

MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: May 8, 2015

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager



- A. INFORMATION/EDUCATION REPORT:** The Information and Education Report detailing the department's activities for the month of April, 2015, is attached for your review.
- B. PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**
1. **David Rees** has been selected as the District Land Steward. David started his full-time position on April 13, 2015. We look forward to having David on the P-MRNRD staff.
 2. **Kenneth Smith** has been hired as the District IT Support Technician. Ken started his full-time position on May 11, 2015. We all look forward to working with Ken and welcome him to the P-MRNRD team.
 3. **Seth Blum** has been hired as the District Surveyor/GIS Technician. Seth will start his part-time position on May 18, 2015. We look forward to having Seth join the P-MRNRD team as well.
 4. The District received a notice from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality that we were awarded a \$45,000 grant to organize a 2015 Scrap Tire Collection. The event will be held on Friday, August 7th at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Arlington, Nebraska.
 5. The District will be recognized at the Greater Omaha Chapter, National Safety Council Awards Luncheon on May 21, 2015, receiving the Safest Companies, Award of Honor with Distinction. I would like to acknowledge the work of our Safety Committee Coordinator, Heather Borkowski, and the members of the P-MRNRD Safety Committee: Sonya Carlson, Ross Hoppock, Randy Lee, Pat McEvoy, Lance Olerich, and Tom Pleiss
- C. REPORT ON PURCHASES – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Pursuant to Board direction, attached is a report indicating construction services, professional services and personal property purchases from the month of April, 2015. Please review this report and contact me if you have any questions.

- D. CURRENT AND ON-GOING PROJECTS – P-MRNRD LEGAL COUNSEL:** Attached is a copy of the current and on-going projects for District Legal Counsel, Husch Blackwell, as of April 20th, 2015. I would ask each Director to review this listing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- E. PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT:** The Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership meeting for April was cancelled. The next Partnership meeting is scheduled for May 28th, 2015.
- F. HUSCH BLACKWELL LEGAL FEES/LITIGATION UPDATE *[Executive Session – if needed]*:** The original FY 2015 proposed budget for legal services, account 01-01-000-4392 was \$45,000. In January, the Board approved this account to exceed 110% and requested an update when the account reached \$90,000. At the end of April, the account is at \$98,000, with two months remaining in the fiscal year. Billings have averaged \$10,000/month, so I anticipate the final total for FY 2015 should be less than \$120,000.
- G. NEWS CLIPS:**
- ✓ April 13, 2015, Omaha World Herald editorial: Be proactive on water protection
 - ✓ April 13, 2015, Omaha World Herald editorial: Furthermore
 - ✓ April 14, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Downpours on upswing: Research finds flooding on the rise in central U.S.
 - ✓ April 17, 2015, Blair Enterprise article, NRD grants Blair \$500M flood assistance request
 - ✓ April 27, 2015, Norfolk Daily News article, Electronic equipment will find new uses
 - ✓ May 8, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, A once-in-a-thousand-years rain: Up to 11 inches swamp a swath of southeast Nebraska

April, 2015 Information/Education Report

Information

- Planned and attended Prairie Queen Dedication
- Continued work on scheduling Information Campaign spots
- Updated Facebook page
- Updated Web site
- Began work on Summer 2015 Spectrum
- Answered many requests for information and materials received through Facebook and NRD Web site
- Distributed News Releases
- Worked booth at Earth Day Omaha event
- Attended Green Bellevue Earth Day and received award on behalf of NRD
- Began work on budget recommendations

Education

April Programming Schedule:

