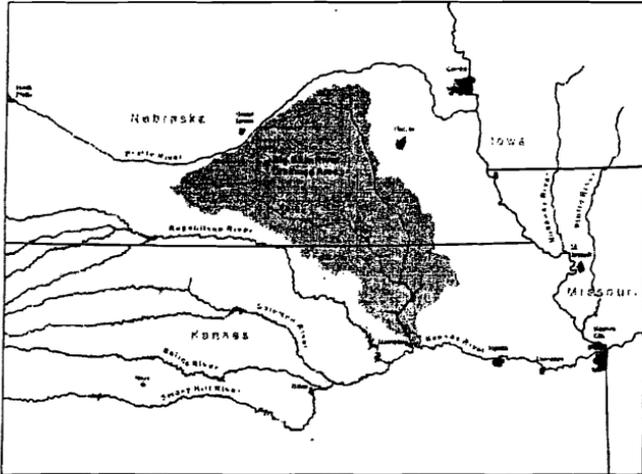


KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL 2008

Manhattan, Kansas

May 28, 2008

***KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION***

July 15, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States

The Honorable Mark Parkinson
Governor of Kansas

The Honorable Dave Heineman
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 Thirty-Fifth Annual Report. The report covers the activities of the Administration of the compact for the Fiscal Year 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary R. Mitchell
Compact Chairman

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April 10, 2008

Gary Mitchell, Chairman
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
325 2600 Avenue
Solomon, KS 67480

Brian Dunningan, Nebraska Commissioner
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
Nebraska Dept of Water Resources
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68509

Kenneth Reiger, Nebraska Advisor
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
215 Donegal
Aurora, NE 68818

Sharon Schwartz, Kansas Advisor
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
2051 20th Road
Washington, KS 66968

Dear Compact Members:

Kansas will be hosting this year's annual meeting of the Big Blue River Compact Administration on May 28, 2008, beginning at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the Farm Bureau Building, 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, Kansas.

A tentative meeting agenda has been included with this notice. Following the meeting a lunch gathering is planned at a nearby restaurant. The Farm Bureau has asked that we provide them a list of those who are planning to attend the meeting so Security can be informed and guest passes issued. Please let Bob Lytle of my staff know if you plan to attend by May 21, 2008. His phone number is 785-296-6086, and e-mail address is bllytle@kda.state.ks.us

As before, if there is anyone who did not receive a copy of this letter who you feel should be aware of the meeting, please inform them. A second reminder letter concerning this year's annual meeting will be forth coming in early May. See you at this year's meeting.

Sincerely,



David W. Barfield, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Kansas Commissioner

pc: Jennifer Schellpeper, Lee Rolfs, Ann Diers, Keith Paulsen, Katie Tietsort, Dale Lambley, Tom Stiles, Fred Rogge, Tom Schremp, Pat Rice, Walt Aucott, Phil Soenksen, John Turnbull, Mike Onnen, Dave Clabaugh, Annette Kovar, Rich Reiman, Dan Howell, Paul Graves, Bob Lytle

**RESOLUTION OF THE
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
HONORING
Mr. DAVID L. POPE**

WHEREAS, David L. Pope of Topeka, Kansas, has resigned his position as Kansas Commissioner of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration (Compact Administration) after having served faithfully in that position for over 24 years.

WHEREAS, as the Kansas Commissioner to the Compact Administration, previously as the Kansas representative to its Engineering Committee, and the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, David has diligently represented the Compact interests of the State of Kansas and residents of the Big Blue River basin in Kansas;

WHEREAS, while diligently representing the State of Kansas and its constituents, David has continually reached out to the State of Nebraska to compile the most accurate accounting possible of the waters of the Big Blue River basin and to identify ways in which the states could work together for the mutual benefits of its citizens;

WHEREAS, David's positive attitude, friendly personality, and congenial temperament have been an asset to the Compact Administration and the State of Kansas;

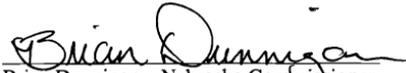
NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that the Compact Administration does hereby express its sincerest gratitude and appreciation to David L. Pope for his dedicated service in his position of Kansas Commissioner.

Be it further resolved that the Compact Administration honor Mr. Pope's service by including this resolution and appropriate dedicatory remarks in Compact Administration's annual report for Fiscal Year 2007 and hereby instructs the Kansas Commissioner to send copies of this resolution to the Pope family and the Governor of the State of Kansas.

Entered this 28th day of May, 2008, at the annual meeting of Compact Administration held in Manhattan, Kansas.



Gary Mitchell, Compact Chairman



Brian Dunnigan, Nebraska Commissioner



David Barfield, Kansas Commissioner

**KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
35th ANNUAL MEETING**

May 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Kansas Farm Bureau Building
2627 KFB Plaza
Manhattan, KS

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and Announcements
3. Minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Nebraska Report
6. Kansas Report
7. Federal Agencies Reports
8. Secretaries Report - Discussion of New Secretary / Minutes and Annual Reports
9. Treasurer/Budget Report
10. Committee Reports
 - a. Legal - Proposed Actions One and Two
 - b. Engineering
 - c. Budget
 - d. Water Quality
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Adjourn

**MINUTES OF THE 35TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**

Call to Order

The thirty fifth annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration was held on May 28, 2008 at the offices of the Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan, Kansas. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Gary Mitchell, Compact Chairman. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Farm Bureau for hosting the meeting, and noted changes in the Compact Administration, namely the Chief Engineer for the Kansas Division of Water Resources and the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Introductions

David Barfield introduced himself as the new Kansas Compact Commissioner, replacing David Pope as the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Division of Water Resources. Mr. Pope is now the Director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. Brian Dunnigan introduced himself as the Nebraska Compact Commissioner, replacing Ann Bleed in March 2008, as the Acting Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. It was suggested that all those attending introduce themselves.

Those in attendance were:

Gary Mitchell	Compact Chairman and Federal Representative
Sharon Schwartz	Kansas Compact Citizen Advisor; State of Kansas Representative
David Barfield	Kansas Compact Commissioner; Chief Engineer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Ken Regier	Nebraska Compact Citizen Advisor
Brian Dunnigan	Nebraska Compact Commissioner; Acting Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Bob Lytle	Compact Budget and Engineering Committees, Acting Compact Secretary; Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Katie Tietsort	Compact Engineering Committee; Water Commissioner Topeka Field Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Jennifer Schellpeper	Compact Treasurer; Compact Budget and Engineering Committees; Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Keith Paulsen	Compact Engineering Committee; Lincoln Field Office, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Dale Lambley	Compact Water Quality Committee; Kansas Department of Agriculture

Lindsey Douglas	Special Assistant to the Secretary; Kansas Department of Agriculture
Jean Angell	Compact Legal Committee; Legal Counsel, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Steve Gaul	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Phil Soenksen	United States Geological Survey
Rod DeBuhr	Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District
Harold Stokebrand	Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District
Scott Sobotka	Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District
Daryl Anderson	Little Blue Natural Resource District
Kent Weatherby	Kansas River Water Assurance District No.1
Leslie Kaufman	Kansas Cooperative Council

Approval of the Minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting

The minutes were approved by the Compact Commission. Acting Secretary, Bob Lytle, lead a discussion concerning the current method of approving the minutes and the timing of publishing the annual reports. Until now, the minutes and reports had been approved and published prior to the next annual meeting. It was agreed to change this so that the minutes would be reviewed a few months after each annual meeting and then approved at the next annual meeting, with the printed report being distributed shortly after the meeting. (This approach was formally approved during the Secretary’s Report)

Nebraska Report

Brian Dunnigan began the Nebraska report by saying the stream flows in the Big and Little Blue River Basins were much improved during the 2007 water year as compared to the past several years. Commissioner Dunnigan explained that by Nebraska law, basins that are not in the integrated management process need to be evaluated to determine whether they are fully appropriated. In January 2008, the Niobrara Basin, located along the state’s northern boundary, was determined to be mostly fully appropriated. One reach determined to be fully appropriated is between Mirage Flats diversion dam, 60 miles from the Wyoming border, and the Spencer Hydropower Plant, downstream 200 miles.

Two legislative bills were noted as becoming law the past session. LB 727 changed the time allowed to request a hearing regarding water right decisions from fifteen to thirty days. LB 798 cleared up questions about intermittent stream designations and irrigation tail water exemptions.

Keith Paulsen continued the Nebraska report and handed out a Water Administration Report. (See Exhibit A) Mr. Paulsen elaborated on the hydrologic conditions in the basin and water right administration. 2007 was the best year in the last eight years, with no administration needed to meet the target flows for both the Big and Little Blue Rivers. During the months of May and June the basins received timely rains, but July became dryer with flows falling very near to the

targets on July 28th. However, by August 2, more timely rainfall was received and flows were near 14,000 cubic feet per second.

Natural Resource District Reports

Rod Debuhr handed out the Upper Big Blue NRD Report. (See Exhibit B). Mr. Debuhr summarized the report, and highlighted the number of new wells drilled and replaced in the district. Also highlighted was the development of a computer model for the Blue Basin used to determine fully appropriated areas. In response to questions by David Barfield, it was explained that the modeler is Jay Bitner and it is a MODFLOW model with the results and a report expected by December 2008. In response to Representative Schwartz, the results will be shared with Kansas.

Daryl Anderson distributed the Little Blue NRD Report. (See Exhibit C) Mr. Anderson highlighted the majority of the report. He noted that in the Little Sandy Watershed, two dams that were scheduled to have construction begin this summer were delayed by the Corps of Engineers by them not granting 404 permits for their construction. Mr. Barfield wondered what was at issue. The Corps was delaying the permits because of wetland concerns.

Scott Sobotka of the Lower Big Blue NRD also had a written report which was distributed to those in attendance. (See Exhibit D) Mr. Sobotka summarized much of the report, including flow augmentation efforts, watershed improvement projects, and the Lower Turkey Creek Project. Seven flood control structures are planned, with the first site ready for construction to begin, a second approved and land rights being negotiated and a third has received DNR approval and land right issues to follow. Commissioner Barfield asked about funding of the project. Scott identified the project as being a Resource Development Funded Project, two thirds State funded and one- third locally funded.

Steve Gaul, Nebraska DNR, gave a brief update on the Stream flow Augmentation Study in Nebraska. He explained that the study seeks to determine how much storage is needed to augment streamflows during shortages, and prevent water right administration. It further attempts to evaluate the economics of the practice by determining the overall value of allowing water users to continue to divert and not be shut off in order to meet state line flows, as compared to the cost of using existing storage and building new storage to release the augmentation water. The final economic study results are not complete, and Mr. Gaul was not sure when they would be. It was pointed out that legal issues would have to be resolved if this is to become a recognized practice, especially in terms of who would hold the water rights for the augmentation. etc.

Kansas Report

David Barfield began the Kansas Report. He stated his intention to provide a Resolution honoring David Pope for his service to the Compact Administration. It was noted that Dale Lambley was retiring June 16 from the Kansas Department of Agriculture after 36 years. Dale had been the chairperson for the Water Quality Committee since it was formed, and we will ironically celebrate his efforts next year after he is gone. Also retiring that day is Lee Rolfs, legal council for 30 plus years and a member of the Compact Legal Committee.

Climatically speaking, Kansas, much like Nebraska, has had a fortunate 2008 as compared to 2007, when severe events ranging from damaging storms like that suffered by the City of Greensburg, to severe flooding in SE Kansas occurred. Most of the state has had good rainfall, except the western third of the state still remains in some drought with the SW corner of the state still in a severe drought condition.

Legislation and Litigation

Mr. Barfield mentioned it was his first legislative session as Chief Engineer. The session was dominated by a controversial issue surrounding the expansion of a coal fire power plant in SW Kansas. The expansion was initially not allowed when the Department of Health and Environment rejected permitting it. Then during the legislative session three separate bills were drafted to allow the plant, all of which were vetoed by Governor Sebelius. In other legislative activity, SB 89 was passed which outlines how any monies that might be received from the Republican River Compact dispute would be allocated. HB 2860 provides for a two year interim study on municipalities and rural water districts in the Kansas River Valley and their potential efforts to take water rights from irrigators via eminent domain. One piece of legislation that received a lot of attention that did not pass was a bill to revamp the process for how the Chief Engineer can establish Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA). They are a management tool currently established by hearings, and result in the closure of areas that are determined to be fully appropriated.

The Kansas v Colorado litigation is entering its final stages. The Special Master has issued his fifth and final decree to the Supreme Court summarizing the 20 year case, the damages awarded and the adoption of the model and accounting procedures and compliance phases. On the Republican River Compact, of which there has been quite a bit of media attention, the first time period to test the compliance with the settlement agreement occurred at the last annual meeting. According to the Compact accounting procedures, Nebraska is not in compliance for water year 2005-2006. Kansas put in writing what needs to be done to come into compliance but the Compact Administration was unable, thru a dispute resolution process, to do so. At this point, non-binding arbitration is the next step. Finally, the Kickapoo Indian Tribe in Kansas has sued the Plum Creek Watershed District for failure to construct a reservoir and water supply for them. This could result in DWR having to determine and quantify the tribes' water rights, which could be a big undertaking.

Katie Tietsort continued the Kansas Report by providing an update of climate conditions and water rights administration in Kansas. Temperatures were below average and precipitation was

above average within the Big and Little Blue River Basins in 2007. No administration of minimum desirable streamflows (MDS) was required as a result. These favorable conditions allowed water right holders junior to MDS in the Republican River Basin to divert water from the river and alluvium for the first time since May 2002. Orders ending MDS administration were issued beginning on June 26 2007. Administration of water rights was required however in the Neosho Basin and on Chapman Creek, a tributary to the Smoky Hill River near Junction City. In 2007, there were three new water rights granted for surface water in the Big Blue Basin, and in the Little Blue Basin there were four new water rights approved, all groundwater.

Katie provided an update of the Blatant and Reoccurring Overpump Program. This program targets water right holders who divert substantially more water than is authorized for two or more years within a recent time period. This year these users are being required to have meters which meet the latest specifications for accuracy as well as requiring monthly water use reporting. 36 points of diversion of this nature were located in the Blue Basin. Katie was asked who is required to have a flow meter, is it based upon the amount of water authorized, the type of use, etc? All new water right holders, except domestic ones, are required to be metered. Ken Regier asked whether or not there was any cost sharing for water users for purchasing water meters. Katie indicated that Kansas does not have cost sharing for acquiring water meters. This led to an interactive discussion about how Kansas has implemented state wide metering. In general, water users have been given a reasonable amount of time to comply with this requirement.

Representative Schwartz concluded the Kansas Report by elaborating on the last legislative session. She agreed with the remarks by Commissioner Barfield about the Holcomb coal fired power plant, and added that the house of representatives was four votes short of overriding the Governor's veto. Sharon also reiterated the concern that the agriculture community had concerning the possible precedence setting implementation of eminent domain and the taking of property and water rights for municipalities and rural water districts. According to Sharon, the farming community knows the value of water and water rights and wants them protected. She pointed out as well that within the Budget Bill that was debated in the past session, there was a provision which provides for state water plan funding to purchase uncommitted storage in federal reservoirs for public water supply.

United States Geological Survey Report

Phil Soenksen, Chief of the Hydraulic Data Section in Lincoln NE, distributed the USGS Federal Report. (See Exhibit E) Mr. Soenksen explained that his Agency is responsible for operating the two stateline gages for the compact at Barneston on the Big Blue River and Hollenberg on the Little Blue River. He mentioned that the USGS is not a regulatory agency but rather a science organization that prides itself on being objective. Mr. Soenksen spoke about the method for obtaining stream flow data by monitoring the stage of the river and converting it to discharge by using rating curves. The data is then put on their website where you can view real time data or the historical data records. He concluded by briefly explaining the various hydrographs for the two stateline gaging stations.

Secretaries Report

The Secretary's Report was given by acting Compact Secretary, Bob Lytle. Mr. Lytle reminded everyone that at the last annual meeting the then Compact Secretary, Debra Hays announced that she was no longer employed by the Division of Water Resources and that the 2007 annual meeting would be her last. She indicated that she would produce the 2007 annual report as her last secretarial duty. At the 2007 meeting a decision was not made as to what to do about the Secretary position, leaving it up until now. Lytle mentioned that it was discussed internally to retire the honorarium secretary position and have a Kansas staff person take over those duties. A motion was made by Commissioner Barfield and was unanimously approved to have Bob Lytle become the new Compact Secretary.

Lytle led a discussion about the approval of minutes and publishing of the annual reports. It was suggested that beginning with this the 35th annual meeting the minutes from the meeting will be drafted by the Compact Secretary and distributed via e-mail to the appropriate parties for their review, comments and corrections a few months following the meeting. Then, after receiving all the corrections or additions a final draft of the minutes will be prepared and brought to the 36th annual meeting for formal approval and signing by the compact commission. Then shortly after the 36th meeting, the 35th Annual Report will be published and distributed. A motion was made and unanimously approved to modify the method of approving the minutes and printing the annual reports as described above.

Treasurer / Budget Report

Compact Treasurer, Jennifer Schellpeper, handed out the Treasurer's Report and the Budget Analysis (See Exhibits F&G) Ms. Schellpeper highlighted a few points in the report indicating that the audits had increased, and that overall the compact budget is in good financial standing. She noted that the estimated end of year balance for FY 08 is \$20,768.92.

Ms. Schellpeper then discussed the budget analysis table and noted a few items. First, the compact has not purchased a fidelity bond for the past couple of years and it was initially thought that we should. However, after looking into it and checking with the legal committee it was decided that it was not needed because as a state employee the treasurer is covered for 1 million dollars, so this item has been removed from the budget for future years. Two audits were conducted for years 05-06 and 06-07. The cost of the audits has increased. Also, the interest rate on the compact account has been dropping. Last year at this time the rate was 2.7% as compared with .74% now. This is most likely a reflection of the current economy. MS. Schellpeper also noted that there was an increase in the cost of the state line gages. For the 2009- 2010 years the secretary honorarium has been removed along with the fidelity bond and travel expenses that were associated with the secretary's honorarium.

