<br>May 1996 | Proposed           |                    |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                |                    |                     |                        |                     |                    |                    |
| Operations                         |                    |                     |                        |                     |                    |                    |
| Stalene Gages                      | \$8,650.00         | \$14,450.00         | \$14,450.00            | \$9,770.00          | \$9,770.00         | \$10,210.00        |
| Observation Wells                  | \$1,140.00         | \$1,140.00          | \$1,140.00             | \$1,140.00          | \$1,140.00         | \$1,140.00         |
| Low-Flow Measurements              | \$1,030.00         | \$1,060.00          | \$1,060.00             | \$1,100.00          | \$1,100.00         | \$1,150.00         |
| Water Quality Committee            | \$0.00             | \$2,000.00          | \$0.00                 | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00         | \$2,000.00         |
| Fidelity Bond                      | \$100.00           | \$100.00            | \$100.00               | \$100.00            | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| Secretary Honorarium               | \$750.00           | \$750.00            | \$750.00               | \$750.00            | \$750.00           | \$750.00           |
| Treasurer Honorarium               | \$650.00           | \$650.00            | \$650.00               | \$650.00            | \$650.00           | \$650.00           |
| Staff Travel Expenses              | \$80.00            | \$200.00            | \$200.00               | \$200.00            | \$200.00           | \$200.00           |
| Annual Report                      | \$127.00           | \$125.00            | \$279.19               | \$125.00            | \$125.00           | \$125.00           |
| Annual Audit                       | \$350.00           | \$350.00            | \$350.00               | \$350.00            | \$500.00           | \$500.00           |
| Postage and Office Supplies        | \$105.00           | \$75.00             | \$94.14                | \$75.00             | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| Miscellaneous Expenses             | \$0.00             | \$100.00            | \$0.00                 | \$100.00            | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>              | <b>\$12,982.00</b> | <b>\$21,000.00</b>  | <b>\$19,073.33</b>     | <b>\$16,360.00</b>  | <b>\$16,535.00</b> | <b>\$17,025.00</b> |
| <b>INCOME AND CARRY OVER</b>       |                    |                     |                        |                     |                    |                    |
| Assessments (Both States)          | \$14,000.00        | \$14,000.00         | \$14,000.00            | \$14,000.00         | \$14,000.00        | \$14,000.00        |
| Interest Earned                    | \$380.00           | \$400.00            | \$434.00               | \$400.00            | \$380.00           | \$380.00           |
| Carry Over from Prior Year         | \$19,439.00        | \$20,757.64         | \$20,837.00            | \$14,157.64         | \$16,197.67        | \$14,042.67        |
| <b>Total Income and Carry Over</b> | <b>\$33,819.00</b> | <b>\$35,157.64</b>  | <b>\$35,271.00</b>     | <b>\$28,557.64</b>  | <b>\$30,577.67</b> | <b>\$28,422.67</b> |
| <b>Balance End of Year</b>         | <b>\$20,837.00</b> | <b>\$14,157.64</b>  | <b>\$16,197.67</b>     | <b>\$12,197.67</b>  | <b>\$14,042.67</b> | <b>\$11,397.67</b> |