

MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: September 7, 2016 UPDATED

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager



A. **INFORMATION/EDUCATION REPORT:** The Information and Education Report detailing Information and Education activities for the month of August 2016, is attached for your review.

B. **PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

1. The District has hired Melanie Liebsack as the District Secretary/HR Assistant. Melanie started working for the District on August 29th and brings with her vast administrative experience. She and her family recently moved to Nebraska from Cherokee, Iowa. I look forward to having her on our team!
2. Attached is correspondence from Jane and Wayne Gundvaldson on flooding in the Forest Run Subdivision of Gretna and an email from Steve Satra, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, congratulating Amanda Grint and the District on Prairie Queen Recreation Area.

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 July 2016, 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 August 15, 2016, 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 August 25, 2016, Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Subcommittee meeting was cancelled. The next Partnership meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016.

F. **NEWS CLIPS:**

- ✓ August 3, 2016, Burt Co. Plaindealer article, Kennard man seeks NRD job
- ✓ August 12, 2016, Omaha World Herald article, NRD board appoints new member to take over Japp's seat
- ✓ August 16, 2016, Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune article, Rhea voted as Japp's interim successor
- ✓ August 16, 2016, Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune article, PMRNRD approves new water deal for Lakeland
- ✓ August 29, 2016, Omaha World Herald Public Pulse, Time to address climate change is now
- ✓ September 1, 2016, Omaha World Herald article, Fender bender charges dropped against Fred Conley

- ✓ September 2, 2016, Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune article, Petition effort puts Ted Japp in NRD race
- ✓ September 2, 2016, Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune article, Lakeland connection hearing in Dakota City
- ✓ September 6, 2016, Omaha World Herald article, World O! Water event to offer family-friendly fun and water conservation education

August 2016 Information/Education Report

Information

- Began work on updates for Chalco Hills Visitors Center Exhibit
- Continued work on redesign of NRD Web Site
- Distributed news releases
- Began planning for Phragmites spraying demo for news media
- Continued scheduling of Information Campaign video spots
- Updated current web site
- Responded to several requests for information/materials received through web site contacts
- Continued work on Summer 2016 Spectrum Newsletter
- Began planning for 2017 Omaha Boat Sports and Travel Show
- Monitored local media coverage of NRD-related stories

Education

August Programming Schedule:

8/1- Millard Library- Lizards and Snakes- 65 people

8/2- Omaha Children's Museum - Booth

8/4- Omaha Children's Museum - Booth

8/9- Premier Academy - Animals- 20 students

8/11- Heron Haven – Animals- 11 kids (6-8 yo.)

Planning:

Updates/Monitoring of Papio-Missouri River NRD Facebook/Twitter/Google+/Instagram Sites and Web Pages

General NRD Animal Care

Outdoor Classroom Grants

Assist with Press Releases and Press Statements

Reorganize basement storage area

Reorganize office storage cabinets

Box Turtle Enclosure

DIY Microscope Displays

Meetings/Trainings:

World O! Water Planning Committee Meeting

Barn Owl Training

Social Media Training

Updated: August 15, 2016

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)
 - ★ Design Plastics Easement document for culvert repair (W)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Master Tune Sign License Enforcement (N)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
 - Bellino Sale of NRD ROW (N)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
 - Arlington Purchase Agreements, Deeds, etc. (F)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
 - ★ West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Interlocal w/Omaha, La Vista (P)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)

- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - ✪ Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (W)
 - Tek/Mud PL 566 Site 41A access (F)
 - Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (F)

- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - ✪ ROW Acquisition Documents for WP6 & WP7 (F)
 - ✪ Transfer Deed to City of Omaha for Zorinsky Basin 1 (P)
 - ✪ Transfer Deed to City of Papillion change elevation of Top of Dam for Prairie Queen (P)
 - ✪ City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement for ZB-2 (W)
 - ✪ WP6 & WP7 Interlocal Agreement with Papillion and Sarpy Co. (W)

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

- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - Offutt AFB O&M Agreement (P)
 - ✪ Interlocal Funding Agreement with Omaha, Bellevue and Sarpy Co. (B)
 - ✪ NDNR Critical Infrastructure Fund Contract (B)

- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)
 - WCRW – Amendment to Washington Count Interlocal Agreement (F)

- **Other:**
 - ✪ Pigeon/Jones Site 16 Construction Contract (B) (Schumacher)
 - ✪ Southern Sarpy watershed Partnership Interlocal Agreement (W) (Laster)
 - ✪ EJCDC Professional Services Contract Template (W) (Petermann)



Kennard man seeks NRD job

A rural Kennard man is looking to pick up his cousin's mantle and continue the fight.