Ms. Schellpeper noted that our budget has total expenses in the 2009-2010 years in the amount of \$16,350 which is more than the current state assessments of a combined \$16,000. She noted

that we do have plenty of carry over money to cover this for the next several years, but as items increase in cost, namely the state line gages, we will begin to reduce the amount of carry over remaining, and at some point state assessments may need to be increased. When asked about the forecast of gage costs, Phil Soenksen informed the commissioners that the USGS tries to keep the cost of gages to a minimum and that increases reflect necessary increases in salaries, inflation and maintenance costs. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the proposed budgets.

Legal Committee Report

Jean Angell handed out the Legal Committee Report which addresses two proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Big Blue River Compact Administration. (See Exhibit H) The first amendment addresses which ex officio member or members are required to execute documents that create action(s) approved by the Administration. A discussion among the commissioners about the two options as listed on the report was held. It was decided that both ex officio members or designated representatives must sign such documents.

The second amendment deals with the necessity of the compact treasurer to be bonded as discussed in the Treasurer Report. This amendment provides that if the treasurer is an employee of the agency charged with the duty of administering the laws of the state pertaining to water rights, the bond may be waived by approval of both ex officio members. A motion was made to amend the Rules and Regulations as provided in both cases as described above which was passed unanimously. The Legal Committee Report was also approved by the Administration.

The amendments to the rules and regulations, as adopted, are contained in Appendix 1.

Engineering Committee Report

Jennifer Schellpeper distributed the Engineering Report and indicated that much of the report was covered by Administrative Reports and by the USGS Report. (See Exhibit I) She did briefly highlight the hydrographs for the Big and Little Blue Rivers indicating that the flows represented on the graphs at no point fall below the state line target flows. Jennifer reported that there were no new wells drilled in the regulatory reaches on either river. Barfield questioned whether there are restrictions for drilling new wells, to which Ms. Schellpeper responded that there are not, but the hydrology of the areas does not provide for wells with very high yields, especially for irrigation which is the only kind of well recorded. Domestic for example are not recorded. It was noted that a copying error was made on Exhibits A and B, with the hydrograph lines being the same. The Engineering Report was approved by the Administration noting the correction to be made to the hydrograph exhibits for the annual report.

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee explained that the meeting items to be covered were addressed in the Treasurer's Report.

Water Quality Committee Report

Dale Lambley, Chairperson for the Water Quality Committee, handed out the Committee Report. (See Exhibit J) Dale mentioned, and as noted in the Kansas Report, that he is retiring in June and as such this would be his last meeting. He highlighted briefly for the benefit of the Administration the history of the Water Quality Committee. It was first formed in 1993 and was comprised of six members, three from each state. It became a standing committee following the 1994 annual meeting and partnered with appropriate water quality minded agencies.

Lambley spoke about the main objectives of the committee and how that these objectives, which are highlighted 1 thru 4 on the first page of the committee report, have been accomplished. The keys were finding the focus areas geographically to target best management farm practices and to invite and receive the participation from other partners like the Nebraska Natural Resource Districts, the NRCS, the Kansas Conservation Commission, the Universities and the Agriculture Community. Atrazine and other herbicides and pesticides levels have been significantly reduced in the basins because of these efforts, although sedimentation will always be a concern as it is unavoidably associated with large runoff storm events. Mr. Lambley encouraged the future committee to finalize a water quality monitoring grant.

Representative Schwartz commented about the funding of grants and that knowing the economic impacts of the work to be funded is helpful. She asked Dale what the economic impact of efforts like stream stabilization has been on sedimentation. Dale said that we do have figures that show a good reduction in the tonnage of soil or sediment lost from lands, but that it is difficult to put a dollar amount on that benefit. Mr. Lambley concluded his report by indicating Mr. Pat Rice has accepted the chairmanship of the committee, and that Lindsey Douglas would be his replacement on the Committee.

Old Business

There was no old business of the Administration.

New Business

Commissioner Barfield made a motion that a resolution be adopted by the Compact Administration honoring David Pope for his service over the years to the Compact. Mr. Barfield quickly read the resolution. (See Exhibit K) A motion was unanimously approved to support the resolution and to include it in the next annual report.

Committee assignments were made as follows:

Legal Committee

Jean Angell, Chair
Kansas Member to be determined

Budget Committee

Jennifer Schellpeper, Chair
Bob Lytle

Water Quality Committee

Pat Rice, Chair
Annette Kovar
Rich Reiman
Tom Stiles
Lindsey Douglas
Dan Howell

Engineering Committee

Bob Lytle, Chair
Katie Tietsort
Jennifer Schellpeper
Keith Paulsen

The next annual meeting of the Big Blue River Compact Administration will be hosted by Nebraska at a location to be determined, and tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2009.

The 35th Annual Meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Mitchell at 12:05 pm.



Gary Mitchell, Compact Chairman



David W. Barfield, Kansas Commissioner



Brian P. Dunnigan, Nebraska Commissioner

**REPORT OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
TO THE
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
May 28, 2008**

The 2007 data were collected in accordance with the agreements with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District (LBBNRD).

REVIEW OF STREAMFLOW DATA

The Compact sets forth the following stream flow targets:

	Big Blue River	Little Blue River
May	45 cfs	45 cfs
June	45 cfs	45 cfs
July	80 cfs	75 cfs
August	90 cfs	80 cfs
September	65 cfs	60 cfs

During the October 1, 2006 thru September 30, 2007 water year the mean daily streamflow at the Barneston gage on the Big Blue River (Exhibit A) fell below the target flow a total of 0 days and the Hollenberg gage on the Little Blue River (Exhibit B) fell below the target flow a total of 0 days.

Recent and Historical Data for the two gages can be found at the following USGS websites:

Big Blue River - http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ne/nwis/uv/?site_no=06882000

Little Blue River - http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ne/nwis/uv/?site_no=06884025

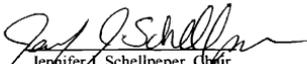
REVIEW OF GROUNDWATER DATA

The USGS provided the data for hydrographs for two wells in Gage and Jefferson Counties (Exhibits C & D). The LBBNRD provided the groundwater data for the portion of the Big Blue River near Beatrice listed in Exhibit E.

REVIEW OF WELLS IN REGULATORY REACHES

The lists of wells within the regulatory reaches are shown in Exhibit F. No changes to the irrigation wells have been noted in the Department of Natural Resources registered well database.

Respectively Submitted,


Jennifer A. Schellpeper, Chair
Nebraska

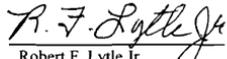
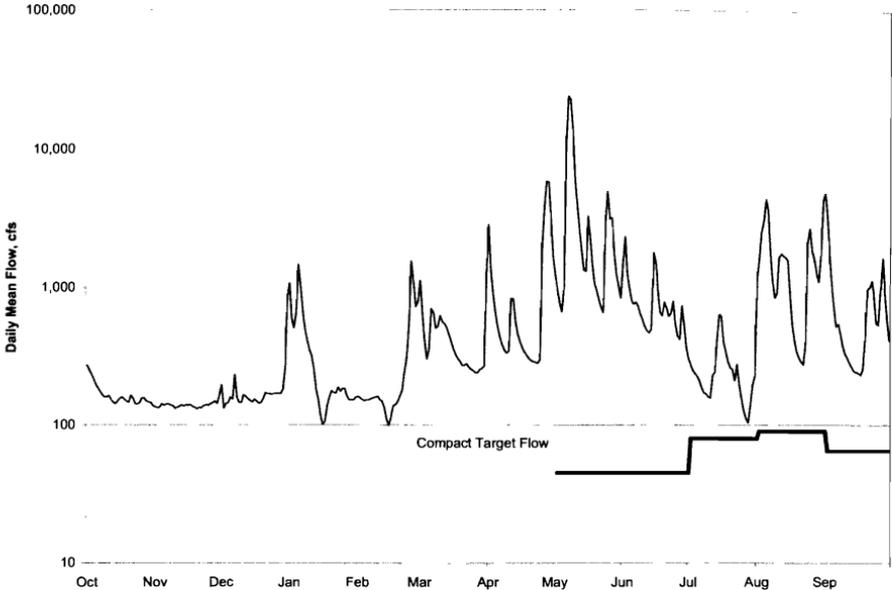

Robert F. Lytle Jr.
Kansas

Exhibit A

BIG BLUE RIVER AT BARNESTON, NEBRASKA - 06882000



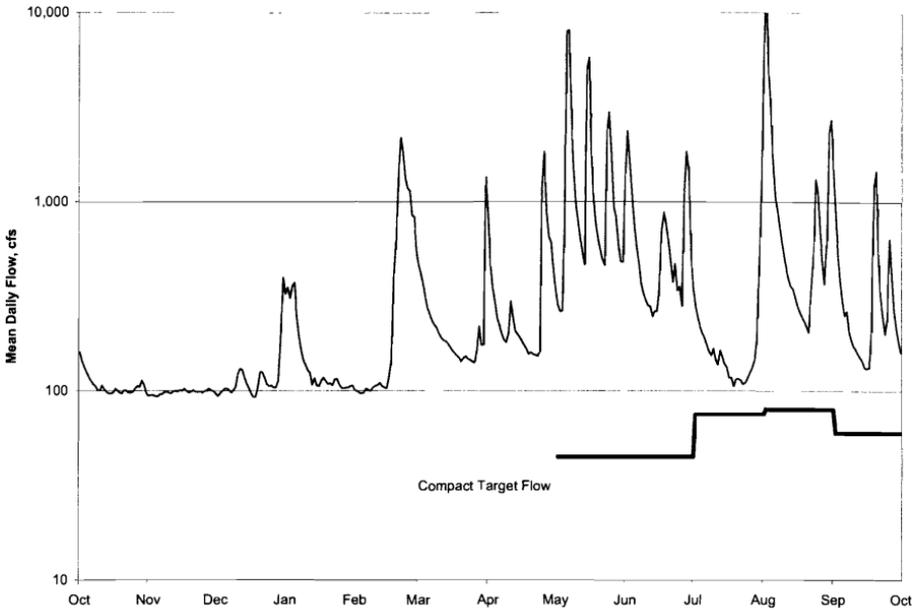
DAILY MEAN	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07
TOTAL	5,164	4,172	5,763	10,762	8,251	13,516	35,914	122,297	24,333	7,783	49,337	25,394
MEAN	167	139	186	347	295	436	1,197	3,945	811	251	1,592	846
MAX	271	165	830	1,460	1,540	1,140	5,800	23,700	2,310	635	4,370	4,810
MIN	265	131	132	101	99	239	280	654	366	104	276	232
AC-FT	10,250	8,280	11,430	21,350	16,370	26,820	71,250	242,640	48,280	15,440	97,880	50,380

SUMMARY STATISTICS	FOR 2006 CALENDAR YEAR	FOR 2007 WATER YEAR	WATER YEARS 1933-2007
ANNUAL TOTAL	109,021	312,700	-
ANNUAL MEAN	299	857	841
HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN	-	-	2,781
LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN	-	-	115
HIGHEST DAILY MEAN	4,960	Aug-20	23,700
LOWEST DAILY MEAN	30	Jul-30	99
ANNUAL SEVEN-DAY MINIMUM	235	Aug-05	126
MAXIMUM PEAK FLOW	-	n/a	57,700
MAXIMUM PEAK STAGE	-	n/a	34.30
ANNUAL RUNOFF (AC-FT)	216,298	620,400	617,486
10 PERCENT EXCEEDS	581	140	1,710
50 PERCENT EXCEEDS	156	295	273
90 PERCENT EXCEEDS	125	1,678	105

Engineering Report to the Blue River Compact
 May 28, 2008

Exhibit B

LITTLE BLUE RIVER AT HOLLENBERG, KANSAS - 06884025



DAILY MEAN	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07
TOTAL	3,342	2,956	3,700	4,950	14,083	7,604	11,534	53,006	21,164	6,445	48,250	11,789	
MEAN	108	99	119	160	503	245	384	1,710	705	208	1,556	393	
MAX	160	103	399	375	2,190	1,350	1,840	8,100	2,370	1,320	15,100	1,460	
MIN	97	93	93	103	97	141	153	264	247	106	205	132	
AC-FT	6,630	5,860	7,340	9,820	27,940	15,090	22,880	105,160	41,990	12,790	95,730	23,390	

SUMMARY STATISTICS	FOR 2006 CALENDAR YEAR		FOR 2007 WATER YEAR		WATER YEARS 1975-2007	
ANNUAL TOTAL	64,490		188,800		-	
ANNUAL MEAN	177		517		497	
HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN	-		-		1,891	
LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN	-		-		173	
HIGHEST DAILY MEAN	2,340	Aug-20	15,100	Aug-02	39,300	Jul-26 1992
LOWEST DAILY MEAN	30	Aug-15	93	Nov-05	26	Oct-01 1991
ANNUAL SEVEN-DAY MINIMUM	36	Aug-16	95	Nov-07	27	Oct-03 1991
MAXIMUM PEAK FLOW	-		n/a		47,800	Jul-26 1992
MAXIMUM PEAK STAGE	-		n/a		21.21	Jul-26 1992
ANNUAL RUNOFF (AC-FT)	127,942		374,600		343,123	
10 PERCENT EXCEEDS	284		1,138		812	
50 PERCENT EXCEEDS	117		176		195	
90 PERCENT EXCEEDS	91		99		101	

Corrected Engineering Report to the Blue River Compact
May 28, 2008

Exhibit C

402155096523101 - Gage County

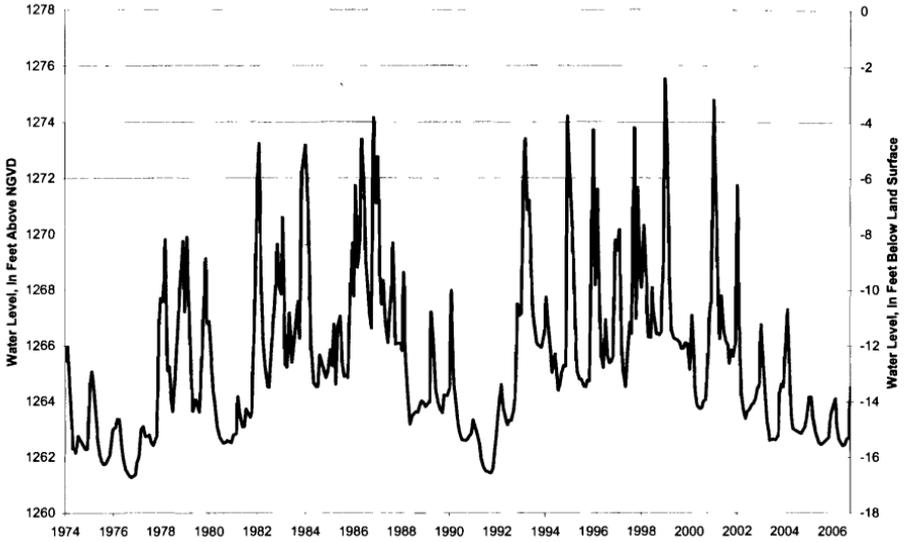


Exhibit D

400813097112401 - Jefferson County

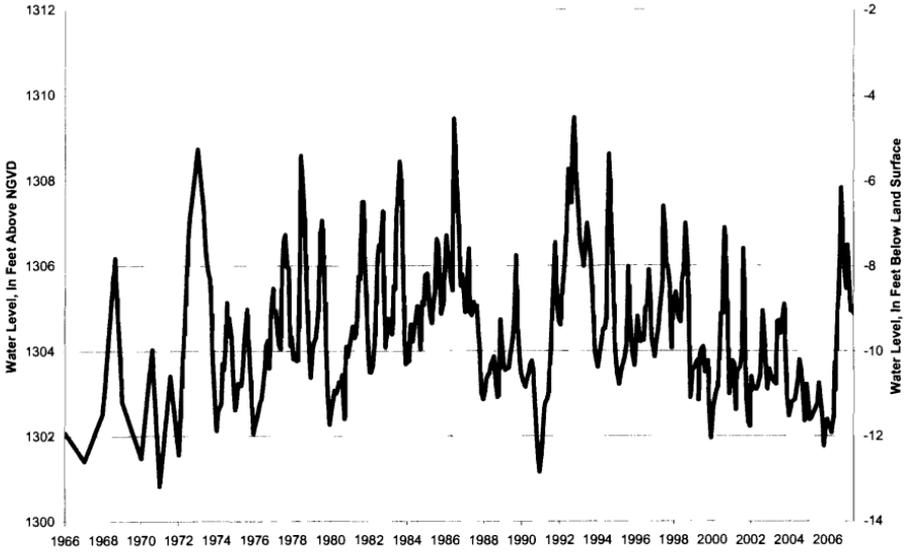


Exhibit E

BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT STATIC WATER LEVELS 2007						
LEGAL	SECTION	LOCATION	WELL	DEPTH SPRING	DEPTH IRRIGATION	DEPTH FALL
4N-5E	2	AAAA	OW	94.53	-	97.39
4N-5E	2	DDAA	IW	19.12	-	19.05
4N-5E	4	BBBC	IW	21.89	-	21.14
4N-5E	9	CBCC	IW	80.09	-	82.89
4N-5E	10	DDAA	IW	28.27	-	26.72
4N-5E	11	DACA	IW	16.42	-	15.61
4N-5E	14	ABBB	IW	13.79	-	11.28
4N-5E	25	AACD	IW	21.92	-	21.02
5N-4E	12	ABBA	IW	19.57	-	18.80
5N-4E	13	BADD	IW	18.09	-	18.33
5N-4E	23	BABB	IW	15.27	-	15.75
5N-4E	24	AACD	IW	19.89	-	19.40
5N-5E	7	CADD	IW	63.49	-	64.29
5N-5E	20	BCCD	IW	21.04	-	21.48
5N-5E	21	DDBB	IW	56.07	-	58.14
5N-5E	29	CBBB	IW	15.01	-	15.11
5N-5E	33	AADD	IW	19.88	-	18.89
OW - OBSERVATION WELL			IW - IRRIGATION WELL			

Exhibit F

BLUE RIVER BASIN
REGULATORY AREA WELLS

Big Blue River

Registration Number	Location T-R-S	Completion Date	Depth (FT)	Registration Pumping Capacity (GPM)	Filing Date
G-036485	4N-5E-11BC	3-28-1972	82	750	4/24/1972
G-038314	4N-5E-2DD	1-16-1973	188	1300	1/29/1973
G-047820	4N-5E-12BB	11-1-1975	117	1200	12/4/1975
G-050086	5N-5E-33AD	5-26-1976	123	800	6/9/1976
G-054047	4N-5E-24BB	3-1-1976	84	800	1/6/1977
G-054260	4N-5E-14AA	6-1-1974	70	800	1/14/1977
G-054261	4N-5E-14AB	5-2-1970	70	800	1/14/1977
G-056152	4N-5E-4BB	4-14-1977	91	1000	5/11/1977
G-059128	5N-5E-29AA	4-25-1977	60	400	1/4/1978
G-059727	5N-5E-33CB	4-19-1978	91	1200	4/20/1978
G-081769	4N-5E-13CD	4-22-1994	65	250	6/24/1994
G-100788	5N-5E-29AB	3-19-1999	65	500	6/2/1999
G-110669	4N-5E-13CC	7-12-1995	64	375	6/29/2001
G-110847	4N-5E-3DA	5-4-1979	82	800	7/2/2001
G-110849	5N-5E-29DD	4-30-1983	102	800	7/2/2001

Little Blue River

Registration Number	Location T-R-S	Completion Date	Depth (FT)	Registration Pumping Capacity (GPM)	Filing Date
G-058158	2N-2E-16AA	8-15-1977	29	650	9/6/1977
G-139240	2N-2E-9DD	0-0-1956	50	400	3/23/2006

May 28, 2008
Manhattan, KS
Keith Paulsen, NDNR,
Lincoln Field Office

Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Nebraska Water Administration Report

In 2007, supplies were able to meet demands in both the Big and Little Blue River Basins. There were no reported shortages in either basin.

