

MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager’s Report

DATE: December 12, 2017 - UPDATED

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager



A. **INFORMATION/EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS:** The Information and Education Department highlight of the month is the tremendous media coverage we garnered in November. In the span of two weeks, we secured great coverage by the Omaha World-Herald and other area media outlets on the new Millard trail segment and the new groundwater management plan. These stories then led to the OWH editorial board writing about both issues, touting the importance of the trail extension and its impact on Omaha’s quality of life and contribution to economic development; as well as the need for the revised groundwater management plan and continued communication and collaboration among all stakeholders for implementation. Additional I&E highlights are attached for your review.

B. **PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

1. Director Tesar published a guest editorial in the Douglas County Post-Gazette regarding repairs at the Union Dike levee, as part of recent new federal regulations by USACE. The NRD recently posted public notices concerning the repairs and Director Tesar’s editorial provides a transparent explanation of the reason for the repairs, as well as the NRD’s commitment to maintaining the levee at its highest level. The editorial is attached.
2. The District received an email from Chris Robie, a Nebraska Master Naturalist and part-time teacher at Brownell-Talbot, who expressed how invaluable Austen Hill has been to him during his training to become a Master Naturalist and to the students he teaches. Robie said Austen always goes above and beyond to help the public learn about our natural resources, while at the same time, is always eager and willing to learn from others. The letter is attached.
3. P-MRNRD will be busy this month helping those less fortunate in our community by hosting a toy drive for Toys for Tots and volunteering at the Open Door Mission. The District just finished collecting 138 lbs. of canned and boxed food for Project Hope. Huge thanks to Nicole Gust and our Health, Safety and Wellness Committee for organizing.
4. The District received an email from the Agile Group and USACE Omaha District extending their appreciation to the Chalco Hills staff for their coordination and support of an event the group held in the building. The group said: “There were numerous compliments from the group of the beauty, cleanliness, and organization of the site and Board Room. The facility and staff were outstanding.” Huge thank you to Randy and all staff who go above and beyond for all who use our building. The email is attached.

- C. **REPORT ON PURCHASES – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Pursuant to Board direction, the report indicating construction services, professional services and personal property purchases from the month of November 2017 is attached for your review. Please review this report and contact me if you have any questions.
- D. **CURRENT AND ON-GOING PROJECTS – P-MRNRD LEGAL COUNSEL:** A copy of current and on-going projects for District Legal Counsel, Husch Blackwell, as of November 15, 2017, is attached for your review. I would ask each Director to review this report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- E. **PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT:** The next Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2018.

November 2017 Information & Education Report

Media Coverage in Two-week Span

Editorial: New trails boost metro's quality of life

Consider it part of the push to curb rising health insurance costs. Cities with better networks of parks and trails often foster healthier residents.

WFOV-44.560.0000 Fri, 10, 2017

MORE INFORMATION



With new segments, bike trail will stretch from west Omaha to Bellevue area
 THURSDAY, 10/26/17 12:00 PM
 CONTACT: 402-481-1212 (local)
 ADDRESS: 1000 S. 10th St. Omaha, NE 68108

Residents who walk, run and pedal on the region's trails received good news this week with approval of a long-sought connector between trails in west Omaha and those heading south to Sagoy County and east to the Missouri River.

The project's roughly \$1.2 million cost, to be split between the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the Cities of Omaha and La Vista, is a sensible investment in local health and recreation.

Consider it part of the push to curb rising health insurance costs.



With new segment, bike trail will stretch from west Omaha to Bellevue area

By Andrew J. Nelson | World-Herald staff writer | Fri, 10, 2017



A new stretch of trail in the Omaha area will link the bicycle trail system east of Interstate 80 and west to the rest of Omaha.

The new segment, a 1.8-mile segment through Douglas and Sagoy Counties, it also will link 2 1/2-century Americans in a key part of our frontier and industrial age past.

The trail system in the Omaha area began in the 1960s, as the federal system has been more than a quarter-century in the making.

On Thursday night, the board of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District voted 16-1 to approve the construction contract for a mile of trail in the Millard area, connecting two existing parts of the West Papio Trail.



Race photos

Papio-Missouri NRD updating groundwater plan for first time in more than 20 years

By Andrew J. Nelson | World-Herald staff writer | Fri, 10, 2017



Local regulations to protect water quality and quantity along much of Nebraska's eastern border are being updated for the first time in more than 20 years, and the proposed rules also to further control pumping and reduce the potential for up pollution.