- 4/6-** Millard South High- Geocaching- 11 students
4/6- Millard Library- Reptiles- 34 children
4/6- Blumfield Elementary Green Club- Owls- 19 students
4/7- Creative Kidz- Animals- 24 kids (Pre-K)
4/8- Benson West Elementary- Owls- 41 students (1st grade)
4/9- Benson West Elementary- Owls- 36 students (1st grade)
4/10- Pine Creek Elementary – Snakes- 63 students (4th grade)
4/14- Brownell Talbot- Family Night- 112 people
4/15- Neihardt Elementary– Geocaching- 89 students (4th grade)
4/15 & 4/20- Millard South DECA Tree Planting
4/16- Master's Elementary – Trees/habitats- 36 students (2nd grade)
4/19- Earth Day Omaha- Info. Booth/tree handout
4/20- Millard South High- Environmental History- 17 students (12th grade)
4/20- Crestridge Elementary- GPS- 62 students (5th grade)
4/21- Creighton University- WET/WILD/PLT workshop- 14 students
4/21- Sandoz-Habitats-75 students (1st grade)
4/23- La Vista Junior High- Trees- 12 students (6th-8th grade)
4/23- Creighton University- WET/WILD/PLT workshop- 14 students
4/23- Spring Lake Elementary-Trees - 116 students (3rd grade)
4/24- Rohwer Elementary– Trees- 106 students (4th grade)
4/27- Oakdale Elementary- Trees- 39 students (1st grade)
4/28- Westgate Elementary- Insects- 110 students (K, 2nd, 3rd grade)
4/29- Prairie Queen Dedication—set-up/greeting
4/29- Mary Our Queen- Recycle Relay- 63 students (3rd grade)
4/30- Jackson Elementary- Animals- 29 students (5th grade)
4/30- Wegner School (Boys Town)- Geocaching- 16 students (5th-8th grade)

Planning:

Spring Nature Nights

Updates/Monitoring of Papio-Missouri River NRD Facebook Page and Web Pages

Water Works—Correspondence/Presenter Requests/T-Shirts/Welcome Packets/Presenter Packets/Rescheduling

General NRD Animal Care

Tree Program Pick Up

Statewide I&E meeting planning

Updated Display Case in VC

Geocaching at Prairie Queen

Meetings:

Water Works Committee

Wellness Committee

Hosted Spring Statewide I&E Meeting

Envirothon Conference Call

Geocaching Rules/Regs



Congratulations! I'm excited to let you know that you will receive a 2015 Nebraska's Safest Companies Award! This is based on your application and the comprehensive review completed by our Nebraska's Safest Companies Awards Committee.

Your company will be recognized on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at the Annual Awards Luncheon, during the Safety and Health Summit at the Embassy Suites, La Vista Conference Center.

We invite a representative to be our guest at the luncheon and be seated with the other award winners or with your team. Or, bring your safety team to share in the success and we'll put you all at the same table together.

With nearly 1,000 attendees, the Awards Luncheon will honor all 2015 award winners and Deborah Hersman will be our featured keynote speaker. Deborah is the President and CEO of the National Safety Council. Prior to joining the National Safety Council, Ms. Hersman served as chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. You probably have seen her interviewed lately on the Today show speaking about the recent planes/trains crashes.

Don't forget to register yourself and your team for the **Safety & Health Summit** that will be held on May 20-21st and the Pre-Conference Training on the 19th. The training is a great way to continue your certification journey or kick-start your certificate program and you can't beat the price with the scholarship program secured through the Nebraska Department of Labor.

If you have not already registered with our team, please contact Bree Allis at ballis@safenebraska (402.898.7364) to confirm who will be representing your company at the award luncheon. Please have your representative arrive no later than 11:15 a.m. Members of the awards committee and the National Safety Council staff will assist in finding your table.

Attached you will also find a copy of the Nebraska's Safest Company logo that you may proudly display on your website or email signatures. You've earned it – this is a good way to let others know that your organization is committed to safety excellence.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to safety within your organization. We are looking forward to your participation on May 21, 2015. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Booth

April, 2015

[illegible]

Updated: April 20, 2015

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

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - Culvert Repair Project Consultant Contract (W)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (W)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
 - ★ Iske Place Closings (W)
 - ★ King Lake Purchase Agreements and Closings (W)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - ★ Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (W)
 - Papio W-3 Access-Quiet Title Action (F)

- Tek/Mud PL 566 Site 41A access (F)
- ★ Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (W)
- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - ★ DS-15A purchase agreements, deeds and easements (W)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
 - ★ Interlocal Agreement w/City of Omaha on NDEQ 319 Grant (W)
- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - ★ Offutt AFB O&M Agreement (N)
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)
 - ★ Fort Calhoun Lawsuits on WCRW (W)
 - TCRW (Rosalie) Easements for Waterline (W)
- **Other:**
 - ★ Elkhorn River 240th Street Land Acquisition Documents (W) (Williams)
 - ★ Glacier Creek Interlocal Agreement w/UNO (W) (Grint)
 - ★ City of Blair Interlocal Agreement on Flood Mitigation Project (W) (Grint)
 - Chalco O&M Shop/156th Street ROW (W) (Cleveland)
 - ★ Chalco Hills Recreation Area Pedestrian Trail Agreement w/Sarpy County (N) (Cleveland)
 - Interlocal Agreement w/LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and ENWRA for Ashland Groundwater Pilot Model Phase II (N) (Woodward)