Following timely rains during May and June, July turned dry, especially in the Little Blue River Basin. Flows on the Little Blue River at the state-line dwindled toward the end of July and water administration seemed certain.

The preliminary mean daily discharge on the Little Blue River at the state-line dropped down to 125 cfs on July 22nd, 109 on the 23rd, 101 on the 24th, 95 on the 25th, 90 on the 26th, 85 on the 27th, and by July 28th the flow had dropped to 83 cfs. The trend was apparent and we readied to take action as we were only one day away from issuing closing orders. The state-line target flow for July on the Little Blue is 75 cfs and the target flow increases to 80 cfs during August. Rain came and the daily mean by August 2nd was over 14,000 cfs. Rivers like rain.

Conditions were much the same on the Big Blue Basin and by the July 28 it appeared that we were one maybe two days away from closings on the Big Blue. The same rain saved the day. A few timely rains in August and September kept both basins above targets for the remainder of the 2007 irrigation season.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
TO THE
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
May 28, 2008**

Balance on Hand July 1, 2007	\$ 24,516.81
Income as of April 30, 2008	
State Assessments	\$ 16,000.00
Interest Income	<u>\$ 407.11</u>
 Funds Available as of May 15, 2008	 \$ 40,923.92
 Expenditures as of May 15, 2008	
USGS	\$ (16,910.00)
Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District	\$ (680.00)
Dana Cole - Audit	<u>\$ (1,475.00)</u>
 Balance on Hand	 \$ 21,858.92
 Estimated Expenditures through June 30, 2008	
Postage/Supplies	\$ 100.00
Secretary Travel Expenses	\$ 50.00
Printing Annual Report	\$ 200.00
Secretary Honorarium	\$ 750.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
 Total Estimated Additional Expenses	 \$ 1,150.00
 Estimated Income through June 30, 2008	
Interest Income	\$ 60.00
 Estimated End of Fiscal Year Balance	 <u>\$ 20,768.92</u>

BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT BUDGET ANALYSIS May 2008

	FY 2006-2007		FY 2007-2008		FY 2008-2009		FY 2009-2010
	Actual	Adopted May 2006	Estimated 5/21/2008	Adopted May 2007	Estimated May 2007	Proposed May 2008	Estimate
EXPENDITURES							
Operations							
Stateine Gages	\$ (10,110.00)	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 16,910.00	\$ 13,570.00	\$ 13,900.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,500.00
Observation Wells	\$ (700.00)	\$ 700.00	\$ 680.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 760.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Water Quality Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fidelity Bond	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Secretary Honorarium	\$ (750.00)	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ -
Staff Travel Expenses	\$ (7.81)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Annual report - Printing	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Audit	\$ (700.00)	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Postage and Office Supplies	\$ (55.65)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses	\$ (12,323.46)	\$ 16,700.00	\$ 20,215.00	\$ 16,970.00	\$ 16,660.00	\$ 16,650.00	\$ 16,350.00
INCOME & CARRY OVER							
Assessments (Both States)	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Interest earned	\$ 724.80	\$ 500.00	\$ 467.11	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Carry Over from Prior Year	\$ 20,115.47	\$ 15,153.64	\$ 24,516.81	\$ 15,950.43	\$ 15,750.43	\$ 20,768.92	\$ 20,418.92
Total Income and Carry Over	\$ 36,840.27	\$ 31,653.64	\$ 40,983.92	\$ 32,450.43		\$ 37,068.92	\$ 36,718.92
Balance End of Year	\$ 24,516.81	\$ 14,953.64	\$ 20,768.92	\$ 15,480.43		\$ 20,418.92	\$ 20,368.92

**REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE
TO THE
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT**

May 28, 2008

The Legal Committee proposes two amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration.

Article VI of the Rules and Regulations requires that any proposed amendments be mailed to each member of the Administration at least fifteen days prior to the date of the meeting. To satisfy that requirement, on May 2, 2008, the Legal Committee mailed the two proposed amendments to the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration: Chair Gary Mitchell, Kansas Commissioner David W. Barfield, Nebraska Commissioner Brian Dunnigan, Nebraska Advisor Kenneth Rieger, and Kansas Advisor Sharon Schwartz. A copy of the letter containing the proposed amendments is attached.

The Legal Committee proposes the following amendments.

Proposed Amendment Number One

Amend Article IV, 8, of the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration with the following italicized additions:

Article IV

8. All actions of the Administration must be approved by both ex officio Members or their representatives. *Either ex officio Member, or designated representative, may execute documents binding the Administration to actions approved by the Administration.*

Alternative Proposed Amendment Number One:

Amend Article IV, 8, of the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration with the following italicized additions:

Article IV

8. All actions of the Administration must be approved by both ex officio Members or their representatives. *Both ex officio Members, or designated representatives, must execute documents binding the Administration to actions approved by the Administration.*

Proposed Amendment Number Two

Amend the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration as indicated by the italicized addition.

5. The Treasurer shall be selected by the Administration and shall serve at the pleasure of the administration. The Treasurer need not but may be a Member of the Administration. The Treasurer shall receive, hold and disburse funds and keep records of all funds of the Administration. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties in an amount satisfactory to the Administration. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the administration. *If the Treasurer is an employee of the agency charged with the duty of administering the laws of his or her State pertaining to water rights, the bond may be waived by approval of both ex officio members.*

If Amendment Number Two is adopted, the Legal Committee recommends a vote to waive the bond for the current Treasurer, Ms. Jennifer Schellpeper.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Angell
Legal Committee, Chair
Nebraska



Lee Rolfs
Legal Committee
Kansas



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.
Acting Director

May 2, 2008

IN REPLY TO:

Gary Mitchell, Chairman
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
325 2600th Avenue
Solomon, KS 67480

David W. Barfield, P.E., Kansas Commissioner
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
Kansas Division of Water Resources
109 S.W. 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

Brian Dunnigan, P.E., Nebraska Commissioner
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509

Kenneth Rieger, Nebraska Advisor
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
215 Donegal
Aurora, NE 68818

Sharon Schwartz
Kansas Advisor
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
2051 20th Road
Washington, KS 66968

Dear Compact Administration Members:

The Legal Committee of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration proposes two actions be taken by the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration.

ACTION NUMBER ONE

Background:

The United States Geological Survey operates Compact gaging stations on the Big Blue River near Barneston, Nebraska, and on the Little Blue River near Hollenberg, Kansas. During the past year, USGS requested that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources execute a contract for the service. The gaging was approved by the Compact Administration, however, that approval, as well as the Compact and rules and regulations of the Administration, are silent as to who can execute such a document for the Administration. Last year's USGS contract was signed by both Mr. Pope and Ms. Bleed, the two ex officio members.

legal/angel/2008

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Letter to Compact Members
May 2, 2008
Page 2

Legal Provisions:

The Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact established an administration agency. The Administration membership includes one *ex officio* member from each state, which member (or designated representative) may vote on Compact actions. The Compact, Article III, 3.3, provide, "All actions must be approved by both *ex officio* members or their representatives." The Compact and the rules and regulations are silent as to who must sign documents necessary for the implementation of actions.

Proposed Action, Choice A:

Amend the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration with one of the two following italicized additions:

Article IV

8. All actions of the Administration must be approved by both *ex officio* Members or their representatives. *Either ex officio Member, or designated representative, may execute documents binding the Administration to actions approved by the Administration.*

Proposed Action, Choice B:

Amendment of the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration as indicated by the italicized additions:

Article IV

8. All actions of the Administration must be approved by both *ex officio* Members or their representatives. *Both ex officio Members, or designated representatives, must execute documents binding the Administration to actions approved by the Administration.*

ACTION NUMBER TWO

Background:

Ms. Jennifer Schellpeper, Administration Treasurer, when attempting to secure a bond, found that a bond sufficient to cover the balance in the Compact treasury would entail the performance of numerous background checks before such bond could be purchased. Ms. Schellpeper is an employee of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Her work as Administration Treasurer is a part of her employment duties and is covered by a State of Nebraska bond totalling one million dollars. Note: Historically the secretary and treasurer were not necessarily employees of the respective states' agencies, but paid employees of the Administration.

Letter to Compact Members
May 2, 2008
Page 3

Legal Provisions:

The Compact rules and regulations require the Treasurer to furnish a bond for the performance of duties.

Proposed Action:

Amend the Rules and Regulations of the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration as indicated by the italicized addition. Then vote to waive the bond for Ms. Schellpeper.

5. The Treasurer shall be selected by the Administration and shall serve at the pleasure of the administration. The Treasurer need not but may be a Member of the Administration. The Treasurer shall receive, hold and disburse funds and keep records of all funds of the Administration. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties in an amount satisfactory to the Administration. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the administration. *If the Treasurer is an employee of the agency charged with the duty of administering the laws of his or her State pertaining to water rights, the bond may be waived by approval of both ex officio members.*

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Angell
Legal Committee Chair
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration

cc: Lee Rolfs

APPENDIX 1. Amendments to the Rules and Regulations of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration

As of May 28, 2008, Article IV, paragraph 8, of the Rules and Regulations of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration, contained in Appendix "A" to the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact, is amended as follows:

All actions of the Administration must be approved by both ex officio Members or their representatives. Both ex officio Members, or designated representatives, must execute documents binding the Administration to actions approved by the Administration.

As of May 28, 2008, Article II, paragraph 5, of the Rules and Regulations of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration, contained in Appendix "A" to the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact, is amended as follows:

The Treasurer shall be selected by the Administration and shall serve at the pleasure of the administration. The Treasurer need not but may be a Member of the Administration. The Treasurer shall receive, hold and disburse funds and keep records of all funds of the Administration. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties in an amount satisfactory to the Administration. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the administration. If the Treasurer is an employee of the agency charged with the duty of administering the laws of his or her State pertaining to water rights, the bond may be waived by approval of both ex officio members.

All other provisions of the Rules and Regulations of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration, as contained in Appendix "A" to the Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact remain as adopted on April 24, 1973.

Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact
Nebraska Report - Upper Big Blue NRD
Rod DeBuhr, Water Department Manager
May 28, 2008

Well Drilling Activities

One hundred and Thirty-seven permits were issued for irrigation wells (98 new & 39 replacement) in 2007. At the end of 2007 there were registered 11,994 irrigation wells in the District.

Ground Water Level Changes

The average groundwater level change for the District from Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 was a rise of 1.58 feet. This is the first year of rise in the ground water table following seven consecutive years of declines. The attached map shows the area of greatest changes and the county averages. With this change, the average ground water level is 3.20 feet above the allocation trigger. Mandatory reporting of irrigated acres and other water uses began in 2006. As of April 3, 2008, there were 1,145,112 ground water irrigated acres reported to the NRD.

2007 was also the first year that ground water withdrawal reports were required in the Upper Big Blue NRD. Metering is not required at this time. Wells that are not metered must provide an estimate of pumping rate and time of operation. The average water withdrawal for irrigation in 2007 was 4.9 inches per acre. The following table is a summary of reported ground water withdrawal on the Upper Big Blue NRD in 2007.

3/14/2008

Summary of 2007 Ground Water Withdrawal Reported in Upper Big Blue NRD

Range of withdrawal per acre	Acres	Ac. Inches	Average % of acres	Average inches per acre	Cummulative %	* Pool Combinations	Avg. Acres per pool #
0	49,212	0	0.0	4.6%	4.6%	380	129.5
0.1 - 4.0	380,495	1,042,121	2.7	35.4%	40.0%	1,994	190.8
4.1 - 8.0	523,993	2,970,230	5.7	48.8%	88.8%	2,762	189.7
8.1 - 12.0	92,511	860,912	9.3	8.6%	97.4%	569	162.6
12.1 - 16.0	19,923	270,788	13.6	1.9%	99.2%	172	115.8
> 16.0	8,281	174,170	21.0	0.8%	100.0%	88	94.1
Total	1,074,415	5,318,221	4.9			5,965	180.1

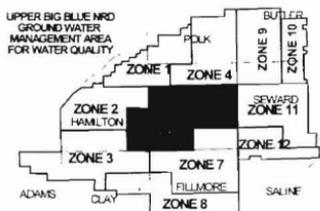
Highest reported water withdrawal was 39.1 inches

Reported wells		
Metered	2,387	21.8%
Not metered	8,584	78.2%
Total	10,971	
Average	97.9	
acres/well		

* Lands under one ownership or irrigated by the same well are treated as one unit of land. This is referred to as "pooling"

Groundwater Nitrates

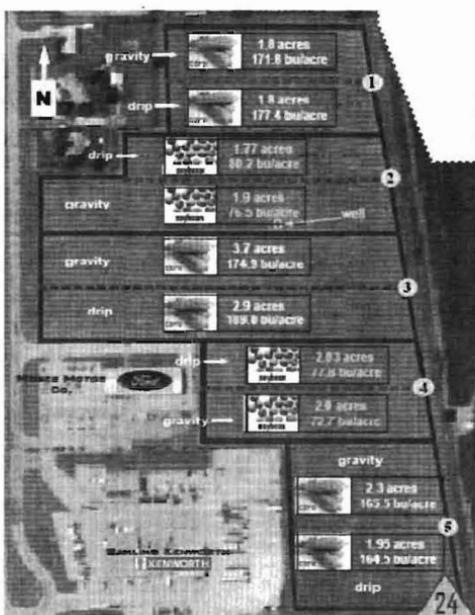
The district is divided into twelve management zones for ground water quality management. The primary ground water quality management concern is nitrate. Ten township area York County and two townships in Hamilton County (Zones 5 & 6) was designated a Phase II management area to address increased ground water nitrate levels. The 2007 median ground water nitrate level in



Zone 5 is 12.0 ppm. In Zone 6 the median nitrate is and 9.5 ppm. The trigger level for phase II management is 9 ppm. Phase II management requires farm operators to attend a training session on best management practices related to fertilizer and irrigation management. It also requires deep (36") soil sampling, irrigation scheduling and annual BMP reports. The rest of the district remains in phase I management for groundwater nitrates. Under phase I management the application of anhydrous ammonia may not occur until November 1, while application of dry and liquid nitrogen fertilizers must wait until March 1. The Phase III trigger is 12 ppm. Zone 5 will move into Phase III in 2009 if the median nitrate level remains at or above 12 ppm.

CROP-TIP

CROP-TIP is an irrigation demonstration sponsored by The District and Cornerstone Bank near York. The purpose of the project is to show producers ways to reduce



groundwater withdrawal and reduce nitrate leaching through improvements in irrigation methods. Corn and soybeans were grown in the 24 acre demonstration field in 2007. In the spring of 2007 a subsurface drip irrigation system was installed on one-half of the project acres. Gated pipe irrigation on the other one-half of the field. In 2007, which was the fourth year of the project, 8 inches was applied to the gate pipe irrigation plots while 4.8 inches was applied the subsurface drip irrigation plots. The yields were 175 bu./ac. for corn and 75 bu./ac. For soybeans. Wet / cool weather limited the need for irrigation in 2007. These conditions also reduced corn yields in general across the area. This seemed to be especially true for the variety planted in the COP-TIP demonstration field.

Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Demonstration Network

This is another program to encourage producers improve irrigation scheduling using ETgages and Watermark sensors to determine crop water use. The ETgage simulates crop water use through evaporation through ceramic and green canvas membrane. Watermark sensors are used to measure soil moisture in a nearby field to confirm the ETgage's accuracy. This program began in the Upper Big Blue NRD with a collaborative effort with the University of Nebraska Extension. The program is now being implemented in several NRDs. The Upper Big Blue NRD is selling this equipment to irrigators at a reduced cost to encourage adoption of the scheduling practice. The data collected has been posted on the NRD's website. This year the University of Nebraska plans to have an interactive

website up and running to allow cooperators to post data directly to the website where it can be used by other irrigator.

Flow meter cost-share

In 2006 the Nebraska Environmental Trust awarded the Upper Big Blue NRD \$900,000 over three years. 2008 is the final year for the program. Thru 2007 over 1,100 meters were installed. By the end of the FY08-09 over 1,800 meters will have been installed. The cost-share will be limited to one meter per land owner.

Big and Little Blue River Basin Study

The Upper Big Blue NRD is the lead agency in the development of a detailed computer model of the Big and Little Blue River Basins. This study is to determine the boundary of connected surface water and ground water for potential fully appropriated areas of the Blue Basin. The data will be provided to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for their consideration in any fully appropriated determination. The other partners in the study are the Lower Big Blue and the Little Blue NRDs. Assistance is being provided by the DNR, UNL Conservation and Survey, and the Central Platte NRD. The \$132,000 study is being funded by a \$105,600 grant from the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program through DNR. \$26,400 is being funded by the three NRDs in the Blue Basins.”

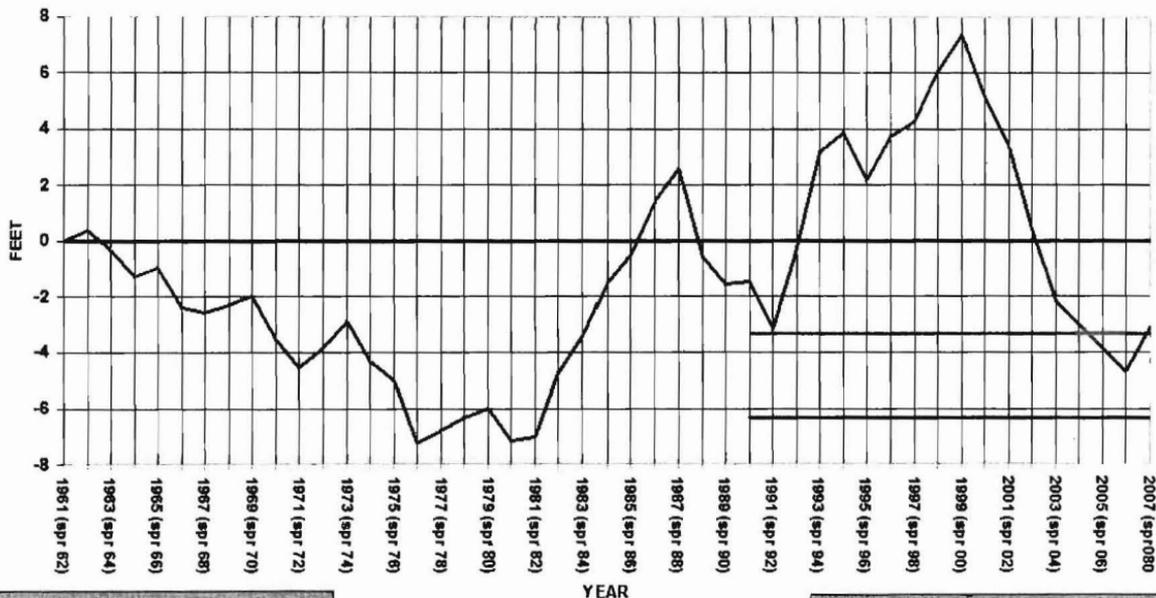
Soil and Water Conservation Cost-share Assistance

In FY06-07 the District funded 117 soil and water conservation projects with landowners. These ranged from irrigation practices such as buried pipelines and conversion to center pivot or subsurface drip irrigation to construction of terraces, waterways and planting of trees for windbreaks and wildlife. The funding totaling \$291,865.62 came from the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (\$104,162.63) and local NRD property tax revenue (\$187,702.98).

New Web Site

The Upper Big Blue NRD web site underwent major renovations during 2007. You can learn all about the District's programs and activities at www.upperbigblue.org.

**UPPER BIG BLUE NRD - AVERAGE GROUND WATER LEVELS
TRIGGERS COMPARED TO HISTORIC LEVELS
SPRING 2008**



— District Ground Water Level
 — Reporting Trigger
 — Allocation Trigger

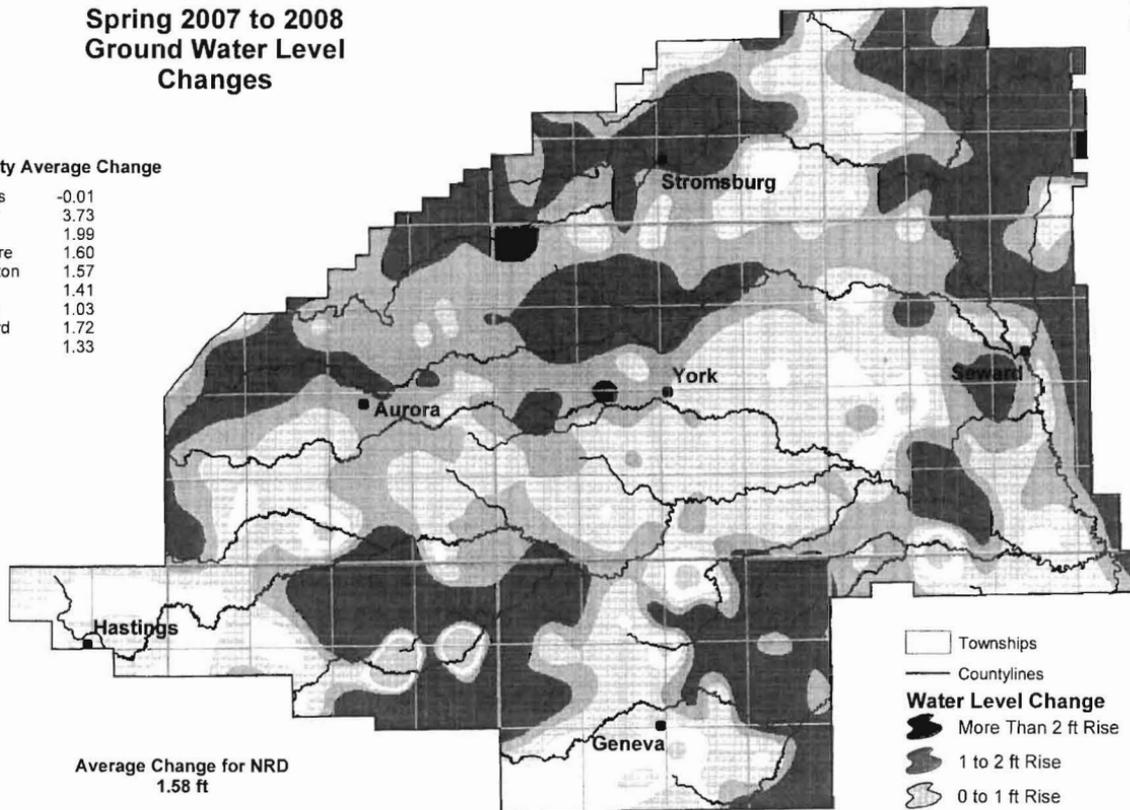
The Spring 2008 ground water level change shows a gain of 1.58 feet. This average level also correlates into being 3.20 feet above the "Allocation Trigger".

Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Spring 2007 to 2008 Ground Water Level Changes



County Average Change

Adams	-0.01
Butler	3.73
Clay	1.99
Fillmore	1.60
Hamilton	1.57
Polk	1.41
Saline	1.03
Seward	1.72
York	1.33



Average Change for NRD
1.58 ft

- Townships
- Countylines
- Water Level Change**
- More Than 2 ft Rise
- 1 to 2 ft Rise
- 0 to 1 ft Rise
- 0 to 1 ft Decline
- More Than 1 ft Decline

Lower Big Blue NRD Highlights of 2007-2008
Blue River Compact Annual Meeting - May 28, 2008

Water Quality & Quantity Summary

- Decommissioned 40 wells last year.
- Average cost \$476/well – Average cost-share \$276/well
- 582 wells have been decommissioned since 1992
- Water quality sampling – 247 wells – nitrate/nitrogen 7.61 ppm average
- 1002 of the 2200 irrigation wells have been sampled
- 61 Well Permits approved for wells pumping more than 50 gpm
- 522 Well Permits have been issued since 1997
- Groundwater levels – 59 wells measured
 - > Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 showed a decrease of 0.79 ft.
 - > Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 showed an increase of 2.31 ft.
 - > Spring 1982 to Spring 2007 showed a decrease of 0.73 ft.
- Blue River Compact Well Readings
 - > Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 averaged 0.37 ft. lower
 - > Spring 2006 to Spring 2007 averaged 0.56 ft higher.
 - > Spring 2003 to Spring 2008 averaged 1.51 ft. lower.
 - > Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 increased 0.08 ft.
- The Lower Big Blue NRD is part of the approved Tuttle Creek Lake Targeted Watershed Grant Project. This project is a collaborative effort between Kansas and Nebraska to address multi-jurisdictional water quality problems involving excessive runoff of sediment, nutrients, herbicides and bacteria. The first two landowner meetings were held in Odell Nebraska Fall of 2006 and Fall of 2007. A third meeting was held April 2008 at the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice Nebraska with 33 people in attendance.
- **The Lower Big Blue River Basin Flow Augmentation Study Group:** The group has continued discussions on possible actions that could be taken to increase flows in the river in order to meet Compact requirements.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA

There is no well drilling moratorium in the Lower Big Blue NRD. The entire Lower Big Blue NRD was declared a Groundwater Management Area in 1997. Permits are required for wells pumping 50 or more gallons per minute. The district has a 60 square mile Phase II area where operators have to meet educational requirements and submit reporting forms on residual nitrogen sampling and other BMPs. Reports are due on March 1st each year. The Phase II area has nitrate-nitrogen levels in the groundwater that are between 6 ppm and 9ppm. The rest of the NRD is in a Phase I area where nitrate-nitrogen levels are less than 6 ppm. Operators use voluntary measures to prevent and reduce groundwater contamination. Information to increase public awareness on issues relating to groundwater use, contamination and BMP's is being utilized across the entire NRD.

The NRD has several incentive programs that address water quality and quantity problems. The district provides incentives for the purchase of equipment that allows farmers to more accurately apply fertilizer and chemicals. Groundwater users are offered cost-share on water flow meters to obtain information on the flow rate of their wells and amount of gallons pumped. This information helps irrigators schedule their irrigations more efficiently and lets them know of well deficiency problems.

GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY MONITORING

The district monitors 100 groundwater wells twice a year for fluctuation in static water levels across the NRD. Monitoring of groundwater levels to date has shown levels to be above trigger levels for possible regulations on pumping. Groundwater quality monitoring is conducted every year on irrigation wells through out the district. Nitrate-nitrogen is the main parameter being tested, but pesticides scans are conducted every year on a smaller number of wells. Approximately 250 irrigation wells and 100 domestic wells are sampled annually

Just over 1000 irrigation wells in the NRD have been sampled for nitrate since monitoring began in 1987. This is over half of the irrigation wells in the district. Recently the NRD has also been offering whole house water tests for residents who request it. Well care sheets provided by the Groundwater Foundation are mailed out with all the results as well as explanation about the tests conducted on the wells.

Action steps and Timelines

- 1981- Groundwater level measurement program begins.
- 1986- District adopts Groundwater Management Plan
- 1987- District wide groundwater monitoring network established to provide baseline data on groundwater quality
- 1988- The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality conducted a SPA study in an area northwest of the city of Beatrice
- 1990- The NRD begins the first year of additional study in the proposed SPA
- 1994- The three year Special Protection Area study was completed
- 1997- District amends its Groundwater Management Plan to include groundwater quality regulations and the entire district is declared a

Groundwater Management Area. At the same time a 60 Square mile Phase II area established.

- 2006- NRD begins the Blue Basin Groundwater Study in conjunction with the Upper Big Blue NRD and the Little Blue NRD

Future

Average rainfall has brought static water levels back to base line levels. If static water levels were to decline to trigger levels set in the Districts groundwater management plan, the NRD would enact policies set forth in the plan. Water sampling for nitrate-nitrogen will continue, particularly in areas with known hot spots of nitrate problems.

BLUE BASIN GROUNDWATER MODELING STUDY

The Lower Big Blue, Upper Big Blue and Little Blue NRDs have approved a Blue River Groundwater Model Study for the Blue River Basin. This study will be used for evaluating the hydrologic connectivity of streams and groundwater in the Blue River Basin of Nebraska. Where possible, the COHYST database will be used. Additional data, such as streambed conductance, estimates of stream base flow, and geologic layer refinements will also be used in the model. Objectives on the study will be a creation of a database of geologic and hydrologic data, stream flow and stream bed data and topographic information that will be used to develop the groundwater model. The model will be used to estimate the extent of hydrologic connectivity between streams and groundwater in the Blue River Basin.

Irrigation Management Project: The District is in the First year of a joint irrigation scheduling program with the Cooperative Extension Service and the NRCS assisting and educating producers in the use of ET gages, data loggers, moisture sensors, and irrigation scheduling to reduce pumping rates. The district has 34 producers signed up to install the irrigation management equipment this summer.

Swan 5 Watershed Improvement Project: The NRD is in the final stages of completing the Swan 5 Watershed Improvement Project.

Big Indian 11A Watershed Improvement Project: The Stakeholders in the project have expressed an interest within the watershed to implement conservation measures to improve water quality and reduce the amount of sediment to the watershed and the Big Blue River. The NRD is working with partner agencies to secure additional funding and plans to hold a public meeting this fall to kickoff the Watershed Improvement Project.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning: The Blue Basin NRDs have teamed up with Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Thayer, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Clay, Adams, and Webster counties for the development of a regional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

EDUCATION

The district works with schools to educate kids about conservation. The NRD hands out trees and talks about buffer strips to about 500 5th graders at Camp Jefferson during Earth Day. High school students participate in land judging and the Envirothon every year. Doane College has also been working with the NRD on some GIS work as well as water sampling. The NRD also puts on a family fishing day in conjunction with the Game and Parks free fishing day, and Hunters Education classes

at the Big Indian Archery Range. Newsletters are sent out to inform the residents of what the NRD is doing and what programs are offered. The NRD participates in a Test-Your-Well program in conjunction with the Groundwater Foundation for schools, FFA chapters, or science clubs who want to become involved in water quality activities.

Land Treatment – 71% of Land in the NRD meets NRCS soil erosion standards

- **NSWCP – NRD Funds**: \$65,000, State: \$106,263 \$171,263 total funds
- 120 applications requesting \$423,944
- Approved 69 applications for \$222,811
- In the last year :
 - > 121 miles of terraces
 - > 31 miles of tile outlets
 - > 57 acres grassed waterways
- **Buffer Strips** 206 contracts - 1,545 acres \$55,039 annual payments
- **Small Dam Cost-Share Program**
 - Initiated in 1997
 - Constructed 20 dams, Total cost - \$368,919

Flood Control

- 11 flood control projects control runoff from 34% of the district, or 157,000 acres.
- The NRD has over 250 Watershed structures in the 11 watersheds

Lower Turkey Creek Project

The Lower Turkey Creek Project was approved for funding through the Natural Resources Development Fund (NRDF) in November 2005. The primary purpose of this project is flood control. The seven flood control structures will control runoff from 43,600 acres, or approximately 33% of the 131,200 acres located in Saline County

- The Lower Turkey Creek Project contains 131,200 acres of the 294,900 total Turkey Creek Watershed.
- The seven structures will provide 490 surface acres of permanent pool and 1450 surface acres of flood pool.
- Annual damages will be reduced by 31% in the 16,700 acres in the 100 year flood plain.
- Average annual benefits will be \$400,000.
- Dollar damages – 100 year, \$1,836,706

Estimated Cost of Project

TOTAL COST \$ \$6,204,095

Stream Flow Augmentation

- Turkey Creek flows improved through retained flows for releases over longer period of times (flood storage releases)
 - Drains within structures providing some year-round flows into tributaries and Turkey Creek
 - 3,500 acre feet of sediment storage would be available for release during extreme low flows.
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- 7 structures have estimated 3500 acre feet of sediment storage (1.03" runoff from each acre of drainage area above structures)
 - Presently 75% of drainage area above 7 structures is treated with grass and terraced cropland. In addition, between 10-15% of the drainage area is on non HEL soil and requires no land treatment practices (Class I & II lands)

Other Purposes

- Surface Water Quality – 490 acres of surface water
- Wildlife Habitat – Upland birds, fisheries
- Wetland creations in upper reaches of permanent pools

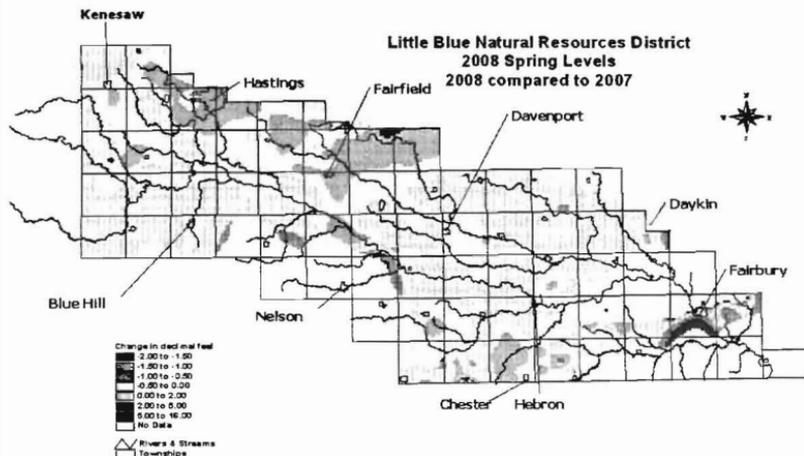
KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT

Report by Little Blue Natural Resources District

MAY 2008

Spring 2008 Groundwater Levels

The Little Blue NRD measured 340 irrigation wells during April 2008 to determine groundwater level fluctuation for the past year. The District-wide average was up 0.22' over spring 2007 levels. The map below shows graphically the comparison of water levels for the two years. The main area of declines existed in Clay, northeastern Adams Counties and a small area in south central Thayer County. Areas of rises extended throughout the central reach of the District with the greatest increase near Fairbury with averages rises of over 5 foot.