The new groundwater management plan for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District would limit where farmers can use fertilizers, and how those chemical nutrients are dug to each well.

Beginning this week, the rules will be discussed in public forums — one each in Dakota City, Titusville and the Omaha area. The plan, which was last updated in 1994, is available for review on the district's website.



Featured Businesses



Skills that man is gaining in Omaha could protect lake in Philippines

By Andrew J. Nelson | World-Herald staff writer | Fri, 10, 2017



In the Philippines, people who live in and around Manila City have long been known as the Manas, the people of the lake, after Lake Lanao, on whose shores it sits.

However, after a prolonged violent assault by militants, they're also become known as survivors of the worst urban siege in Philippine history.

A resident of that beleaguered community, Armani Labao, has been in Omaha recently gaining skills to help his fellow citizens make better use of the lake, which also goes by the name Lanao. One of the Philippines' largest freshwater lakes, it is more than



Featured Businesses

Cute Kid Kudos



Pine Creek, Bennington



Bell Elementary, Papillion

High Remarks for Austen Hill

Dear Ms. Jacobsen, Ms. Stauss and Mr. Winkler,

It has been my great pleasure to work with Austen Hill for about 3 years now. I have only lived in NE for 4 years. It was an Environmental Education Specialist for 12 years in GA. Now I am a NE Master Naturalist and part-time teacher. My training to become a Master Naturalist and the abundant information that Austen has given me has taught me so much about my new home. Austen has been invited and given a number of presentations on various topics at Brownell Talbot (where I am a substitute and Nature Teacher) and Heron Haven (where I am the volunteer Education Coordinator for school programs). His presentations are filled with educational information on the topic and delivered in a fun and age appropriate way. Austen has a way of easily engaging with his audience! Austen was an invaluable researcher in finding just the right watershed map for me to use in a mini Heron Haven field book. His professionalism and attention to detail is so appreciated! Our easy exchange of ideas also shows his willingness to learn from others. I recently asked him about fossils, rocks and minerals of NE. I had also asked the Master Naturalists headquarters if they had an educational trunk on this topic that I could borrow but they did not have one. Austen went above and beyond in sharing educational information for my presentation at Heron Haven. Hopefully he will get to work with the Master Naturalists in creating a Rocks, Minerals and Fossils Educational Trunk for them.

Human resources like Austen are so valuable that I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate him, also you Christine and the Papio Missouri NRD for all you do for the public education of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Chris Roble



What the repairs to Union Dike are addressing

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) recently published and posted notices that some repairs are needed on the Union Dike levee along the Platte River between Valley and Fremont, Nebraska.

This notice was required as part of recent new federal regulations by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The District's Union Dike has been active in the USACE Public Law 84-99 emergency assistance program since the District's assumption of operation and maintenance of the levee in 1975.

The PL 84-99 program provides 80-percent federal cost share assistance for preparedness, flood fighting and post flood rehabilitations to those sponsors that maintain their levees to the highest standards. This funding assistance is important to the NRD in keeping the 9.8-mile-long Union Dike levee in good condition before, during and after high water and ice events.

The Union Dike levee is inspected biannually by NRD and USACE personnel to ensure compliance with provisions of the PL 84-99 program. The NRD began augmenting these surface inspections with interior video cameral inspections of culverts and drainage pipes a few years ago.

Recent videos of the levee toe drainage system along portions of Union Dike identified some collapsed and partially blocked plastic drain pipes. The toe drain pipes provide stability to the levee

during flood events by safely collecting and discharging any seepage through the earthen levee embankment that may occur as a result of the high water levels against it.

Although not catastrophic, these pipe deficiencies were considered unacceptable, and a repair plan was developed. The NRD started work to repair the deficient toe drains this fall, with planned completion in 2018.

The NRD's goal has always been to maintain Union Dike in the best condition possible to reduce potential flood risk to the protected area (18,500 acres in Dodge, Douglas and Sarpy Counties) and its residents. The NRD has done an admirable job in this regard and has demonstrated its commitment to improve and maintain Union Dike, including a significant (\$1.9 million) improvement project in 1990.