PMRNRD - G&A Attorney fees - 01-01-000-4392
FY2015 to date

7/3/2014	2144705	NRD vs Japp	1,043.00
7/3/2014	2144706	Admin & Board Matters	419.00
7/7/2014	2144882	General Counsel	874.50
7/7/2014	2144773	General	196.50
8/11/2014	2154899	General Counsel	757.00
8/11/2014	2154905	NRD vs Japp	5,244.80
8/11/2014	2154903	Admin & Board Matters	2,711.00
9/9/2014	2162479	Board of Equalization	882.00
9/9/2014	2162475	Admin & Board Matters	1,768.50
9/9/2014	2162476	NRD vs Japp	2,853.14
9/9/2014	2162466	General Counsel	2,260.50
10/7/2014	2170611	Admin & Board Matters	3,230.00
10/7/2014	2170617	Board of Equalization	464.00
10/7/2014	2170625	Audit letters	500.00
10/7/2014	2170608	NRD vs Japp	3,524.39
10/7/2014	2170874	General Counsel	3,705.48
11/7/2014	2179303	General Counsel	443.00
11/7/2014	2179304	General/admin	5,540.69
11/7/2014	2179304	General/admin- Japp	6,654.50
12/4/2014	2188290	General/admin	6,839.86
12/4/2014	2188290	General/admin- Japp	1,829.50
1/8/2015	2196896	General/admin	7,710.55
1/8/2015	2196896	General/admin- Japp	8,652.50
1/8/2015	2196896	General/admin - Krejci land donatior	1,276.00
2/16/2016	2206266	General/admin	5,632.98
2/16/2016	2206266	General/admin- Japp	3,631.00
2/16/2016	2206266	General/admin- Dowd	920.00
3/10/2015	2213481	General/admin	3,559.01
3/10/2015	2213481	General/admin- Japp	4,094.50
3/10/2015	2213481	General/admin- Dowd	2,402.00
4/7/2015	2221114	General/admin	4,929.50
4/7/2015	2221114	General/admin- Japp	3,569.00

account total	<u>98,118.40</u>
---------------	------------------

General	42,449.57
Admin/Board	8,128.50
Audit	500.00
Board of Equalization	1,346.00
Dowd	3,322.00
Japp	41,096.33
Krejci	<u>1,276.00</u>
total	<u>98,118.40</u>

FY15 budget	45,000.00
-------------	-----------

218%

World-Herald editorial: Be proactive on water protection

World-Herald editorial: Be proactive on water protection

The weather news from California is grim.

The state, with nearly 39 million residents and the world's seventh-largest economy, is in the midst of one of its most severe droughts in modern history.

Standing in a brown mountain meadow that's normally buried under several feet of snow, Gov. Jerry Brown a few days ago ordered sweeping, unprecedented measures to save water.

That's because below-normal precipitation for several winters has taken a heavy toll on reservoirs. Sierra Nevada snowpack is at 5 percent of normal, the lowest since record-keeping began in 1950. About one-third of California's water comes from snowpack that melts in the spring and summer, recharging groundwater and replenishing reservoirs.

Last year, Brown called for a 20 percent voluntary cutback, but the state achieved just half of that. Now, the governor is ordering cities and towns to cut water use by 25 percent.

The Los Angeles Times noted that many residents in the state's large cities "have weathered California's current drought, well into its fourth year, without making many substantial changes. Los Angeles was shielded from the full impact by water stored in reservoirs. Many Sacramento residents still have no water meters."

But now, Brown's order will require residents and businesses to reduce water use, the first mandatory statewide reduction in California history. Everything from cemeteries to industrial parks to golf courses must cut water use, and homeowners will be urged to replace lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping.