New Wells Development

From May '07 to May '08, 100 new well permits were approved. Sixty eight were for irrigation wells, (5 of those were in series) 27 were replacement wells, and 5 were other wells. The Little Blue NRD now has approximately 887,000 acres irrigated, ranking it 4th among the NRDs.

Flow Meter Cost Share

An Environmental Trust Grant was secured for support irrigation flow meters installation in Unit 8, the southern Thayer and Jefferson County area where declines in an isolated aquifer have been prevalent and where a stay has been placed on new well development in 2006. However, meter purchases have been slow to date with only about 30 meters requested, or about 10 % of all wells in the area. The grant will continue for one more year.

Summer 2007 Water Quality Sampling

The Little Blue NRD sampled 401 irrigation wells during the summer of 2007. The NRD's sampling program covers the entire District over a 3 year period; our 2007 emphasis was in the Eastern third of the District. The results:

Jefferson County had 24 wells sampled with a 7.70 PPM average,

Thayer County had 192 wells sampled with a 9.14 PPM average,

Fillmore County had 60 wells sampled with a 5.49 PPM average.

The District also sampled 71 groundwater wells for Atrazine, Alachlor, Acetochlor and Metolachlor. There were some Atrazine hits in samples with higher nitrate levels, but none over 1 PPM. We continue to require specific nitrogen management activities from producers in about 100,000 acres of District lands where nitrate levels exceed 7.0 PPM.

Groundwater Cleanup on Naval Ammunition Depot

The District has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers and City of Hastings to develop an acceptable plan for groundwater contamination clean-up of a 6 square mile area of the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) just south east of Hastings. Contamination occurred as a result of ammunitions production and by-product disposal during the operation of the NAD through the 1940s-50's. The contamination includes volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily TCE and TCA, and explosives residues, primarily TNT and RDX.

The Corps current plans to install 14 wells with capacities ranging from 40 gpm to 400 gpm, most just down gradient of the plumes of contaminants in an effort to intercept and contain the contamination. The total water withdrawn from the extraction wells collectively is estimated at approximately 2,700 gpm. The Corps plans to treat the contaminated water to drinking water standards and making it available for other uses. The City of Hastings is constructing a new 220 MW coal-fired energy center which will use much of the treated water. Chief Ethanol plant located near the energy center may be able to utilize the remainder of the water so none must be dumped to surface water. The cleanup process is estimated to take up to 40 years.

Irrigation Management Project

The District is in the third year of a joint irrigation scheduling program with the Cooperative Extension Service and NRCS promoting and training producers in the use of ET gauges, data loggers, and moisture sensors. Last year, the average water pumped in the Little Blue was 6.9" for all systems. For those participating in the scheduling project, the average was between 1"-2" less per acre. This year, we have 90 cooperators who have signed up to purchase the equipment; the District will work closely with 50 of those new cooperators providing guidance. Those cooperators will represent approximately 50,000 acres of irrigated land. We also received a \$37,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to help purchase equipment for the next three year's programs. We firmly believe that the economics of this program will drive long-term implementation and very positive impacts on the conservation of our groundwater resources. Producers are very interested in saving both water and production costs, especially with every increasing fuel costs.



Cooperating producer demonstrates use of ET equipment

Little Sandy Creek Watershed Progress

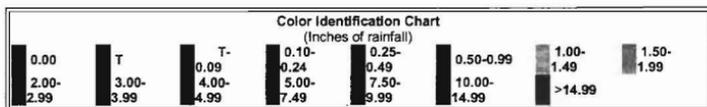
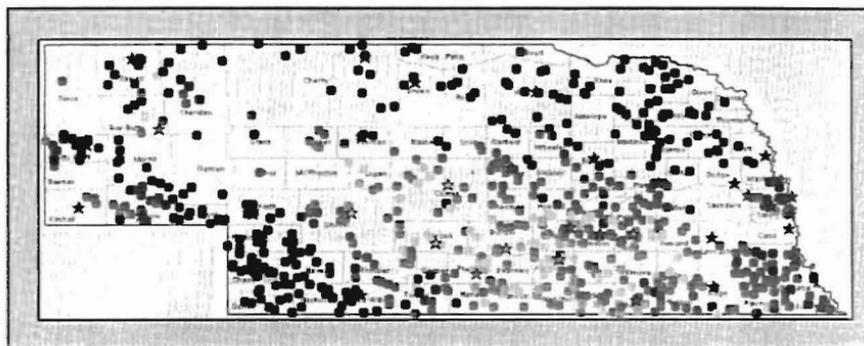
The third dam on the Little Sandy Creek Watershed Project was completed early in 2008. The dam known as Site 40 will control drainage from over 14,500 acres. The last two dams on the watershed were scheduled for construction this summer but changes in the way the Corps of Engineers reviews 404 permits has delayed the structures for perhaps a year. We are working diligently trying to put together the information the Corps needs. In the mean time, land rights activities have been placed on hold.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Little Blue NRD and Lower Big Blue NRD have teamed up with Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Thayer, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Clay, Adams and Webster for the development of a regional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. An All-Hazards Mitigation Plan is now required as a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations in order for any local governmental entity to receive funding for pre-hazard mitigation projects or post-hazard cleanup and damage repair. Through Hazard Mitigation planning, local entities are encouraged to identify their individual risks and hazards from floods, wind storms, droughts, wildfires, dam failures, etc., examine possible eligible projects to minimize those risks, and then implement those plans to provide protection for lives, structures, resources and crucial infrastructure. The Upper Big Blue NRD is contributing funds for portions of the counties which they share with the other two districts.

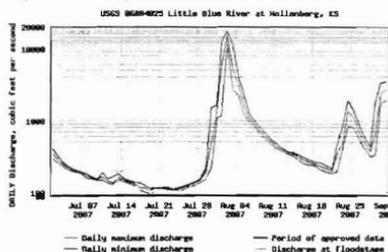
NeRAIN – Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network

The NeRAIN website has now been active for the last 5 years. About 700+ volunteers participate in daily rain gauge reporting to a centralize computer at the Department of Natural Resources. The results of rainfall activity is instantaneously reflected on the state-wide map. The map below shows the July 29, 2007 storm event which dropped heavy rain across much of the Blue Basin. You can check out the site at: <http://dnrdata.dnr.ne.gov/NeRAIN/index.asp>

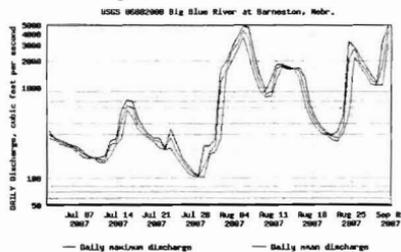


Connections to Surface Water Flows

NeRAIN also gives us opportunities to examine runoff events and the impacts of those events on stream flow. It is interesting to note the changes in state-line stream gauges in the immediate days following a storm event. The charts below reflect the impacts of the rainfall event above.

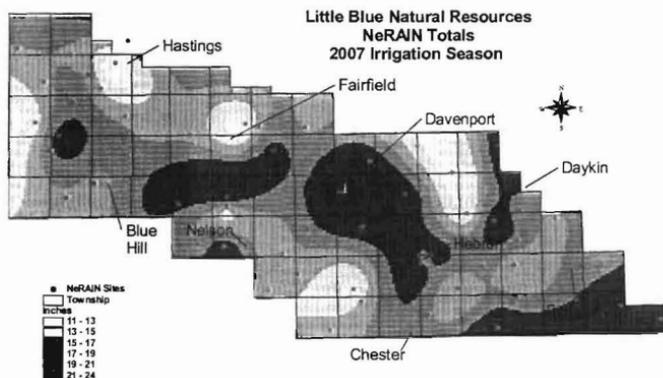


Little Blue Gauge at Hollenberg



Big Blue River Gauge at Barneston

Another valuable component of the NeRAIN project is that it allows us to more accurately monitor seasonal rainfall to determine why irrigation pumpage may vary across the District. It can also be used to help analyze our water level monitoring program and trends. The map below was generated using NeRAIN data for the growing season period of May 1st through September 30 of last year. One thing that is not shown in this scenario is the preseason moisture which may fill the soil profile before the growing season. Our District has received a grant from the Nebraska Sorghum Board to install soil moisture sensors and use an ET gauge on dryland fields this year to better track natural soil moisture conditions throughout the growing season.



KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT REPORT
U.S. Geological Survey—Water Year 2007

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) continues to operate two streamflow gaging stations for the Compact Administration—Big Blue River at Barneston, NE (06882000), and Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS (06884025). An electronic data logger (EDL) at each station automatically records streamflow stage every 30 minutes. These instantaneous values are transmitted via satellite to USGS offices, where they are used to compute preliminary values of instantaneous and daily discharge that are immediately posted to the Web (addresses shown below). Before the data are finalized, updates and revisions are made as needed, based on a series of quality checks and reviews. Finalized values of daily discharge and summary statistics are published annually on a site-by-site basis on a national Web page (address shown below).

During water year (WY) 2007 (October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007), periodic visits were made to the stations to maintain and calibrate the sensing and recording equipment, make discharge measurements, and download the data directly from the EDLs, as a backup to the satellite data. The discharge measurements were used to determine shifts from the stage-discharge relations (rating curves) that were then used to convert stage values to corresponding values of discharge.

For **Big Blue River at Barneston**, 9 discharge (and stage) measurements, ranging from 136 ft³/s (3.54 ft) to 24,400 ft³/s (24.46 ft), and two inspections were made during WY 2007. The annual mean discharge of 857 ft³/s exceeded the 285 ft³/s for WY 2006 and the new historical mean of 841 ft³/s for WYs 1933–2007. The maximum and minimum daily discharges were 23,700 ft³/s on May 7 and 99 ft³/s (estimate during ice cover) on Feb 15. Record daily maximums were equaled or set Jan 1, 5–7; May 7–8; and Aug 4–5. There were no record daily minimum flows. The annual seven-day minimum flow was 126 ft³/s for the period beginning Feb 13.

For **Little Blue River at Hollenberg**, 11 discharge (and stage) measurements, ranging from 100 ft³/s (2.16 ft) to 16,900 ft³/s (14.66 ft), and one inspection were made during WY 2007. The annual mean discharge of 517 ft³/s exceeded the 173 ft³/s for WY 2006 and the new historical mean of 497 ft³/s for WYs 1975–2007. The maximum and minimum daily discharges were 15,100 ft³/s on Aug 2 and 93 ft³/s on Dec 19. Record daily maximum flows were equaled or set Dec 31–Jan 5; May 7, 16; Aug 1–3, and 30–31. Record daily minimum flows were equaled or set Feb 14–15. The annual seven-day minimum flow was 95 ft³/s for the period beginning Nov 1.

For each of the State delegations and the Compact chairman, copies of the WY 2007 published data (manuscript, discharge daily values, statistics tables, and discharge hydrograph) from *WDR2007: Water-Data Report—United States 2007* are attached for each station. These site-data sheets (PDF files) are available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/wdr/> along with other data for the Nation. Previous online reports, including WYs 2002–2005 for Nebraska and WY 2006 for the United States, are also available at the same site. Also attached are plots of the annual mean discharges for the periods of record, and plots of the daily discharges for WY 2007 compared to those for the lowest and highest years on record and to the historical minimum, median, and maximum values for each day of the year.

Current (real-time) and historical data on surface water, ground water, and water quality for the Nation can be accessed and downloaded via the National Water Resources website (<http://water.usgs.gov/>) or from the Nebraska Water Resources website (<http://ne.water.usgs.gov/>). Daily, monthly, and annual streamflow statistics are also available under "Surface Water" on the National site and under "Historical data: Streamflow" on the Nebraska site. Up to 31 days of unit values or 18 months of daily values can be accessed using the real-time options.

Phil Soenksen
Chief, Hydrologic Data Section
May 23, 2008



Water Data Report 2007

06882000 Big Blue River at Barneston, Nebr.

Big Blue Basin
Middle Big Blue Subbasin

LOCATION.--Lat 40°02'41", long 96°35'14" referenced to North American Datum of 1983, in NE ¼ NW ¼ sec.24, T.1 N., R.7 E., Gage County, NE, Hydrologic Unit 10270202, on right bank at right downstream end of bridge on State Highway 8, 0.6 mi southwest of Barneston, 1.3 mi upstream from Plum Creek, and 4.3 mi upstream from Nebraska-Kansas State line.

WY-2007

DRAINAGE AREA.--4,447 mi² of which 77 mi² probably is noncontributing.

SURFACE-WATER RECORDS

PERIOD OF RECORD.--May 1932 to current year.

REVISED RECORDS.--WSP 896: 1932, 1935. WSP 1919: Drainage area.

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is 1,162.2 ft above sea level. Prior to June 9, 1941, water-stage recorder at site 0.3 mi downstream at datum 1.56 ft higher. June 9 to Nov 17, 1941, non-recording gage and Nov 18, 1941 to Sept 30, 1979, water-stage recorder at site 0.7 mi upstream at datum 2.0 ft higher. Data collection platform at station.

REMARKS.--Records good except for estimated daily discharges, which are poor.

Water-Data Report 2007

06882000 Big Blue River at Barneston, Nebr.—Continued

DISCHARGE, CUBIC FEET PER SECOND
WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2007
DAILY MEAN VALUES
[e, estimated]

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	271	135	196	1,070	e161	1,110	2,810	1,210	1,470	306	1,130	4,810
2	249	134	132	591	e157	643	1,350	940	2,310	274	1,620	3,100
3	232	134	143	508	e153	410	895	759	1,250	249	2,550	1,580
4	214	142	145	646	e150	301	667	661	972	237	3,040	965
5	197	139	159	1,460	e152	350	525	1,030	795	226	4,370	674
6	185	141	154	1,010	e152	695	441	11,300	753	209	3,570	524
7	175	142	233	661	e155	650	385	23,700	776	187	1,790	546
8	165	139	158	500	e157	504	352	22,500	726	172	1,110	460
9	159	138	146	411	e159	518	332	13,100	639	168	841	375
10	159	132	145	352	e161	618	343	6,010	580	160	907	333
11	163	134	165	318	e152	e560	825	3,870	521	157	1,660	309
12	152	136	162	e255	e148	e541	817	2,600	484	232	1,760	283
13	146	140	155	e181	e133	508	565	1,850	467	244	1,690	264
14	142	137	151	e153	e110	453	455	1,330	498	420	1,650	247
15	149	140	147	e117	e99	402	401	1,300	1,770	635	1,570	245
16	156	139	154	e101	e113	355	365	3,250	1,520	612	882	240
17	160	140	149	e106	e137	325	338	2,240	941	401	544	232
18	154	136	144	e137	e140	304	324	1,460	660	342	417	256
19	149	134	145	e159	e147	290	306	1,060	619	288	346	415
20	146	131	155	e177	e161	270	295	936	778	262	312	970
21	164	134	171	e172	e178	271	288	809	708	253	290	1,010
22	156	133	169	e170	e244	278	287	715	616	211	276	1,120
23	143	138	169	e188	e305	263	280	654	650	277	372	842
24	142	140	167	e175	e511	254	298	2,990	789	199	2,110	550
25	144	139	169	e184	e1,540	247	2,000	4,900	545	157	2,680	538
26	156	143	170	e184	e1,080	240	3,840	3,110	446	128	1,850	974
27	157	145	170	e161	720	239	5,800	3,180	419	112	1,590	1,640
28	149	149	169	e152	776	252	5,730	1,740	731	104	1,250	898
29	147	143	182	e152	---	257	2,980	1,250	534	137	1,100	580
30	145	165	259	e152	---	268	1,620	1,010	366	196	1,780	414
31	138	---	830	e159	---	1,140	---	833	---	228	4,280	---
Total	5,164	4,172	5,763	10,762	8,251	13,516	35,914	122,297	24,333	7,783	49,337	25,394
Mean	167	139	186	347	295	436	1,197	3,945	811	251	1,592	846
Max	271	165	830	1,460	1,540	1,140	5,800	23,700	2,310	635	4,370	4,810
Min	138	131	132	101	99	239	280	654	366	104	276	232
Ac-ft	10,240	8,280	11,430	21,350	16,370	26,810	71,240	242,600	48,260	15,440	97,860	50,370

STATISTICS OF MONTHLY MEAN DATA FOR WATER YEARS 1933 - 2007, BY WATER YEAR (WY)