Ted Japp, a retired chiropractor, is attempting to get on the general election ballot and win the Subdistrict 1 seat on Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District's Board of Directors. Japp is the cousin of former NRD director Scott Japp who was killed in a machinery accident June 19.

Subdistrict 1 includes a small section of north-central Douglas County, all of Washington and Dakota counties and the eastern 60 percent of Burt and Thurston counties.

Scott wasn't afraid to give his opinion," Japp told the Plaindealer last week. "I can be the same firm voice. Our styles are different, but we have the same goals."

How different? Japp offered a football analogy.

"If Scott was Bo Pelini, I'm Mike Riley," he said with a smile.

To get a spot on the ballot, Japp said he needs to collect 1,900 valid signatures from Subdistrict 1 voters and turn them in at the Nebraska Secretary of State's office by Sept. 1. He said he currently is making the rounds in the area, getting to know people and giving folks the chance to sign his petition. He also has several people helping in the effort.

Japp said he decided to run barely a week ago and already has had people calling him, asking where they can sign.

"That tells me people want a choice."

Currently, the only name on the ballot this November is that of Arlington man Bill Rhea, Jr. He and Scott Japp were the two winning candidates from the May primary. Director Japp was seeking his third term on the board.

Candidate Japp said he grew up in the Papio Valley in Washington County and knows the concerns of rural landowners, including dam-building projects. He said



families in the valley have been fighting against dams for decades.

"I'm the fifth generation to live on our land. There are people up there whose families homesteaded their land," he said. "The roots run deep. I don't think urban people always understand that."

Although he has rural roots, he also spent most of his career living and working in urban areas. He believes that experience and his measured, analytical style also will serve him well.

"You can't just bash heads all the time," he said. "I do agree with the NRD's basic mission and they do a lot of good things."

He said the board also oversees a huge budget which must be closely monitored to contain or reduced the tax burden on its patrons.

State law requires the NRD to fill within 45 days the Subdistrict 1 vacancy created by Scott Japp's death. The NRD accepted applications through Monday to fill the vacancy. Ted Japp said he has applied for the post. The NRD is expected to conduct interviews and may name a successor during its Aug. 11 meeting. The board meets at NRD headquarters at Lake Chalco in Millard. Whoever is named will serve until the end of the year.

Monday also was the last day for candidates to file for village board slots.

In Decatur, incumbents Margaret Tolby and Mark Siecke have filed for office as has newcomer Jason Troutman. Three seats are up for grabs on the Decatur board.

In Craig, incumbents Michael Grothe and Steve Nese-meier were the only declared candidates Friday in a pick-three race.

The Herman Village Board has two openings this cycle. Kim Johnson and Nancy Peters have filed.

NRD board appoints new member to take over Japp's seat

- By Roseann Moring / World-Herald staff writer / 8-12-16



Bill Rhea was approved to represent Subdistrict 1 on the natural resources district board by a 5-3 vote.

Members also advance 2017 budget proposal, which will leave the property tax rate unchanged

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District board appointed new member Bill Rhea and advanced a \$70 million budget proposal at its Thursday meeting.

Rhea will represent Subdistrict 1 at least until January, when the candidate who is chosen in the November election is sworn in.

Rhea fills the seat of Scott Japp, who died in a farm accident in June.

A relative of Japp, Ted Japp, also applied to be appointed to the seat. He said he's gathering signatures to appear on the ballot.

He objected to the board's appointment of Rhea, saying it appeared that the members were trying to influence the election.

The executive committee nominated Rhea. Board member Patrick Bonnett nominated former board member Vince Kramper to instead fill the seat, noting that Kramper had said he wouldn't run for the seat.

Rhea prevailed over Kramper 5-3

Rhea said he intends to be "an asset to the board but in no way a rubber stamp."

The board also advanced the district's proposed \$70 million budget for fiscal year 2017.