California farmers, already making do with less water for irrigation, will be exempt. That, along with Brown's slowness in acting, has brought criticism. Agriculture uses about 80 percent of California's water, but Brown said the state's farmers "are providing most of the fruits and vegetables of America to a significant part of the world."

All of which makes things here in the "Great American Desert" look far more encouraging.

The Great Plains are not immune to droughts, of course, but Nebraska has been proactive in protecting water resources. It has managed to avoid the drastic depletions to its groundwater levels that some other states have experienced.

The state has been fortunate that rainfall over the past 30 years has been above normal. That's out of man's control.

But beginning in the 1970s, Nebraska has done a generally good job of prioritizing and managing its water needs. A series of state laws has set sound policy and established a system of local natural resources districts that work in cooperation with local, state and federal partners.

Nebraska is the only state with an NRD system and is considered a leader in this area. In addition, a growing number of Nebraska irrigators and vendors have embraced technologies promoting greater efficiency in water use.

Just last year, the Nebraska Legislature approved legislation designed to encourage sound stewardship of water with a process to identify practical projects that promote water sustainability.

The University of Nebraska, too, recognizes the importance of this subject. Its Daugherty Water for Food Institute has quickly gained an international reputation.

Nebraskans can take pride in the state's progress on water, foresight California clearly could have used. But it's crucial that the state continue pursuing sound, collaborative water strategies to stay ahead of the game.

World-Herald editorial: FURTHERMORE

POSTED: MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 1:00 AM

World-Herald editorial: FURTHERMORE

It's argued that the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed "waters of the U.S." regulations are an innocuous effort to comply with longstanding requests by Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court for clarification of Clean Water Act rules. But that claim overlooks a key part of the back story: In previous rulings, the Supreme Court told federal regulators not once but twice that they had overreached in asserting their water-policy authority. Given the high court's thinking, regulators ought to be chastened in what they propose. Instead, the "waters of the U.S." is one more example of bureaucratic overreach, hence the outpouring of legitimate complaints from the ag sector, businesses and local governments.

Downpours on upswing: Research finds flooding on the rise in central U.S.

By Nancy Gaarder / World-Herald staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 1:00 am

The nightmare that was June 20th last year in the Omaha area wouldn't let up. A train of storms moved through, unleashing successive rounds of wind, lightning and rain. Emergency scanners crackled with a surge of frantic calls, especially from areas south of Interstate 80 where up to nearly 8 inches of rain fell.

Bellevue rescuers hurried from one call to another as motorists became stranded in high water. When the night was over, 29-year-old David "Mikey" Farr was dead after his SUV was lifted off the ground by rising water and he was sucked into a culvert and washed downstream.

Asked to describe that night, Bellevue Fire Battalion Chief Steve Wagner grappled for words and said simply, "it was incredible."

Powerful storms such as the one on June 20 are a part of life in the central U.S., but research is finding that intense precipitation is becoming more common, and with that is coming an increase in flooding in some areas. While scientists know that the planet is becoming warmer and wetter, what is less understood is how that will play out in regional weather patterns.

A University of Iowa report published this spring in *Nature Climate Change* is the latest to note an increase in flood frequency in the central U.S.

Other studies of specific watersheds within the central U.S. have also detected increases in precipitation or flooding, including research by the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory.

The 2014 National Climate Assessment, an exhaustive compilation of climate change research, concluded that the eastern half of the U.S., including Iowa, has seen the greatest increase in downpours, between 27 percent and 71 percent, depending upon the region. The northern Great Plains, including Nebraska, is next, with a 16 percent increase in heavy precipitation, with the



Research finds flooding

Mike Redding surveys the damage in his Council Bluffs neighborhood in August 2011 after an overnight thunderstorm left water over roads and in homes. Heavy rains are becoming more common in Iowa and parts of Nebraska, which means residents like Redding may find themselves bailing out more than they'd like.

northernmost of those states seeing the most significant increases. Most of the rest of the country has seen smaller increases.

For its study, the University of Iowa examined records at 774 USGS stream gauges in 14 states for the years 1962 through 2011. States included were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The study found more frequent flooding at 34 percent of the stream gauges and less at 9 percent of gauges.