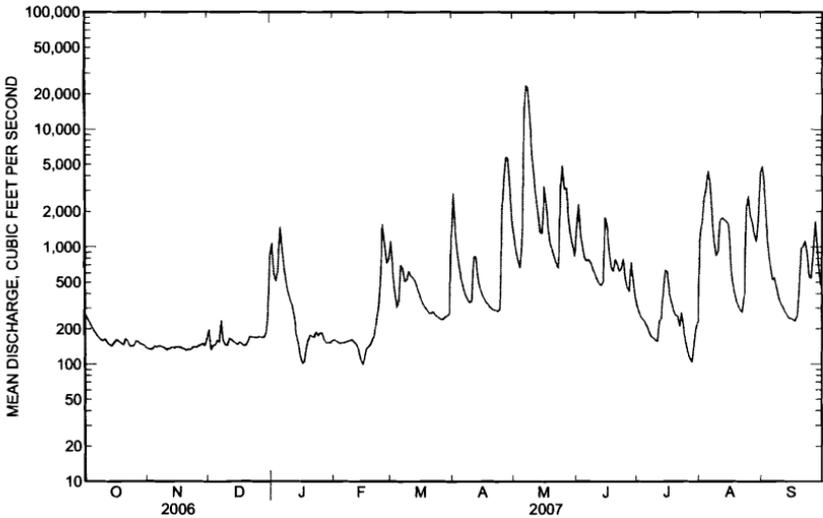
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Mean	521	302	236	283	619	1,307	840	1,323	1,987	1,273	697	696
Max	7,451	1,526	851	1,596	2,876	10,560	5,280	5,207	10,460	12,270	5,227	3,420
(WY)	(1974)	(1999)	(1998)	(1973)	(1984)	(1979)	(1984)	(1995)	(1951)	(1993)	(1954)	(1989)
Min	61.5	77.5	87.4	67.6	116	137	132	96.0	69.3	30.7	21.1	50.6
(WY)	(1941)	(1937)	(1977)	(1937)	(1940)	(1968)	(1934)	(1934)	(1934)	(1934)	(1934)	(1939)

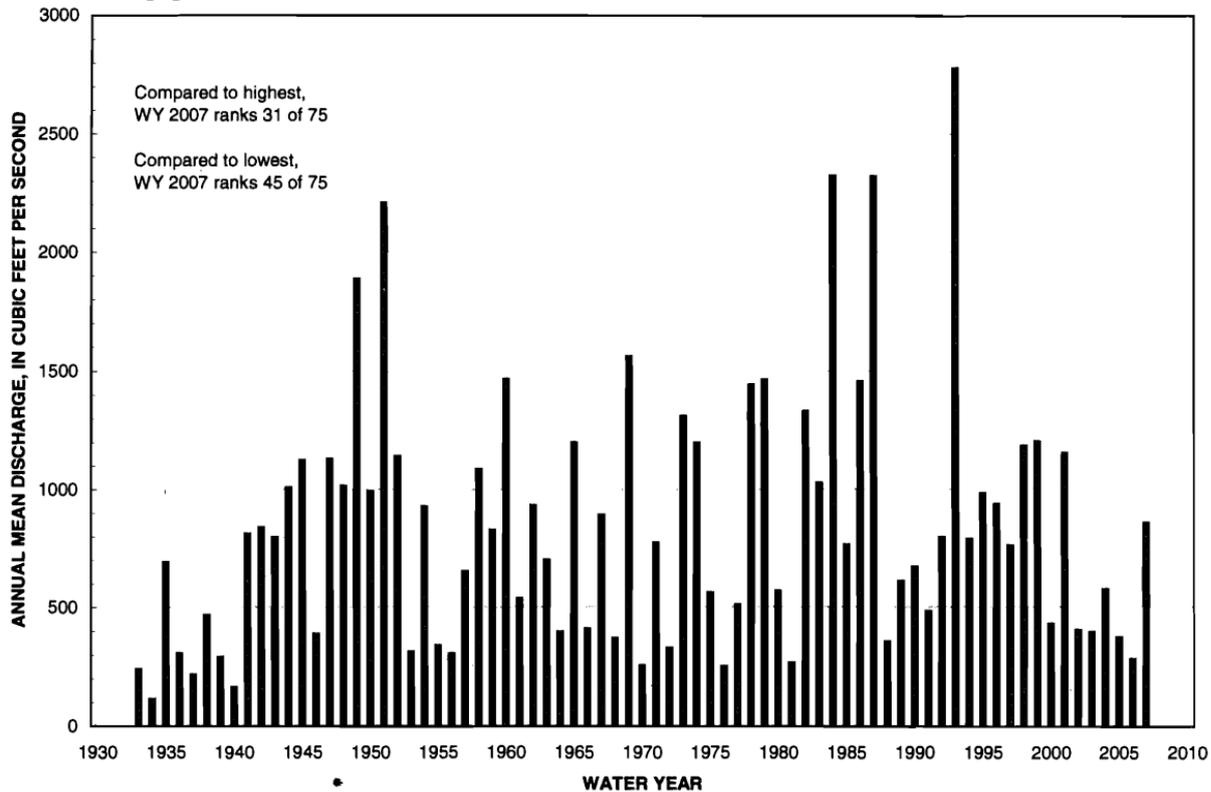
Water-Data Report 2007

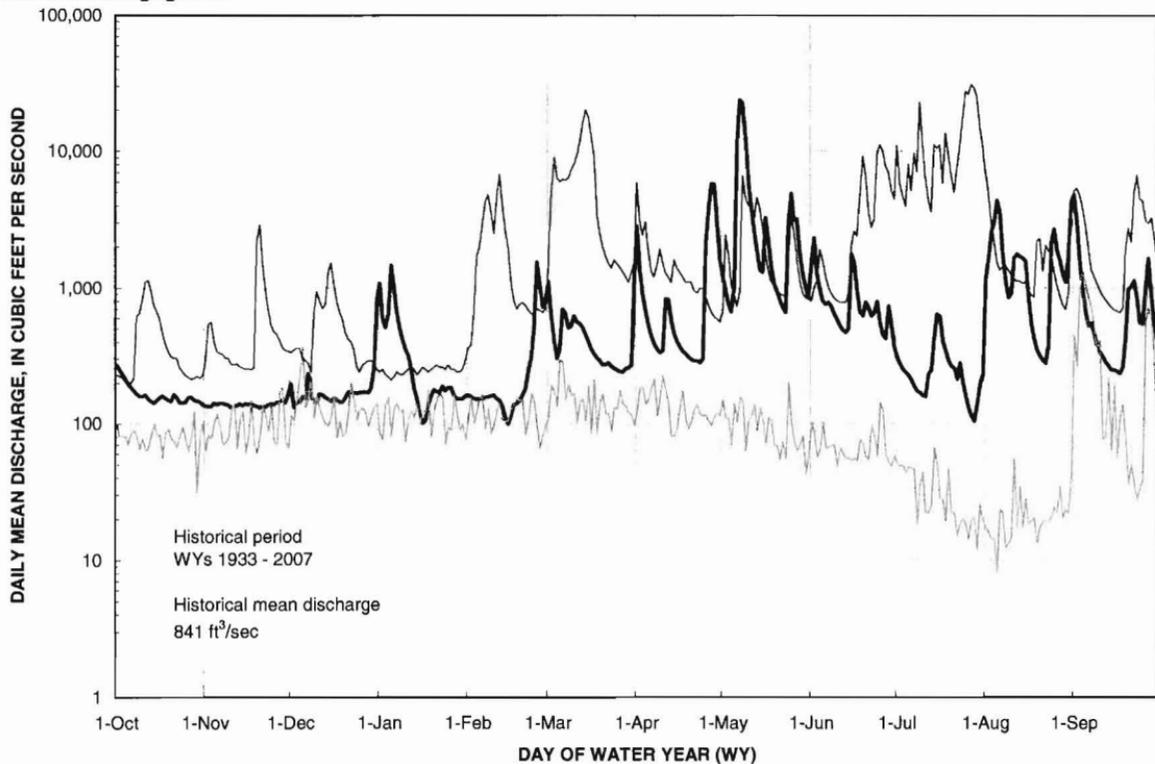
0682000 Big Blue River at Barneston, Nebr.—Continued

SUMMARY STATISTICS

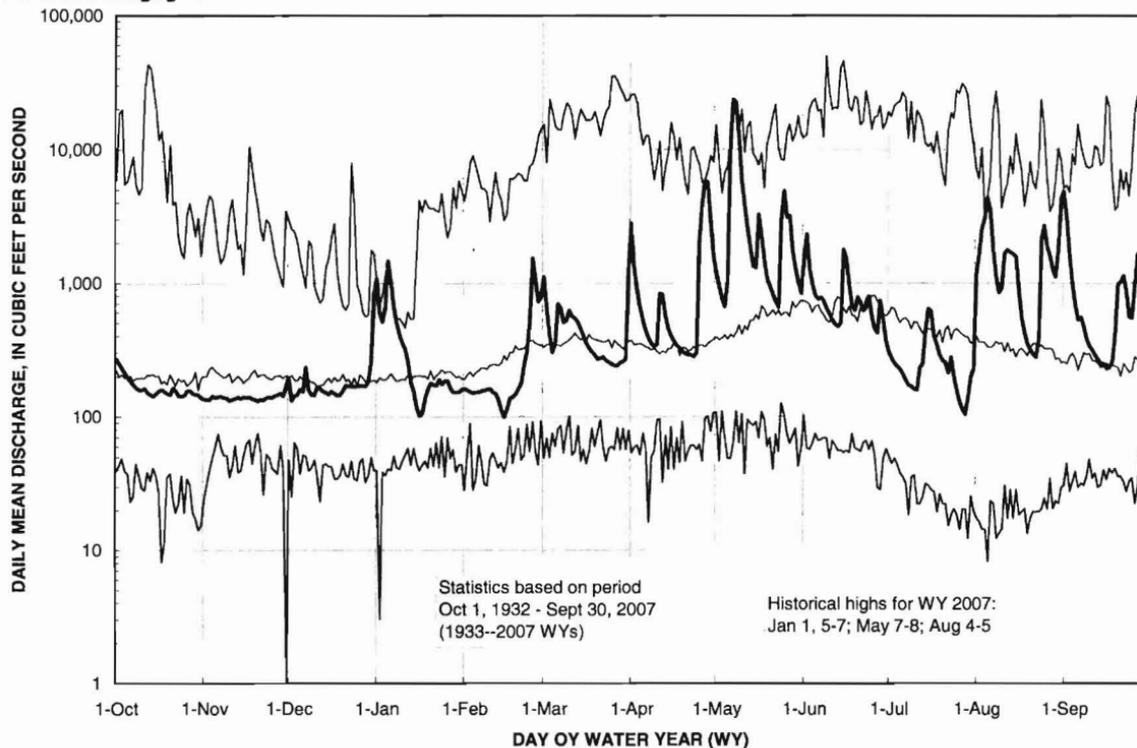
	Calendar Year 2006		Water Year 2007		Water Years 1933 - 2007	
Annual total	109,021		312,686			
Annual mean	299		857		841	
Highest annual mean					2,781	1993
Lowest annual mean					115	1934
Highest daily mean	4,960	Aug 20	23,700	May 7	50,000	Jun 9, 1941
Lowest daily mean	30	Jul 30	99	Feb 15	1.0	Nov 30, 1945
Annual seven-day minimum	34	Jul 30	126	Feb 13	15	Aug 3, 1934
Maximum peak flow			24,900	May 7	57,700	Jun 9, 1941
Maximum peak stage			24.61	May 7	34.30	Jun 9, 1941
Annual runoff (ac-ft)	216,200		620,200		609,100	
10 percent exceeds	600		1,710		1,710	
50 percent exceeds	156		295		273	
90 percent exceeds	125		140		105	







— WY 2007 (857 ft³/s annual mean) Historical low WY 1934 (115 ft³/s annual mean) - - - Historical high WY 1993 (2,781 ft³/s annual mean)



— WY 2007 (857 ft³/s annual mean) — Historical minimum — Historical median — Historical maximum



Water-Data Report 2007

06884025 Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS

Big Blue Basin
Lower Little Blue Subbasin

LOCATION.--Lat 39°58'49", long 97°00'17" referenced to North American Datum of 1983, in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec.8, T.1 S., R.4 E., Washington County, KS, Hydrologic Unit 10270207, on right bank 2 ft downstream from bridge on county road, 0.6 mi west of Hollenberg, 1.75 mi downstream from Nebraska-Kansas State line, and at mile 43.1

DRAINAGE AREA.--2752.00 mi²

SURFACE-WATER RECORDS

PERIOD OF RECORD.--March 1973 to February 1974 (discharge measurements only), March 1974 to current year.

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder. Datum of gage is 1,216.10 ft above sea level. Data collection platform at station.

REMARKS.--Records good except for estimated daily discharges, which are poor. Discharge measurements made prior to 1974 water year are published in table of miscellaneous sites in WDR NE-73.

EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD.--Flood of Oct 12, 1973, reached a stage of 23.07 ft, present datum, from floodmark, discharge not determined.

06884025 Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS—Continued

DISCHARGE, CUBIC FEET PER SECOND
WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2007
DAILY MEAN VALUES
[e, estimated]

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	160	94	e97	326	e101	466	884	349	1,330	347	5,550	1,430
2	144	95	e94	353	e100	417	479	285	2,370	279	15,100	840
3	134	95	e97	310	e98	368	354	264	1,640	244	5,130	537
4	126	94	e100	359	e97	313	296	264	1,090	220	3,190	388
5	119	93	e103	375	e98	272	245	731	751	203	1,640	303
6	113	96	e103	250	e103	252	223	7,990	573	191	1,070	251
7	109	96	e101	196	e101	234	201	8,100	474	176	898	265
8	106	98	e98	167	e100	223	187	3,060	370	162	735	207
9	101	99	e101	146	e104	215	181	1,520	327	154	605	187
10	100	98	e105	138	e106	201	203	992	303	168	513	173
11	107	97	e123	129	e107	191	299	791	283	146	441	166
12	102	99	131	125	e110	185	248	639	280	138	393	157
13	99	100	129	e108	e106	183	208	539	247	164	357	150
14	97	99	117	117	e104	178	200	464	264	151	349	144
15	97	101	109	e107	e103	171	192	5,010	263	139	314	133
16	98	100	103	e106	e118	164	184	5,790	350	133	283	132
17	103	103	97	e113	e143	159	175	1,880	704	118	263	133
18	101	100	93	e118	e367	154	167	1,030	881	118	247	214
19	98	98	93	e113	615	150	157	758	761	106	234	1,240
20	97	99	105	e109	1,360	143	160	638	621	116	219	1,460
21	101	101	126	e110	2,190	149	156	553	488	116	205	546
22	101	99	126	e107	1,850	153	155	492	376	114	335	318
23	98	99	118	e115	1,340	148	153	461	472	109	489	245
24	98	100	109	e116	1,180	146	163	2,300	339	111	1,320	201
25	99	98	106	e109	1,150	143	1,220	2,980	356	117	1,120	244
26	103	100	107	e104	848	141	1,840	1,810	281	125	690	640
27	106	101	104	e103	832	164	889	941	1,150	133	490	419
28	105	103	105	e104	552	220	656	822	1,850	145	369	267
29	114	101	113	e104	---	175	612	591	1,450	189	641	215
30	108	100	188	e106	---	176	447	483	520	493	2,350	184
31	98	---	399	e107	---	1,350	---	479	---	1,320	2,710	---
Total	3,342	2,956	3,700	4,950	14,083	7,604	11,534	53,006	21,164	6,445	48,250	11,789
Mean	108	98.5	119	160	503	245	384	1,710	705	208	1,556	393
Max	160	103	399	375	2,190	1,350	1,840	8,100	2,370	1,320	15,100	1,460
Min	97	93	93	103	97	141	153	264	247	106	205	132
Ac-ft	6,630	5,860	7,340	9,820	27,930	15,080	22,880	105,100	41,980	12,780	95,700	23,380

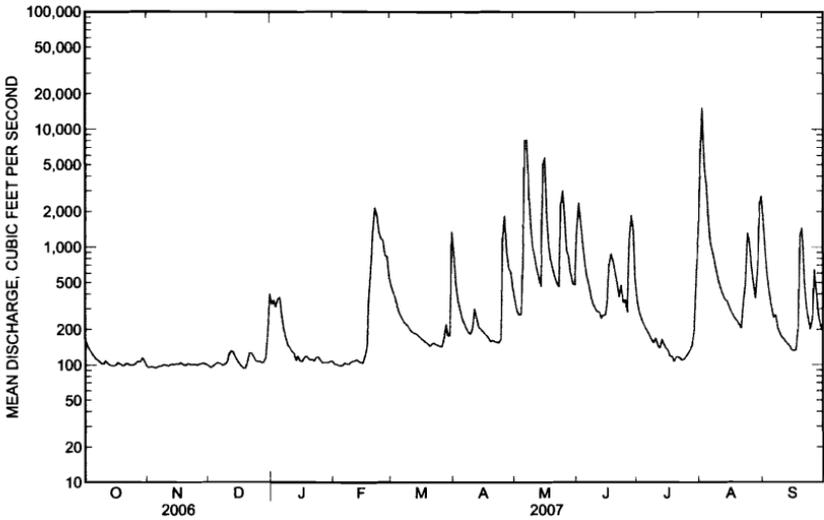
STATISTICS OF MONTHLY MEAN DATA FOR WATER YEARS 1975 - 2007, BY WATER YEAR (WY)