The levee is thoroughly inspected by NRD engineers annually, and needed repairs have been routinely approved by the NRD Board of Directors and performed by competent staff. These current repairs to the levee toe drainage system are again evidence of the NRD's desire to maintain the levee to its highest level for the benefit of the public it serves.

Guest Editorial

by Rich Tesar, Director, Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District

Dear Ms. Jacobsen, Ms. Stauss and Mr. Winkler,

It has been my great pleasure to work with Austen Hill for about 3 years now. I have only lived in NE for 4 years. I was an Environmental Education Specialist for 12 years in GA. Now I am a NE Master Naturalist and part-time teacher. My training to become a Master Naturalist and the abundant information that Austen has given me has taught me so much about my new home. Austen has been invited and given a number of presentations on various topics at Brownell Talbot (where I am a substitute and Nature Teacher) and Heron Haven (where I am the volunteer Education Coordinator for school programs). His presentations are filled with educational information on the topic and delivered in a fun and age appropriate way. Austen has a way of easily engaging with his audience!

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Sincerely,

Chris Robie

-----Original Message-----

From: Reinig, Teresa A CIV USARMY CENWO (US) [<mailto:Teresa.A.Reinig@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 5:42 PM

To: Lee, Randy <rlee@papiionrd.org>

Cc: Stodolka, Karen I (Kip) CIV USARMY CENWO (US) <Karen.Stodolka@usace.army.mil>; B Harvey <bharvey@agilegroupusa.com>; Catherine Blyden <CBlyden@agilegroupusa.com>; Leon Spackman <LSpackman@agilegroupusa.com>; Fuhrmann, Casey J CTR USARMY CENWO (US) <Casey.J.Fuhrmann@usace.army.mil>; Richers, Joseph D CTR USARMY CEHQ (US) <Joseph.D.Richers@usace.army.mil>

Subject: Thank You!!!

Randy,

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you and the Chalco Hills staff for your coordination and support of the USACE Leadership Offsite yesterday (05DEC). There were numerous compliments from the group of the beauty, cleanliness, and organization of the site and Board Room. The facility and staff were outstanding.

We look forward to future events at Chalco Hills!

Sincerely,

Agile Group and USACE Omaha District

USACE, Northwestern Division, Omaha District
1616 Capitol Avenue, CENWO-PM-P
Omaha, NE 68102

Desk: 402-995-2800

Cell: 402-350-3389



Updated: November 15, 2017

Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel

☛ = Top Priority
F = Future Work – No Assignment
N = New Assignment
O = Others Handling
W = Work in Progress
P = Counsel Portion Completed
B = Next Board Meeting

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ☛ Culverts Rehab Phase 2 Interlocal w/City of Omaha (P)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
 - Arlington Purchase Agreements, Deeds, etc. (W)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
 - West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Potential Tyson Access License Agreement (F)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
 - Draft Purchase Agreement with Reserved Easement for MUD (Platte River/Missouri River (W)
- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland/Grint)
 - Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (F)
 - ☛ Papio PL 566 Sites S-21/Lincoln Road Easements to Sarpy County (B)

- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - ✳ DS 15A Sanitary Sewer Easements (W)
 - ✳ ROW Acquisition Documents for WP6 & WP7 (W)
 - ✳ City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement for ZB-2 (W)
 - ✳ WP6 & WP7 Interlocal Agreement with Papillion and Sarpy Co. (P)
 - ✳ Purchase Agreements and ROW Documents for Z-B2 (B)
 - ✳ WP6 & WP7 Professional Services Contract Amendment with FYRA Eng. (W)
 - ✳ DS15A ROW Transfer to City of Omaha/Douglas County (F)
 - ✳ WP1 and WP2 Out Lot and Sanitary Sewer Easements (W)

- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)

- **Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Laster)
 - Interlocal with City of Omaha for Construction Inspections (F)

- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - Offutt AFB Culvert O&M Agreement (W)
 - ROW Acquisition Documents (F)

- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)

- **Other:**
 - ✳ Union Dike – Trench Drain Construction Contract (Cleveland) (W)
 - ✳ Groundwater Management Rules and Regs, Review and Resolutions (Woodward) (W)
 - ✳ Chalco Rec Area (156th Street Trail) Contract (Nelson) (B)
 - ✳ Chalco O&M Shed Construction Contract (Cleveland) (N)
 - ✳ Lower Platte River Weed Management Area Association and Bylaws (Woodward) (B)