For the most part, the study found an increase in flooding in eastern Nebraska and areas farther east. Western Nebraska didn't experience a similar trend in flooding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also has seen an upward trend in precipitation, be it rain or snow, in the upper Missouri River basin, said Kevin Grode, a civil engineer who leads the team that assesses conditions in the upper Missouri basin and forecasts runoff.

A study for the corps by the Earth System Research Laboratory concluded that nine of the upper Missouri watershed's 10 highest runoff years have occurred in the past 40 years, he said. Records date back 117 years. The corps has commissioned a study by the research laboratory to examine the causes behind changes in runoff.

Stream levels in the Elkhorn River basin generally are increasing, and flood magnitude has increased in parts of the basin, according to a USGS study that was done in conjunction with the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District.

Three of nine Elkhorn basin gauges with at least 50 years of records showed an increase in annual flood peaks, said Ben Dietsch, a hydrologist with the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center. Those gauges are on the Elkhorn at Waterloo and Neligh and on Maple Creek near Nickerson.

At Waterloo, where 95 years of stream flow records are available, the USGS data show a noticeable uptick in the magnitude of the Elkhorn's peak flows beginning in the 1960s. Since then, 17 of the 20 highest annual peaks have occurred. The data look only at river levels, Dietsch said. Understanding why annual peak flows are increasing on the Elkhorn would require additional study.

Harry Hillaker, state climatologist for Iowa, said precipitation in that state has generally been increasing since the late 1950s. Virtually all of that increase has occurred in the spring and summer, he said. All types of rainfall are occurring more frequently, with heavy rainfall, an inch or more per day, increasing the most.

"We're getting more small events, more medium-sized ones, and more large ones," he wrote via email.

Yet-to-be published research into Nebraska's temperature and precipitation patterns didn't detect a discernible trend in precipitation, said Natalie Umphlett, climatologist at the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

"We did find that there is an overall increasing number of wet days, but only for small amounts of precipitation (less than 0.10 inches)," she wrote in an email.

Umphlett said the High Plains Center and University of Iowa used different data sets and time periods in their research, which might explain the difference in findings.

Additionally, Nebraska's climate differs from much of the central U.S., including Iowa, with Nebraska generally being more arid. Eastern Nebraska tends to bridge the two climates.

Last year was extraordinary in terms of rainfall in the Omaha metro area, said Dave Pearson, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Valley. Omaha set four precipitation records in 2014. Not included was the June 20 deluge because most of that rain occurred in Sarpy County.

The biggest record was set June 3, when the city had its fifth-rainiest day in more than 130 years of records. The 5.3 inches that fell prompted nighttime water rescues in northeast Omaha.

Pearson said a direct link can't be made between a single year's excessive rains and the overall trend noted by the University of Iowa study. Instead, he sees 2014 as a wakeup call.

"Last year showed us it definitely happens here," he said.

Those who make their living along streams and rivers aren't surprised by the University of Iowa report.

Glen Stenzl's voice sags with fatigue when he talks of flooding. The northwest Missouri farmer and levee board member spoke by phone last week from atop a levee that he was inspecting near the Iowa border. Stenzl has been farming along the Missouri for decades and he was among those fighting to save farm homes and communities during the historic Missouri River flood of 2011.

What he and other farmers mostly are seeing, he said, are gully-washers that strip away topsoil and erode terraces. Additionally, levees built decades ago have become silted in, making them less effective in high-flow years.

Bottom line, things aren't getting better, Stenzl said; they're getting worse.

While more study is needed to understand what is happening in the central U.S., scientists know that the rapid warming of Earth is making the planet more humid. The reasons are two-fold. With a warmer atmosphere, more water is evaporating from the Earth's watery surface. Also, as air warms, it's able to hold more water. Thus, there is more water in the air to "rain out."

The disruption caused by flooding underscores the need to understand what's happening, said Gabriele Villarini, professor in civil and environmental engineering who co-authored the University of Iowa report.

"Flood events come with a big price tag, and the price tag is both in terms of fatalities and economic losses," he said.

Contact the writer: 402-444-1102, nancy.gaarder@owh.com

NRD grants Blair \$500M flood assistance request

Board previously denied funding

BY KATIE ROHMAN
editor@enterprisepub.com

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMNRD) Board of Directors has voted to grant the City of Blair a \$500,000 flood assistance request that it previously rejected.