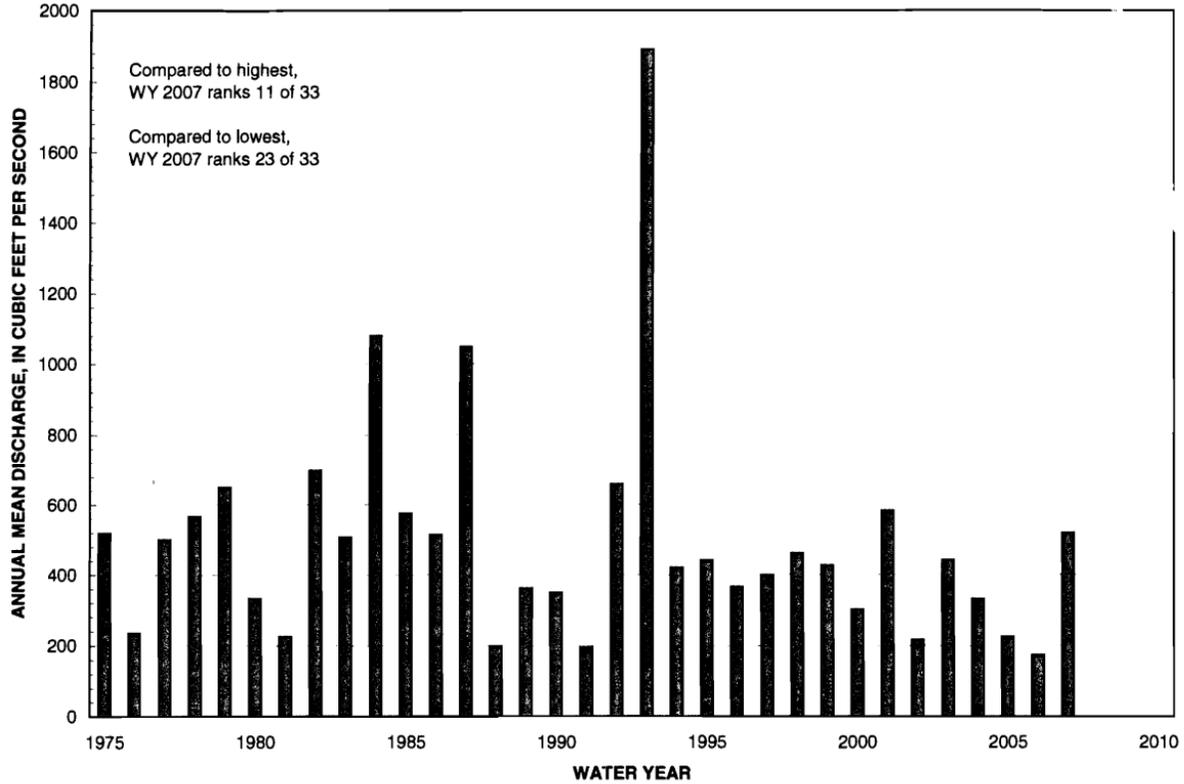
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Mean	285	227	173	170	316	731	502	798	929	922	524	369
Max	2,163	1,113	424	576	1,059	3,816	2,379	2,302	4,373	9,014	2,572	1,320
(WY)	(1987)	(1997)	(1993)	(1984)	(1993)	(1993)	(1987)	(1995)	(1984)	(1993)	(1985)	(1977)
Min	45.3	81.1	96.7	98.5	115	118	123	108	151	83.8	72.5	32.0
(WY)	(1992)	(1992)	(2001)	(1977)	(1992)	(1981)	(2003)	(1992)	(1981)	(2002)	(1991)	(1991)

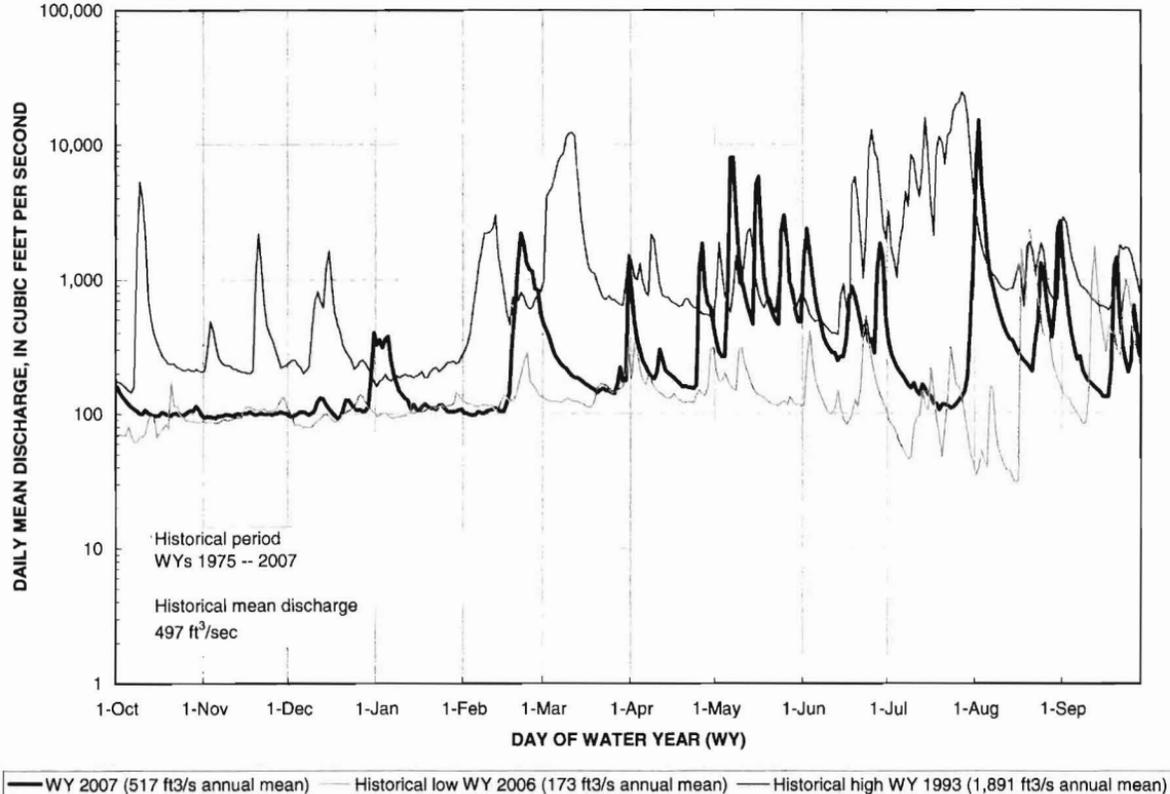
06894025 Little Blue River at Hollenberg, KS—Continued

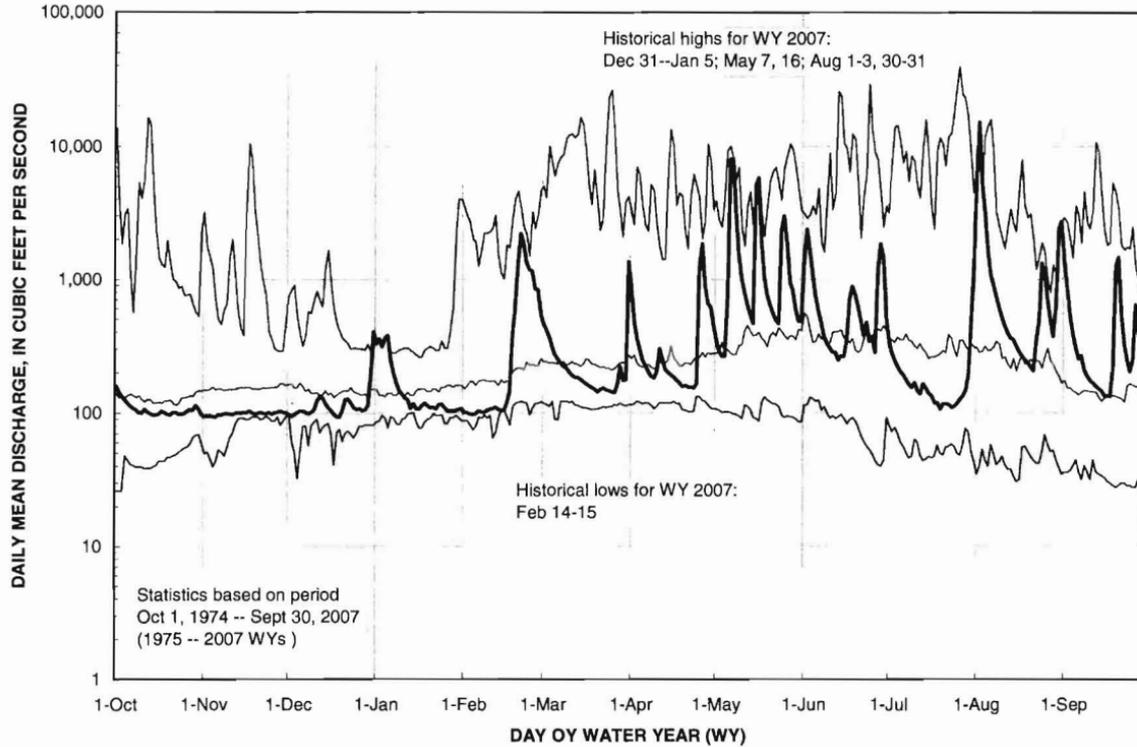
SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Calendar Year 2006		Water Year 2007		Water Years 1975 - 2007	
Annual total	64,487		188,823			
Annual mean	177		517		497	
Highest annual mean					1,891	1993
Lowest annual mean					173	2006
Highest daily mean	2,340	Aug 20	15,100	Aug 2	39,300	Jul 26, 1992
Lowest daily mean	30	Aug 15	93	Nov 5	26	Oct 1, 1991
Annual seven-day minimum	36	Aug 10	95	Nov 1	27	Sep 27, 1991
Maximum peak flow			17,200	Aug 2	47,800	Jul 26, 1992
Maximum peak stage			14.81	Aug 2	21.21	Jul 26, 1992
Annual runoff (ac-ft)	127,900		374,500		359,900	
10 percent exceeds	287		1,150		826	
50 percent exceeds	117		176		195	
90 percent exceeds	91		99		101	









— WY 2007 (517 ft³/s annual mean) — Historical minimum — Historical median — Historical maximum

KANSAS - NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION REPORT

**Water Quality Committee
May 8, 2008**

BACKGROUND: In 1995, the Water Quality Committee and affiliated partner agencies and associations began pursuing four (4) primary objectives designed to enhance water quality in the Big Blue River Basin of Kansas and Nebraska. These objectives were to:

- 1) Design, implement, and conduct a basin wide water quality monitoring program;
- 2) Develop and conduct a baseline survey of farm practices utilized in the basin with emphasis on pesticide and nutrient use;
- 3) Develop water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) and economics support information suitable to the basin; and,
- 4) Initiate and conduct water quality stewardship education and outreach programs in the basin.

Most Water Quality Committee projects are planned and conducted through the use of work groups made up of governmental agency, land grant university and private sector partners. The full committee and affiliated partners meet annually for a review of the status of existing projects and to plan activities for the upcoming year. Typically we hold the annual meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration. Project work groups meet as the need arises. Over the years we have developed an excellent working relationship with most decisions being made by consensus.

ANNUAL MEETING: The 2008 annual meeting of the Kansas - Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration's Water Quality Committee was held on Thursday, May 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the offices of the Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District, 805 Dorsey Street, Beatrice, NE. WQ Committee members present at this year's meeting included Rich Reiman (NDA), Annette Kovar (NDEQ), and Dale Lambley (KDA). Other meeting participants included Dave Clabaugh (Lower Big Blue NRD), Rod DeBuhr (Upper Big Blue NRD), Daryl Anderson (Little Blue NRD),

Phil Barnes (KSU), Craig Romary (NDA), Wally Valasek (NRCS), Todd Phillips, Dick Wiechman and Pete Davis (EPA Region VII), Tom Franti (UNL Extension), Don Jones (Kansas SCC), Dick Ehrman (NARD), Greg Michl (NDEQ), Lindsey Douglas (KDA), Dave Griffith (NRCS/NDEQ), Leslie Kaufman (Ks Co-op Council) and Mary Jane Stankiewicz (KARA/KGFA). A copy of the meeting agenda is provided in **Attachment A**.

Water Quality Monitoring and TMDL Status Reports: Phil Barnes and Greg Michl provided the WQ Committee with a brief update of water quality issues and TMDL activities involving the Big Blue River, particularly as these relate to the four county focus area at the state line. Dale Lambley also circulated information which Tom Stiles had prepared relative to Tuttle Creek TMDLs. Following the meeting Phil submitted a written overview of his findings. That overview has been circulated to committee members and participants and a copy is also attached to this report (**Attachment B**).

Atrazine remains a water quality issue even though more producers have shifted to Round-Up Ready corn. Producers in the area commonly use atrazine at a rate of 2.5 lbs./acre in the production of grain sorghum. Phil Barnes noted that the KSU Extension Service is strongly working with producers to do late fall applications or to incorporate spring applications and make spring applications prior to the June runoff period.

Phil noted that monitoring showed the river system was carrying high levels of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. The bulk of the sediment came as a result of three intense rain storms over the central portion of the basin. Also, the low head dam at Blue Springs, NE had been washed out releasing stored sediments into the river system. Finally, work KSU is doing on the Black Vermillion shows that much head cutting is occurring on that tributary. In 2007, KSU received an EPA grant to support study of sheet and rill erosion, ephemeral gully formation and channel degradation in the Black Vermillion watershed of Kansas. That watershed continues to receive much attention on the Kansas side of the border because it is a major feeder stream just upstream of Tuttle Creek Reservoir and because it has historically been a source of bacterial, sediment and atrazine loading.

Phil advised the group that increased attention was being given in Kansas to the sediment loading of reservoirs and the resultant loss of water storage capacity. Tuttle Creek is one reservoir of concern and is a significant drinking water source for northeastern Kansas communities. The current cost of dredging sediment from Tuttle Creek Reservoir has been estimated to be \$1/2 billion.

Greg Michl reported that the Big Blue River was a part of the 2007 rotation in Nebraska and NDEQ had submitted the 2008 Water Quality Integrated Report to EPA Region VII on March 26, 2008. At this point Nebraska conditions look to be consistent with earlier

findings. Only one new TMDL (Big Indian Lake) is anticipated. That water body is deemed impaired by sediment and nutrients.

Tom Stiles' report noted that the Tuttle Creek TMDLs have been revisited as required by the Clean Water Act and approved by EPA for review. If things go well during the next TMDL rotation, there is a potential for delisting Tuttle Creek Reservoir in 2012.

It should be noted that there has been a general downward trend in atrazine levels in waters of the Big Blue River system and the time duration in which Tuttle Creek Lake exceeds atrazine TMDL standards has generally been reduced to the May and June period. However, heavy rains immediately following atrazine applications can and do still lead to spikes. Progress has definitely been made in reducing atrazine concentrations in the reservoir, but it is not yet time to declare success.

Cooperative Blue River/Tuttle Creek Lake Grant Project : In 2006 NDEQ working in behalf of the WQ Committee received grant funding from the EPA Targeted Watersheds Grants Program for water quality work in the basin. The project is a collaborative effort between the states of Nebraska and Kansas and is designed to address multi-jurisdictional water quality problems including excessive runoff of sediment, nutrients, herbicides and bacteria from the Big Blue River system into Tuttle Creek Lake. Steve Walker who served as NDEQ's project coordinator for the grant resigned from his employment with the agency in January of 2008. Greg Michl (NDEQ), who has since been assigned the duties of project coordinator, Don Jones, and Wally Valasek provided the WQ Committee with a status report on the progress of grant implementation.

It has taken a substantial amount of time to work out the administrative agreements and mechanics of funding among the various state agencies, Natural Resources Districts and Conservation Districts involved. Consequently, NDEQ made a request to EPA that the grant and budget period be extended to September 30, 2011. This extension was approved by EPA on October 15, 2007.

At this point the "Inter-governmental Agreement" between NDEQ and the Marshall County, KS Conservation District for employing a part-time Water Quality Coordinator to promote the implementation of conservation practices in Marshall and Washington County, KS has been finalized. The landowner/producer contracts for Kansas have also been finalized and are being administered directly by NDEQ. Horseshoe Creek is the focus of efforts on the Kansas side, and despite the slow start, 6 producers representing 980 acres have now been signed up.

On the Nebraska side of the border, the "Inter-governmental Agreement" between NDEQ and the Lower Big Blue NRD for administering the payments to participating

landowners/producers has been revised to comply with certain EPA requirements and to reflect the exact funding amount available for conservation practices in Nebraska. The project work plan has also been amended to reflect an 8-month extension of Nebraska's watershed specialist position.

Wally Valasek noted that a number of practices in addition to no-till (i.e. field borders, riparian buffers, tile outlets, others) were being promoted to address WQ problems in the Nebraska portion of the Lower Big Blue and that Cub Creek was a primary focus area. The watershed specialist is particularly trying to enlist landowners and producers along the main channel and below the watershed structure. The project is providing good seed money to leverage or partner with other existing EQIP programs. Wally also noted that to this point we haven't seen a lot of land being taken out of contracts and returned to production.

The Water Quality Committee would like to express sincere thanks to Steve Walker for the hard work he expended in developing the grant project and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Agencies and Partners Reports:

Annette Kovar informed the committee that NDEQ had met with EPA relative to the possible streamlining of the water quality standards process. The meeting had been fruitful and similar efforts would likely take place involving other types of permits.

Rich Reiman advised the committee that the Nebraska Legislature enacted Bill 790 which allowed NDA to establish new rates for the buffer strip program. Payments can now be increased from \$150/acre to \$250/acre. NDA is in the process of making necessary adjustments in the regulations. The change in payment limits will also allow the agency to use targeted watershed grant funds to partner on dry land area projects. Rich also noted phragmites are now listed as a noxious weed in Nebraska. The state directed \$1.5 million last year, and \$1 million additional dollars this year for control of phragmites and other phreatophytes. This work is being guided by the Riparian Task Force which has been established by the state. The chemical being used in phragmites control is a product called "Habitat" which is produced by BASF and the company is giving a 5 year guarantee on control.

Dale Lambley, Todd Phillips and Craig Romary updated the committee on the status of current EPA-OPP activities relating to pesticides and water. As was noted in last year's report, EPA-OPP is initiating, in cooperation with states, an evaluation of pesticides to determine if any are pesticides of water quality concern. OPP has also asked the states to share available water quality data with EPA. KDA and NDA continue to work with EPA

Region VII to develop the methods and strategies for the evaluation of these pesticides and, if necessary, develop management plans.