Several board members said they're happy that the district is leaving the property tax rate the same at 3.8034 cents per \$100 of valuation. That's a \$57.05 annual payment on a home valued at \$150,000.

Board member Jim Thompson noted that the district generally doesn't spend its whole budget each year; projects often carry over.

In the last fiscal year, for example, the district spent about 80 percent of its \$72 million budget.

Two people spoke against the budget, saying the district should decrease property taxes.

General Manager John Winkler said the final version of the budget will change after the district receives property valuation estimates from the counties in the district.

The board will take its final vote on the budget and the property tax rate at its September meeting.

Contact the writer: 402-444-1084, roseann.moring@owh.com



Rhea voted as Japp's interim successor

BY JESSICA GIBBS
features@enterprisepub.com

The board of directors for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD) has voted Bill Rhea of Arlington as its interim Subdistrict 1 director.

The vacancy was left by the death of Director Scott Japp, who was seeking a third term on the board. Rhea will serve the remainder of Japp's term.

Vince Kramper of Dakota City was also nominated for the position by Director Patrick Bonnett. The board chose Rhea in a 5-3 decision.

An executive committee had nominated Rhea from a pool of seven candidates. He was the sole applicant nominated to the board.

Prior to the vote, directors heard public comment from Ted Japp of Kennard, one of the seven applicants. Japp chastised the committee for nominating Rhea, who was not present for a round of in-person interviews that all other applicants completed, he said.

Chairman David Klug said Rhea had given a phone interview that he initiated, not the district.

Japp also recommended the board nominate an interim director who will not be on the November ballot. Appointing Rhea could influence the election, he said.



Bill Rhea



Ted Japp

Rhea's is currently the only name on the ballot for the board's Subdistrict 1 seat. Japp, however, is petitioning for his name to be placed on the ballot as well.

He says he has acquired more than 2,000 signatures. Only 1,900 are required by the Secretary of State's office, but they must be from valid registered voters in the district. Japp says he will collect as many as possible before the Sept. 1 deadline.

Japp has 33 years in chiropractic private practice. He grew up in Washington County on his family's dairy farm and lives in the county today.

Rhea is a lifelong resident of Washington County and fifth generation farmer. His experience includes serving with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Kramper is a former PMRNRD board member, has served on the Nebraska National Resources Commission and is a retired farmer.

The other applicants were:

- Shawn Melotz of Omaha, who has served on PMRNRD steering committees;
- Brian Smith of Kennard, who has worked with Pheasants Forever and the Nebraska Pheasants Forever State Council;
- Tanna Wirtz of Arlington, a certified floodplain manager and Washington County's planning and zoning administrator; and
- Dennis Zolck of Arlington, who has worked for the Omaha Police Department and the Omaha Public Power District



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PMRNRD approves new water deal for Lakeland

LAKELAND: new water deal approved

FROM PAGE 1

Rural Water System (WCRWS).

On Thursday, the PMRNRD Board of Directors signed off on a proposal to connect the two systems.

The move will mean constructing a new water line to make the connection.

A Blair contractor, Eriksen Construction, won the bid for the project at \$226,362. It should be completed by late fall.

The total project cost is \$420,125. The LEWC will pay \$135,000 toward the project, while the WCRWS will pay \$104,000.

The District has also included \$181,125 in the project costs to pay Washington County for its original contribution toward constructing the WCRWS.

While the PMRNRD will help make the connection, the LEWC will still operate its own maintenance and billing.

"We have no control over what he'll (Henn) charge his customers," said Zach Nelson, project manager with the PMRNRD.

Still, they do not expect

rate increases for customers.

Director Curt Frost expressed concern about the district's lack of control in that regard, and abstained from the vote. The rest of the board unanimously approved the proposal.

General Manager John Winkler said the board will likely address financing options for the project at its September meeting, which could mean refinancing bonds or pursuing a state revolving fund loan.

A first attempt to get the project off the ground failed when the PMRNRD hit a roadblock working with the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisors had numerous concerns about the project proposal.

Mainly, the board disagreed with the PMRNRD considering the project as a single hookup to the WCRWS.

Doing so limits the amount paid to the City of Blair and Washington County.

Both the city and the county contributed funds for construction of the WCRWS in the early 2000s.