The board voted on April 9 to approve \$250,000 per year for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The city's flood mitigation project includes a raised embankment on Fairview Drive and an earthen berm around the water and wastewater treatment plants, construction of a storm water pumping station and reconstruction of Fairview Drive.

"I think the biggest thing is there was clarification on some of their minds as to what the project entailed," Blair

City Administrator Rod Storm said. "In the end, they looked very favorable upon it.

"It helps reduce the ultimate total cost to the local residents by half a million dollars," he said. "It shows you it's a good project and there's good participation from both sides."

The PMNRD started a program in December to provide flood assistance for projects in its jurisdiction. It will allocate funds in its next budget for 50 percent of the cost up to \$500,000 per project. The program is not affiliated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA is responsible for 75 percent of the City of Blair's flood mitigation costs, and the city has the remaining 25 percent at about \$1.1 million. The PMNRD share will be

not quite 50 percent of the local share because the treatment plant generators are not included in their flood assistance request.

A PMNRD subcommittee tabled the city's request on Jan. 6 until a February meeting. The PMNRD Board of Directors met Jan. 8 and took the request off the table, ultimately rejecting it.

PMNRD General Manager John Winkler said at the time that the board wanted more information that wasn't provided in the city's plan.

PMNRD director Scott Japp, who represents Washington County, criticized the district's initial decision during reports he gave to the county board and city council in January.

"We're north of the Douglas County line,"

Japp told county supervisors. "They didn't want to open up a can of worms and have other governmental entities apply."

Storm said Tuesday that the city has had "nothing in the past but excellent working relationships with the NRD."

Blair
Large
& Small
on

Saturday, April 18
We're firing up a grill and
BBQing meat for you to savor

**Come savor the special
taste of Chili Dawg's grill**

When you buy your grill from us:

- We'll assemble it for you
- FREE delivery up to 20 miles
- You'll receive FREE BBQ

1940 Ridgeview Road, Blair

Selling? Want RESULTS?
wcForSale.com - Call 402-426-2600

WC Real Estate

Login ePaper Subscription Services

Northeast Nebraska's Most Reliable News Source

SEARCH

NORFOLK DAILY NEWS

66°
Clear

Connect with the Daily News



News Sports Obituaries Celebrations Community Multimedia Health

Jobs Auctions Classifieds Shopping Weekly Flyers En Español

Click here
for local
coupons!

Home News

Electronic equipment will find new uses

Story Discuss

Print Font Size:

Posted: Monday, April 27, 2015 9:21 am

Special to the Daily News

A total of 211 households and 34 businesses participated in a recent electronic recycling collection in Dakota City, Walthill, Tekamah and Blair.

The collection was free to local Nebraska residents and businesses. Funding was provided by the Papio-Missouri River NRD and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Secure Recyclers of Lincoln was the disposal contractor and is one of only a few companies certified for destruction and recycling of banking, medical/hospital and governmental agency information.

"Recycling is just one of many natural resources protection program areas of the state's 23 Natural Resources Districts," said John Winkler, NRD general manager.

"This effort is just another example of how the Papio NRD works cooperatively with our constituents from all parts of the district to protect life, property and our natural resources for generations to come," he said.



Courtesy photo

Electronic recycling

BILL WOEHLER (from left), Lance Olerich, Lowell Roeber, Wally Juhlin, and Jon Krause, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) staff, assist with the scrap electronics collection which was held recently at the USDA Service Center in Dakota City. A total of 211 households and 34 businesses participated in the event which was held in the communities of Dakota City, Walthill, Tekamah and Blair.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

ASinc.net
Advance Services

Apply online at www.asinc.net
* No Fee For Job Seekers

1509 Riverside Blvd., Norfolk, NE
(888) 562-7863
(402) 379-9823

112 E. 2nd St., Ste 130
Wayne, NE
402-833-1390

- Customer Service
- Assembly
- Machine Operator
- Packaging
- Trailer Builders
- Class A or B CDL Driver
- Shipping
- General Production

ndnNetwork

Tweets from a list by NDN Network

Instant values, discount and offers from local businesses in Northeast Nebraska!