Dave Clabaugh gave update information relative to activities in the Lower Big Blue NRD. He noted that the Lower Big Blue NRD has been called the “watershed capitol” and that Lower Turkey Creek was the only watershed currently having no flood control measures. Dave plans to attend the Compact Administration meeting in Manhattan, KS on May 16 and will present more detailed information concerning NRD activities.

Rod DeBuhr gave an update on Upper Big Blue NRD activities and water conditions. The average groundwater level change for the district from Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 was a rise of 1.58 feet. This is the first year of rise in the ground water table following seven years of decline. Rod also discussed groundwater nitrate levels and district nitrate management regulations. He also advised that the Upper Big Blue NRD is the lead agency in development of a detailed computer model of the Big and Little Blue River Basins. This study is to determine the boundary of connected surface and ground water for potential fully appropriated areas of the total basin. The Little Blue and Lower Big Blue NRDs are partners in this effort. Rod is also planning to attend the Compact Administration meeting and provide a more detailed report.

Pete Davis discussed the EPA 319 program, noting that allocations have been made to the regions and it is now time for the states to apply. Funding priorities include watersheds considered to be priority watersheds and having approved TMDLs. Those having comprehensive watershed plans completed would also have a leg up in obtaining funding approval.

Daryl Anderson distributed a written report and briefly discussed Lower Big Blue NRD activities. Changes in the way the Corps of Engineers reviews 404 permits has delayed start of construction of the last two dams on the Little Sandy Creek Watershed Project, but the NRD is working diligently to put together information the Corps needs and hopes construction can begin within one year. Daryl also drew attention to the NeRAIN information network and website which provides opportunities to examine runoff events and their impacts on stream flows. The Lower Big Blue NRD also plans to have representation at the Compact Administration meeting on May 28 and present a report.

Craig Romary discussed the NE buffer strip program and provided a summary showing numbers of applications, total acres and dollars contracted to the various NRDs. A copy of the Buffer Strip Program Summary is provided in **Attachment C**.

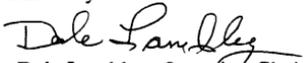
Tom Franti discussed the “redo” of the farm practices survey. One of the first projects undertaken by the Water Quality Committee was to conduct a baseline survey of farm practices in the Big Blue River Basin. That project was funded by EPA and received assistance from The National Agricultural Statistics Service. In recent times, the WQ Committee has been attempting to find funding support to conduct a follow up survey. After much effort, Tom Franti was able to obtain funding to resurvey certain Nebraska portions of the basin. Tom noted that some significant changes have occurred in farming practices since the original baseline survey was conducted and these changes appear largely positive from the water quality standpoint. The data is now in draft form and will, following review, be published.

A question was also raised during discussions relative to the current status of the WQ monitoring program. Phil Barnes is still conducting monitoring activities above Tuttle Creek Reservoir, but a contract has not been reestablished between KSU and NDEQ for work on the Nebraska side of the state line. Issues remain to be resolved between the KSU grants office and NDEQ. Phil and Greg Michl indicated that they would renew efforts to see if that situation could be rectified to the satisfaction of the parties involved.

The last order of business to be conducted by the WQ Committee was the selection of a new chair person, since Dale Lambley will be retiring from KDA on June 16, 2008. Pat Rice agreed to assume the position, and his name was put into nomination by Annette Kovar. Rich Reiman seconded the motion and Pat will assume the duties by unanimous consent. Dale Lambley will complete the write-up of the May 8, 2008 WQ Committee minutes and present the WQ Committee report to the Compact Administration on May 28. Following that, Pat will assume the chair.

At the meetings end, Dave Clabaugh invited all to attend the Free Family Fishing Day sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and to be held on May 17, 2008. Rich Reiman and Dave Clabaugh also presented Dale Lambley with an NDA jacket and Lower Big Blue NRD cap in recognition of services rendered. (I intend to wear them proudly!).

Sincerely


Dale Lambley, Outgoing Chair
Water Quality Committee

Agenda

Big Blue River Compact Water Quality Committee Meeting

May 8, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Lower Big Blue NRD Office, Beatrice, NE

- I. Roundtable Introductions
- II. Update on WQ monitoring & TMDLs – Phil Barnes (20 min.)
Tom Stiles (20 min.)
Greg Michl (20 min.)
- III. Update on Status of Tuttle Creek Lake
Targeted Watershed Grant Project - Greg Michl & Don Jones
(30 min.)
- IV. Lunch Break 11:30 a.m.
- V. Agencies & Partners Reports
- VI. Selection of New Chairperson
(Dale Lambley is retiring from KDA on June 16, 2008. Therefore we need to select a new chair person. The person serving as chair needs to be one of the agency representatives formally appointed to the WQ Committee by the Compact Administration. This means the representative needs to be the official NDA, NDEQ, KDA, KWO or KDHE delegate.)

**Blue River Watershed Water Quality Report
2003-2007**

By Philip Barnes PhD, Daniel Devlin PhD, and Timothy Keane PhD

During the past five years, Kansas State University has performed monitoring on the three main inflow tributaries to Tuttle Creek Reservoir near Manhattan, Kansas. Monitoring during a period from 1997 through 2004 had measured pesticide contamination flowing into the Reservoir. The current study expanded that original study to include suspended sediments, total nitrogen and phosphorus, and the herbicide atrazine. Grab samples were collected weekly during the summer months from April through September and monthly during the winter months October through March. The samples were collected near the U. S. Geological Survey gages at Barnes, Kansas on the Little Blue River, Marysville, Kansas on the Big Blue River, and near Frankfort, Kansas on the Black Vermillion River.

Figure 1 shows the suspended sediment loading entering Tuttle Creek Reservoir from the three main inflow tributaries. The percent loading from the Black Vermillion River, Big Blue River and the Little Blue River are 1%, 65%, and 34% respectively.

Sediment Load (tons)

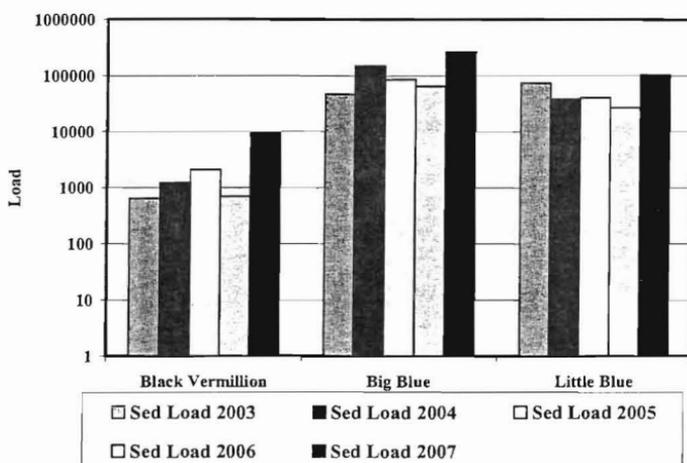


Figure 1. Suspended sediment loading during the study period.

Figure 2 shows the total nitrogen loading entering Tuttle Creek Reservoir from the three main inflow tributaries. The percent loading from the Black Vermillion River, Big Blue River and the Little Blue River are <1%, 73%, and 27% respectively.

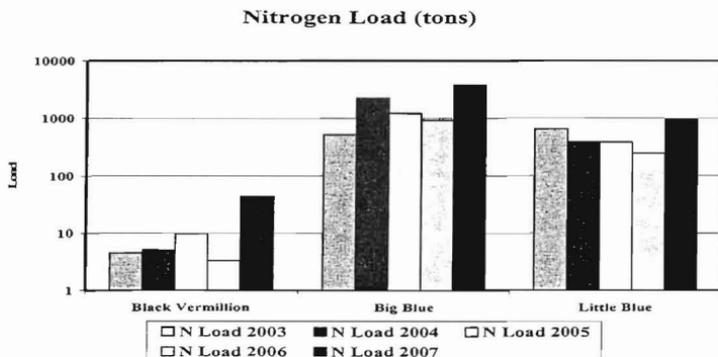


Figure 2. Total nitrogen loading during the study period.

Figure 3 shows the total phosphorus loading entering Tuttle Creek Reservoir from the three main inflow tributaries. The percent loading from the Black Vermillion River, Big Blue River and the Little Blue River are <1%, 72%, and 28% respectively.

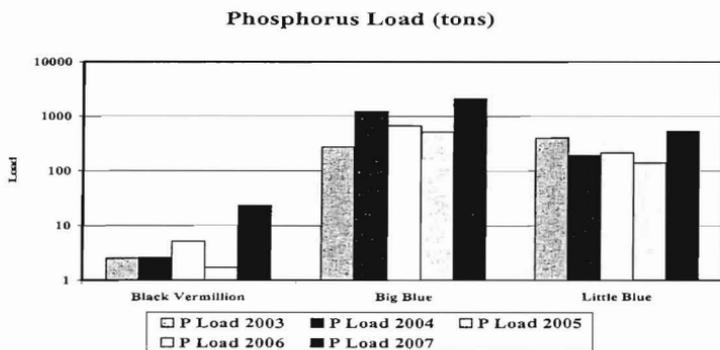


Figure 3. Total phosphorus loading during the study period.

Figure 4 shows the average annual atrazine concentration entering Tuttle Creek Reservoir from the three main inflow tributaries.

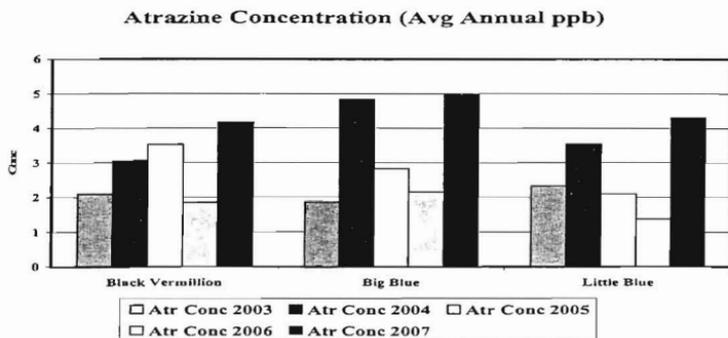


Figure 4. Average annual atrazine concentrations during the study period.

Figure 5 shows the atrazine loading entering Tuttle Creek Reservoir from the three main inflow tributaries. The percent loading from the Black Vermillion River, Big Blue River and the Little Blue River are 4%, 60%, and 36% respectively.

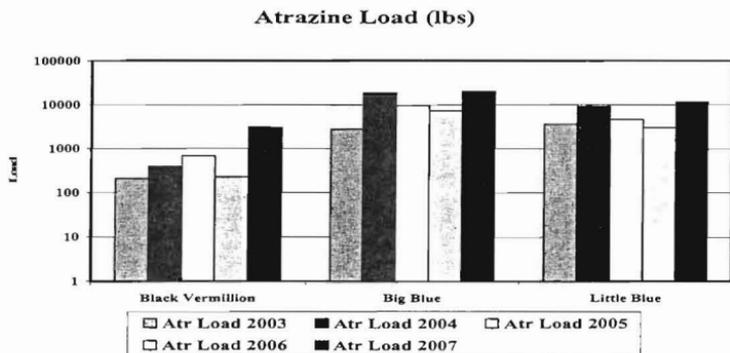


Figure 5. Atrazine loading during study period.

Conclusions

Conservation practices have helped reduce sediment and nutrient loading into Tuttle Creek Reservoir. But continued effort is needed to reduce these loadings. During extreme events in 2004 and 2007 many conservation practices sustained damage that needs to be repaired and stream banks were damaged during these high flow events.

These extreme events occurred during the atrazine application period which led to concentrations exceeding both the drinking water and aquatic standards for atrazine in Kansas. Continued diligence is needed when applying atrazine to make sure that its application is made before these runoff events.

Proposed Regulation Change Summary
for the
Nebraska Buffer Strip Program
April, 2008 Amendment

(changes are listed in the order they appear in the regulations)

- Requires a person to wait two years before re-enrolling acres after an early-cancellation of an existing NBSP, CRP, or CREP contract (004.03).
- Eligible buffers are those which filter cropland (004.04, 008.04)).
- Maximum rental rates were increased to not more than \$250/acre from all programs (007.01a, 007.02).
- Dryland cropland buffers are eligible for 20% of the average soil rental rate if CRP, CREP, or other governmentally-funded program is also used (007.01b).
- Irrigated acres will receive a maximum of \$250 if using other programs; a maximum of \$225 if using just the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program (007.01,007.02)
- Establishes early cancellation penalties (008.07)
- Requires NRDs to conduct at least two inspections of contracts during the agreement period (009).
- Establishes a maximum administration reimbursement rate for NRDs that is dependent on contract inspections (010).

Nebraska Buffer Strip Program Summary

NRD	# Applications	Total Acres	Miles	Irrigated Acres	Annual Application Dollars	"BSP Only" Acres	BSP Only Dollars	Annual Contracted Dollars
Central Platte	56	473.8	48	371	\$45,216.64	236	\$30,352.49	\$45,216.64
Lewis & Clark	33	206.3	29	53	\$12,426.34	75	\$8,913.70	\$12,426.34
Little Blue	60	340.3	53	215	\$34,921.26	229	\$30,249.96	\$34,921.26
Lower Big Blue	196	1,338.5	151	296	\$54,344.75	250	\$28,541.83	\$54,210.21
Lower Elkhorn	301	2,454.9	248	392	\$70,530.23	236	\$28,395.12	\$70,530.23
Lower Loup	81	963.1	90	801	\$123,665.4	849	\$116,863.3	\$121,011.94
Lower Niobrara	4	36.3	4	34	\$3,705.77	9	\$1,123.74	\$3,705.77
Lower Platte North	78	625.9	68	295	\$21,548.56	61	\$8,504.52	\$20,526.07
Lower Platte South	66	449.3	52	14	\$14,535.97	69	\$7,590.49	\$14,535.97
Lower Republican	12	68.2	8	27	\$6,731.88	60	\$6,643.07	\$6,731.88
Middle Republican	8	102.5	9	16	\$4,107.56	44	\$3,752.17	\$4,107.56
Nemaha	205	1,708.3	197	53	\$44,663.58	120	\$14,352.82	\$44,663.58
Papio-Missouri River	62	428.4	45	0	\$18,387.33	93	\$13,072.71	\$18,387.33
South Platte	32	489.6	41	188	\$31,342.89	223	\$27,287.15	\$31,342.89
Tri-Basin	17	145.9	16	138	\$21,209.68	146	\$21,209.68	\$21,209.68
Twin Platte	10	66.5	7	56	\$6,834.21	27	\$3,898.78	\$6,834.21
Upper Big Blue	61	510.0	71	278	\$39,389.41	226	\$31,423.04	\$39,389.41
Upper Elkhorn	18	243.2	22	236	\$26,079.54	64	\$9,615.00	\$26,079.54
Upper Republican	15	115.8	11	73	\$10,186.11	59	\$7,621.57	\$10,186.11
	1,315	10,767	1,171	3,533	\$589,827.15	3,074	\$399,411	\$586,016.62

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LAND-USE DOLLARS

Annual \$ for Irrigated w/o CRP	289,251
Annual \$ for Irrigated w/ CRP	93,621
Annual \$ for Non-irrigated w/o CRP	111,397
Annual \$ for Non-irrigated w/ CRP	94,869

LAND-USE ACRES

Irrigated Acres w/o CRP	1,933
Irrigated Acres w/ CRP	1,596
Non-irrigated Acres w/o CRP	1,166
Non-irrigated Acres w/ CRP	6,067

BUFFER TYPE

Forested Buffer Acres	321
Potential Obligation for Approved Applications	\$5,871,981
Total Obligation for Approved Contracts	\$5,833,776

KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2007

DANA F. COLE & COMPANY, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DANA F. COLE & COMPANY, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
1248 O STREET, SUITE 500
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration
Lincoln, Nebraska

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration for the year ended June 30, 2007 and the related statement of cash receipts and disbursements compared to budget for the year ended June 30, 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

As described in Note 1, this financial statement has been prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance at June 30, 2007 and the cash receipts and disbursements of Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact Administration for the year ended June 30, 2007, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Dana F Cole + Company, LLP

Lincoln, Nebraska
March 5, 2008

KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

RECEIPTS	
Kansas contribution	8,000
Nebraska contribution	8,000
Interest	<u>725</u>
Total receipts	<u>16,725</u>
DISBURSEMENTS	
Surface and ground water investigations	10,810
Staff travel	8
Auditing and accounting services	700
Secretary-Treasurer services	750
Postage and supplies	<u>56</u>
Total disbursements	<u>12,324</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	4,401
CASH, beginning of year	<u>20,116</u>
CASH, end of year	<u>24,517</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, COMPARED TO BUDGET
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
RECEIPTS			
Kansas contribution	8,000	8,000	
Nebraska contribution	8,000	8,000	
Interest		<u>725</u>	<u>725</u>
Total receipts	<u>16,000</u>	<u>16,725</u>	<u>725</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
Surface and ground water investigations	14,240	10,810	3,430
Staff travel	50	8	42
Auditing and accounting services	700	700	
Printing annual report	200		200
Secretary-Treasurer services	750	750	
Postage and supplies	100	56	44
Miscellaneous	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>
Total disbursements	<u>16,240</u>	<u>12,324</u>	<u>3,916</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	<u>(240)</u>	<u>4,401</u>	<u>(3,191)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA BIG BLUE RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization and Nature of Activities

The Kansas-Nebraska Big Blue River Compact 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 Administration is incorporated as an Organization exempt from income tax under Code Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statement of the Organization has been prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis method of accounting. Therefore, investments, receivables and payables, long-lived assets, accrued income and expenses and amortization and depreciation, which may be material in amount are not presented. This financial statement is not intended to present the financial position, results of operations or cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

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 Kansas and Nebraska.
- 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.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. At June 30, 2007, the Company had no cash equivalents.