A water sample provided by Brandon Prettyman of Lakeland Estates, taken from his kitchen sink.

BY JESSICA GIBBS
 features@enterprisepub.com

Customers of the Lakeland Estates Water Company (LEWC) may finally be getting better quality water.

The water company's service area, which spans several subdivision communities in Lakeland Estates, has long been plagued by an unreliable

well system and poor water quality.

The system's owner, Ron Henn, has been working with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD) for several months, hoping to connect his system with the Washington County

SEE LAKELAND, 15

The agreement set up a rebate program that stipulated they'd be reimbursed as hookups to the system were added.

The discussions led to a pivotal decision. The county board requested it be removed from the inter-local agreement with the City of Blair and the district, and be paid the remaining amount owed in the rebate program immediately through one lump payment.

"It almost scuttled the whole thing," Winkler said.

The district said that the LEWC, which would pay for the hookup as a new customer, could not afford to consider each of its users as an individual hookup. There are more than 525 in the service area.

However, the county will receive that payment once it signs the release from the inter-local agreement, Winkler said.

Under the new proposal's financing options, customers of the LEWC will pay that off through part of the base fee in their monthly water bills, Winkler said. Nelson does not expect it to exceed \$2.

From: Jane Gundvaldson <gundvaldson@cox.net>

Date: August 24, 2016 at 7:23:58 PM CDT

To: <DavidKlugNRD@gmail.com>, <leahypatrick@yahoo.com>, <jwinkler@pacionrd.org>

Subject: Flooding in Forest Run

Dear NRD Members,

The rain last night was a surprise to us. My husband was up by 11:00 and our alarm went off with a flood warning alarm and I was up with the rain and flooding of our creek. I last wrote in 2014 asking that the NRD possibly move up the retention lake discussion that has been discussed in the past. We desperately need some relief from the flooding of our property every time in rains an inch or more. Last night it flooded our entire back yard and surrounded our shop and septic area. We do have a large permanent berm around our house, which we put in when our basement flooded years ago. I couldn't get photos last night, but took some of the remnant grass and debris in the yard. I also have snapshots of railroad ties that were carried in the flood. It is getting a bit more dangerous with each house that is built in Gretna that more and more run off comes down our creek. I appreciate all that the NRD has done for the city of Omaha and surrounding areas. Please help us push through having a lake on the west side of 204th street near Schram Rd.

Thanks for listening. I have attached the remnant mulch and grass that are in our yard.

Sincerely,

Jane and Wayne Gundvaldson
11845 S. 202 Circle
Gretna, NE 68028

From: Satra, Steve [mailto:steve.satra@nebraska.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Grint, Amanda
Cc: Winkler, John; Petermann, Marlin; Egr, Emmett
Subject: PQ (WP #5) recreation area

Amanda,

I just wanted to congratulate you and the District and local community partnership on a JOB WELL DONE, the Prairie Queen Recreation Area !

I like to stop in as I can on past projects to check how they are going. Sunday pm, I was amazed the PQ recreation area-City of Papillion park was filled with park users. The Lincoln Rd parking area was full, anglers lining the shoreline of the lake by the bridge. Bikers and runners and hikers using the trail, enjoying the great outdoors.

The boat launch parking lot was overfull---vehicles with boat trailers parked on the grass as nowhere to park. That large parking area was "bulging" at the seams. Again, hikers and bikers, anglers on breakwaters, 20 + fishing boats with family groups fishing amongst the trees, countless kayaks and canoes(1 paddle boarder) some just enjoying the afternoon on the water and some fishing enjoying the evening out.

Reservoir at full pool, clear water and fish were abundant! The 2 WQ basins were doing as designed and intended. The wetlands while still expanding are beginning to blossom after 3 years of growth. Dam and recreation area satisfying both flood control and outdoor recreation with very happy park users. SO Great Job, >>>>>>>>>> If You Build It, They Will Come!

Attached are 5-21-2015 aerial photos. Just this week our guy Eric flew it again for 2016 photos. I hope to get copies of those photos.

Steve

Steve Satra

Program Specialist

Office: 402-471-5446

Cell: 402-429-6945

Work is for people who do not know how to fish! Author unknown, Clemson University is claiming it.