Fetch
@FetchNDN

24 Apr

Your job search just got easier. Fill out a profile today. [#Norfolk](#) [#Jobhunt](#) [bit.ly/1E0tY9U](#)



Fetch
@FetchNDN

22 Apr

Don't procrastinate any longer. Get your graduation decorations now. [#classof2015](#) [#Norfolk](#) [bit.ly/1IZZI1f](#)



Fetch
@FetchNDN

20 Apr

Start the week off right, grab supper from Papa Murphy's. [#pizza](#) [#supper](#) [#Norfolk](#) [bit.ly/1bdHKNm](#)



Fetch
@FetchNDN

16 Apr

Head to Rich & Sons this weekend for the spring open house and get ready for camping season. [#camping](#) [#SpringIsHere](#) [bit.ly/1IJYwOP](#)



Fetch
@FetchNDN

14 Apr

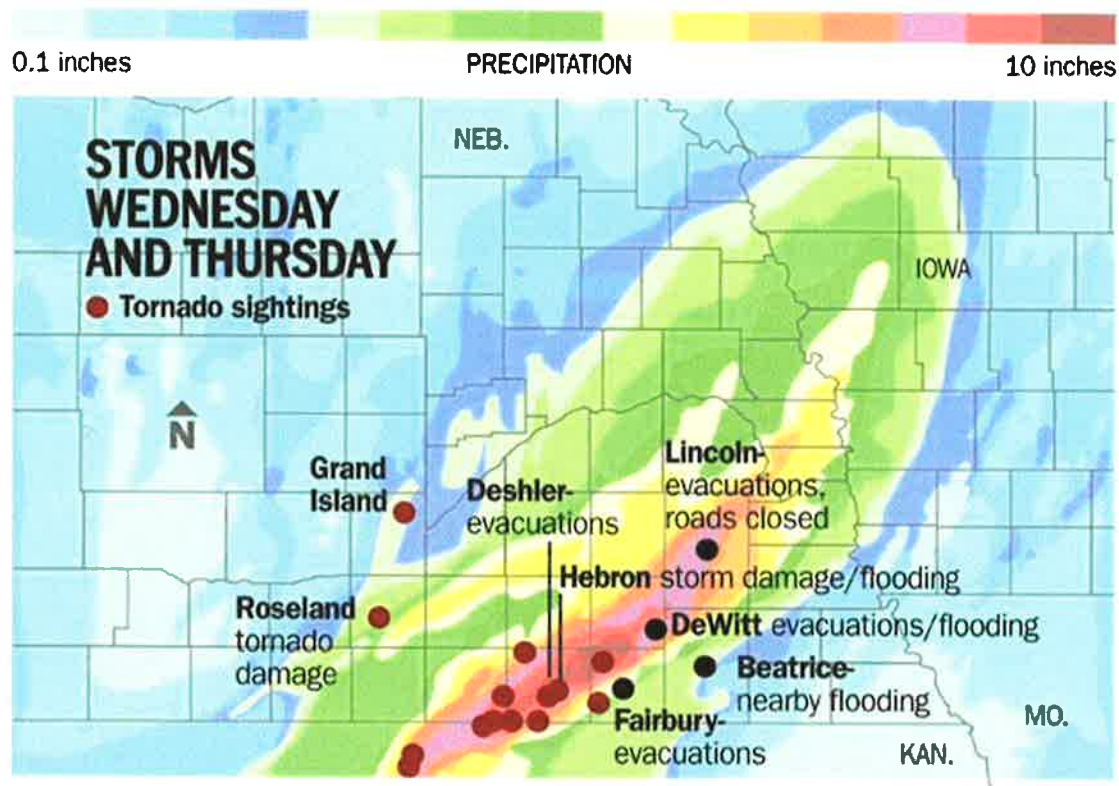
Who wants to cook on a beautiful day? Make



A once-in-a-thousand-years rain: Up to 11 inches swamp a swath of southeast Nebraska

Posted: Friday, May 8, 2015 1:21 am

By Nancy Gaarder, David Hendee and Andrew J. Nelson /Omaha World-Herald staff writers



SOURCE: National Weather Service

THE WORLD-HERALD

Rainfall totals — preliminary

Hebron area: 10.91 inches

Alexandria area: 8.78 inches

Byron: 8.78 inches

Hebron*: 8.59 inches

Hardy area: 8.2 inches

Crete area: 8.10 inches

Superior*: 7.13 inches

Western: 6.85 inches

Lincoln: 6.77 inches

Friend area: 4.52 inches

Omaha/Eppey: 3.48 inches

Papillion: 3.32 inches

Omaha/Millard: 3.04 inches

* A record for any 24-hour period dating to 1893

Source: National Weather Service

LINCOLN — An elderly woman was missing from Fairbury and hundreds of Nebraskans were evacuated from their homes Thursday as flash flooding threatened their neighborhoods.