Omaha W-H Public Pulse 8-29-16

Time to address climate change is now

Our warming climate has contributed to the recent spate of severe flooding events. A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, and the moisture is provided by warmer oceans.

The Louisiana flood shows how the costs of climate change already affect everyone. Most people have no flood insurance and need government assistance if they lose their home. Although flood insurance is expensive, it is still a government-subsidized national program, and recent flood disasters have put it in debt.

This problem will only get worse, as "100-year" and "1,000-year" floods become more frequent. Yet, development continues in flood-prone areas, including around Omaha.

It is time to start taking action to reduce the impact of climate change. This includes keeping vulnerable structures out of flood-prone areas. It also includes enacting a carbon fee-and-rebate system. This would make the indirect economic costs of burning fossil fuel more apparent throughout the economy, without penalizing people who conserve energy or use renewable resources.

John Pollack, Omaha

Fender bender charges dropped against Fred Conley

- By Hailey Konnath / World-Herald staff writer/9-1-16

Accusations that Fred Conley hit the car of a fellow Papio-Missouri River NRD board member were dismissed Wednesday afternoon in a bizarre case that involved a deceased complainant and no cars produced for Sheriff's Office investigators.

Conley had been charged with leaving an accident and failure to furnish information, a class 2 misdemeanor. The charge was dropped by the Sarpy County Attorney's Office.

At 8:30 p.m. on May 12, former NRD board member Scott Japp, who would be found dead the following month, said his 2007 Volkswagen Passat had been hit in the NRD parking lot at 8901 S. 154th St. He went to the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office the next day and reported that another NRD board member, John Conley, had hit his car, said Sarpy County Chief Deputy Greg London.

The Sheriff's Office wasn't able to confirm that Japp's car had been hit, London said. Japp drove a different car when he reported the incident and also failed to provide them with photos of the damage. However, during an investigation, two witnesses told the Sheriff's Office that they saw Fred Conley, not John Conley, hit Japp's car.

"(Japp) wasn't lying," London said. "He was mistaken."

Fred Conley later denied hitting Japp's car to investigators. But when they asked to see his car, a 2004 Ford Taurus, Conley told them that the engine was blown and it was in a salvage yard in Omaha, London said.

A little more than a month later, on June 19, Japp was found dead at his farm, pinned between a Caterpillar and a pickup.

The Sheriff's Office said he had been unloading a miniature antique bulldozer from a trailer when the machine jumped forward, pinning him.

Japp was known as an aggressive advocate for his rural constituents, which often led him to spar with fellow board members and NRD staff.

Conley pleaded not guilty to the leaving an accident charge and appeared Wednesday in Sarpy County Court, where the charge was dismissed.

Conley, who also served on the Metro Community College board, resigned from his Metro seat earlier this month after the Department of Education threatened to withhold aid if Conley remained. The Department of Housing and Urban Development had issued an order prohibiting the federal government from doing business with any entities led by Conley. A HUD ruling said that Conley had failed to disclose a potential conflict of interest while he was on the Omaha Housing Authority board.

Contact the writer: 402-444-1216, hailey.konnath@owh.com

Petition effort puts Ted Japp in NRD race

Katie Rohman Enterprise Newspaper 9-2-16

Kennard resident Ted Japp — a distance relative of recently deceased Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD) board representative Scott Japp — is officially taking his cousin's spot on the general election ballot Nov. 8.

The Secretary of State's office contacted Japp Thursday to notify him he earned enough petition signatures to get his name included in the Subdistrict 1 race. He needed at least 1,896 signatures by Sept. 1 to join Arlington farmer Bill Rhea, Jr. on the ballot. Japp collected 2,801 signatures. Of those, 2,524 were verified.

Japp, a chiropractor, told the Pilot-Tribune that he spent at least three weeks gathering signatures; about 1,900 people signed in the first 12 days. Nearly 50 people volunteered to help him with the petition process — some of whom he didn't know. His name will appear on the ballot as "by petition."

Scott Japp, of Arlington, was seeking a third four-year term on the PMRNRD Board of Directors. He was killed June 19 when he was pinned by an antique bulldozer he was unloading.

"I thought he was doing a good job," Ted Japp said.

A third candidate for Subdistrict 1, Chad Scebold of Bennington, was eliminated in the primary election May 10.