Up to 11 inches of rain fell in parts of southeast Nebraska — enough to rank as at least a 1-in-1,000-year rainfall, according to the National Weather Service. Hardest hit by flooding was DeWitt.

The flooding was the result of an unusual continuous rain along a narrow corridor. The storms were about 20 miles wide and traveling "straight as an arrow" from Hardy, Nebraska, to Lincoln, said meteorologist Ryan Pfannkuch of the weather service.

Runoff overwhelmed creeks and streams, and, in some cases, flooded communities downstream of the downpours. That was the case in Fairbury, where only about a half-inch of rain fell, but the Little Blue River surged out of its banks after 8 inches to 10 inches fell upstream.

The heavy rains accompanied a tornado outbreak that caused fear in Nebraska but for the most part missed the state's communities.

Nebraska saw worse rains and a greater number of tornadoes than Oklahoma did on Wednesday, but Nebraska was spared the Sooner State's heartache because Nebraska's storms mostly struck rural areas.

In Oklahoma, about a dozen people were hurt when tornadoes swept through the Oklahoma City area and across Interstate 35.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts declared a state of emergency, an important step in the process of seeking federal aid for repairs and cleanup.

Stan Smith, news director for KUTT/KGMT radio, said the missing woman lives in the Crystal Springs area of Fairbury. Officials took an air boat to her home but couldn't locate her, he said. Her vehicles were parked outside the house.

Smith said a mandatory evacuation of the west side of Fairbury was largely lifted by late afternoon. It had been put in place because of rapidly rising water from the Big Blue River. Authorities became concerned when the river overtook a large part of the city park in less than 15 minutes Thursday, he said.

About 100 people were evacuated from 169 homes on the southwest side of Fairbury, said Jodie Fawl of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Fairbury has a population of 3,900.

In DeWitt, a mandatory evacuation was ordered, according to Saline County Emergency Manager BJ Fictum. The town has a population of 512.

Brown, oily water filled the streets and yards to about waist-high in some spots at noon. By early evening, the flooding had begun to subside.

The City of Lincoln called for a voluntary evacuation of the South and North Bottoms neighborhoods after a sharp rise in the Salt Creek, according to city spokeswoman Diane Gonzolas. As of late Thursday night, the creek hadn't overtopped the levee, but officials had grown concerned when the creek rose 2 feet in two hours. Lincoln Public Safety Director Tom Casady said problems began overnight as heavy rains hit the capital. Emergency workers were called out for 90 flooding-relating rescues, mostly for stranded motorists Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Lincoln Fire & Rescue teams were busy during the day, too. Among the roughly 14 missions they completed by 6 p.m. Thursday was ferrying 90-year-old Katherine Lekai from her home near First and B Streets.

As the storms pushed through Deshler, rising water from two creeks flooded a nursing home, assisted-living facility and city park, and lightning may have been the cause of a fire that destroyed a vacant home.

The fire and the flooding occurred in the pre-dawn darkness under pouring rain, according to Mayor Naomi Grupe. Firefighters were unable to immediately reach the house fire because of flooded roads. Instead, it took them an hour on rural roads, she said.

Residents of the nursing home and assisted-living facility were evacuated to a nearby high school, she said. Forty-three people were evacuated, according to Fawl of the state emergency agency. Some of those came from nearby homes.

In Endicott, a brick manufacturing facility was evacuated, Fawl said.

In affected communities, shelter and food were being provided by nearby schools, and the American Red Cross and Salvation Army were meeting other immediate needs of those who were kept from their homes.

About a dozen tornadoes were reported in Nebraska on Wednesday afternoon and evening. Only the town of Roseland appears to have taken a direct hit. It was struck by an EF1, according to the weather service. Two homes sustained significant damage.

World-Herald staff writer Joe Duggan contributed to this report.