On Aug. 11, the PMRNRD board voted 5-3 to name Rhea as interim director for the remainder of Scott Japp's term. Former board director Vince Kramper of Dakota City was also nominated. Rhea was sworn in during the meeting.

Four other residents applied for interim director: Tanna Wirtz of Arlington, Dennis Zolck of Arlington, Brian Smith of Kennard and Shawn Melotz of Omaha.

Subdistrict 1 includes all of Washington and Dakota counties, a portion of Douglas County and parts of Burt and Thurston counties within the PMRNRD area.

Lakeland connection hearing in Dakota City

- Washington Co. Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise/Katie Rohman September 2, 2016



Jessica Gibbs

A water sample provided by Brandon Prettyman of Lakeland Estates, taken from his kitchen sink. Prettyman's water softener was not working at the time this sample was taken. While softeners and filtering systems help to a degree, some residents say they're not a fix-all for the system's issues.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD) has scheduled a public hearing about the construction of the Lakeland Connection Project for 7 p.m. Thursday in Dakota City.

The hearing will include an engineering report from Zach Nelson about the construction of the Lakeland Connection Project. The board will also receive testimony and statements.

Customers of the Lakeland Estates Water Company (LEWC), who span several subdivisions in the Lakeland area, have reported poor water quality and issues with the unreliable well system.

On Aug. 11, the PMRNRD board approved a proposal to connect the LEWC's system to the Washington County Rural Water System (WCRWS). Blair contractor Eriksen Construction won a bid for \$226,362 to construct a new water line to make the connection.

The total project will cost \$420,125. Of that total, LEWC will pay \$135,000 and WCRWS will pay \$104,000. The PMRNRD will pay \$181,125 to Washington County for its original contribution to construction of the WCRWS. The expense is included in the total project cost.

The LEWC will still manage maintenance and billing when the connection is complete.

The hearing will be held during the regular PMRNRD meeting at the Dakota County Natural Resources District office, 1505 Broadway, Dakota City.

The meeting also includes a public hearing for adoption of the fiscal year 2017 budget.

World O! Water event to offer family-friendly fun and water conservation education

- By Courtney Brummer-Clark / World-Herald staff writer / Sept. 6, 2016



Steve Rodie, Director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Urban Sustainability, demonstrates how a rain garden works during the 2015 World O! Water event.

Teaching kids about the importance of conservation and protection of water resources is important for the future, according to local environmental officials. With that in mind, a Sept. 10 event is designed to show kids of all ages the important role that water plays in their lives and in their community.

The 11th annual World O! Water will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St. The free event allows families to learn from experts in the field as they lead educational activities and demonstrations that address improved water quality, decreased pollution and protection of natural resources.



The goal of World O! Water is to curtail water pollution through education, said James Kee Jr., an environmental quality control technician with the City of Omaha.

“A lot of times, when you try to change people’s behavior, when you are trying to get people to recycle, trying to get them to not litter, it can be very regulatory driven,” Kee said. “Why not have a fun event that is geared toward educating the public? It’s more interactive, it’s more engaging, and we’re hoping that because it’s more interactive, we’ll get a better response from the public in terms of adopting these behaviors.”

The day also will feature arts and crafts, canoe rides, rock wall climbing, live music, facepainting, nature hikes, water safety and lifejacket fitting and live animals. Lunch by HyVee will be provided, first-come, first-served, at the Papio-Missouri River NRD Natural Resources Center.

Chris Stratman, executive director of Keep Omaha Beautiful, said that more than 40 organizations, including Fontenelle Forest, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Henry Doorly Zoo, will be part of the event. New this year are demonstrations from Academy Science, the Department of Natural Resources, Little Steps Big Impact, Sierra Club, Upstream Weeds and Stormwater Outreach.

"It's one thing to build awareness about some of these issues, like water conservation and how to protect water, but really from this, it's teaching that next step: how do you take actions in your daily life?" Stratman said.

There will be drinking water stations at the event. Attendees are asked to bring refillable water bottles to reduce waste.

"It's just a fun day. It's outdoors, its free, there's food, there's a lot of fun activities," Stratman said. "You're out at the lake, which is a natural area. It's something where everyone can learn and enjoy."