

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE BOARD

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: October 8, 2012

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager

A. INFORMATION/EDUCATION REPORT: The I & E Report detailing Information and Education activities for the month of September 2012, is attached for your review.

B. PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

1. The District received a report from the NRCS on the "Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Missouri River Basin". The Summary of Findings is attached for your review. You can find more information about conservation practices that reduce pollution at <http://kearneyhub.agnet.net/88/nws/7796>.
2. Martin Cleveland, the District's Construction Engineer, attended the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, held in Denver, Colorado on September 17-20, 2012. A copy of Martin's memo is attached for your review.
3. Martin Cleveland has submitted a status report memo on the Little Papio Channel (72nd Street to Dodge Street) Emergency Repair Project. It is attached for your review.
4. The Nebraska Unicameral Legislative schedule of Interim Committee Hearing Dates is attached for your review.

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 for the month of September 2012. 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, Paul Peters, as of September 17, 2012. I would ask Directors to review this listing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

E. PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT: There is no PCWP report for the month of September. The next Partnership meeting is scheduled to be held on October 25, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the NRC.

F. NEWS CLIPS:

- ✓ September 20, 2012, Dakota County Star article, NRD Project to be named after Kramper
- ✓ September 24, 2012, Omaha World Herald article, UNMC cancer center may team with natural resources district
- ✓ September 25, 2012, Omaha World Herald Editorial, Are there no options?
- ✓ September 28, 2012, Omaha World Herald article, Democrat led primary in legislative race despite District 31's GOP tilt
- ✓ October 2, 2012, Papillion Times article, Construction to begin soon on flood-control reservoir

September, 2012 Information/Education Report

Information

- Completed training on new software to edit NRD web site.
- Edited numerous web site pages
- Attended NARD Annual Conference
- Began work on a groundbreaking ceremony for WP-5 reservoir
- Interpretive sign completed for W Maple access site.
- Continued work on digitalizing slides and b&w prints
- Updated Facebook page
- Distributed news releases
- Continued work on Fall Spectrum

Education:

September Programming Schedule:

- 9/4- Morton Nature Club- 23 students (7-11 yrs. old)
- 9/5- Burke High Geocaching- 16 students
- 9/6- Millard North Geocaching- 20 per program/4 programs
- 9/6- Girl Scout Bug Hike- 12 kids
- 9/6- College of Saint Mary's Pre-service (WET/PLT)- 28 students
- 9/10- Holy Name- Renewable or Not?- 19 students (5-15 yr. old)
- 9/11- Catlin Nature Club- Owls- 21 students (3rd Grade)
- 9/13- College of Saint Mary's Pre-service (PLT/WET)- 28 students
- 9/18- Catlin Nature Club- Incredible Insects- 21 students (3rd Grade)
- 9/19- Wonderful World of Water Festival- Pierce, NE- 112 students (9th-10th grade)
- 9/20- Rohwer Elementary Nature Night- 250 people
- 9/24- Holy Name Nature Club- Snakes and Owls- 19 students (5-15 yr. old)
- 9/25- Catlin Nature Club- Snakes (3rd Grade)
- 9/25- Prairie Ecology Programs at Walnut Creek (High School/3 programs)
- 9/26- Logan Middle School- Macro-activity and dipping- 30 students (8th Grade)
- 9/27- Summit Lake- Burt/Thurston Field Day- Nature Hikes- 120 students

Meetings:

- 9/13- NGPC Meeting
- 9/19- FNA Board Meeting
- 9/24- LPS-NRD Meeting

Planning

- Cultivation Teacher Newsletter Edits, Printing, Mailing
- Teacher Workshop Materials
- Fall programming—October/November scheduling
- MORE Nature Meetings
- Summit Lake Food/Drinks

Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Missouri River Basin

August 2012

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Sediment loss

Nitrogen loss

Phosphorus loss

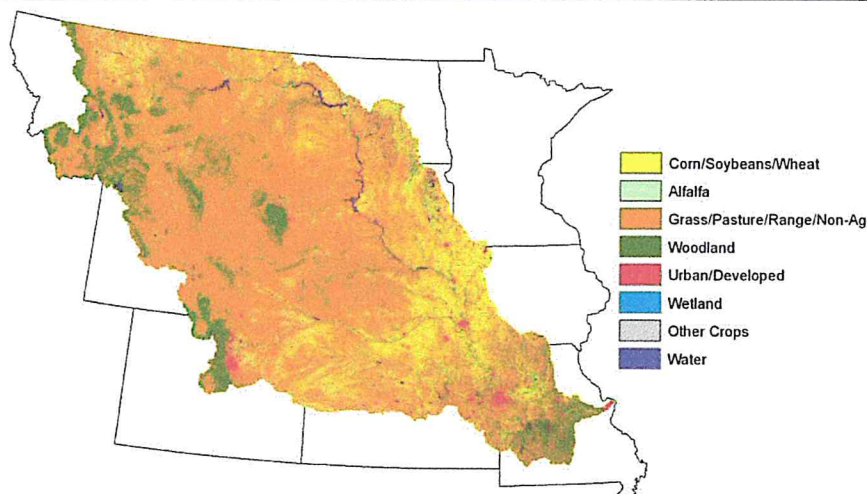
9 Regional Comparisons: Missouri, Upper Mississippi, and Ohio-Tennessee River Basins

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) has undertaken a series of studies designed to quantify the effects of conservation practices on cultivated cropland in the conterminous 48 States. The fifth study in this series is on the Missouri River Basin, the largest of the water resource regions that make up the Mississippi River drainage. The basin covers about 510,000 square miles and extends from the Continental Divide through the northern Great Plains to the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, MO. It includes all of Nebraska and parts of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming (fig. 1).

Twenty-nine percent of the region is cultivated cropland. Twelve percent of all U.S. farms and 28 percent of all land in farms nationwide are in the Missouri River Basin. The vast Missouri River Basin differs from the other river basins in the northern part of the Mississippi River drainage—the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio-Tennessee River Basins—in the diversity of climate and agriculture across the region. Cropping systems in the eastern part of the basin are dominated by corn and soybean rotations. The western portion of the basin is dominated by wheat and other close-grown crops, and there are extensive areas of rangeland. Irrigation is more common on cropland in the western part of the region, and manure application on cropped acres is less common in the Missouri basin than in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio-Tennessee basins.

The most pervasive conservation concern in the region is excessive rates of wind erosion during dry periods, including windborne losses of nitrogen and phosphorus. Wind erosion and windborne sediment degrade the soil, water, and air quality, and can cause human health issues.

Figure 1. Location of and land cover in the Missouri River Basin

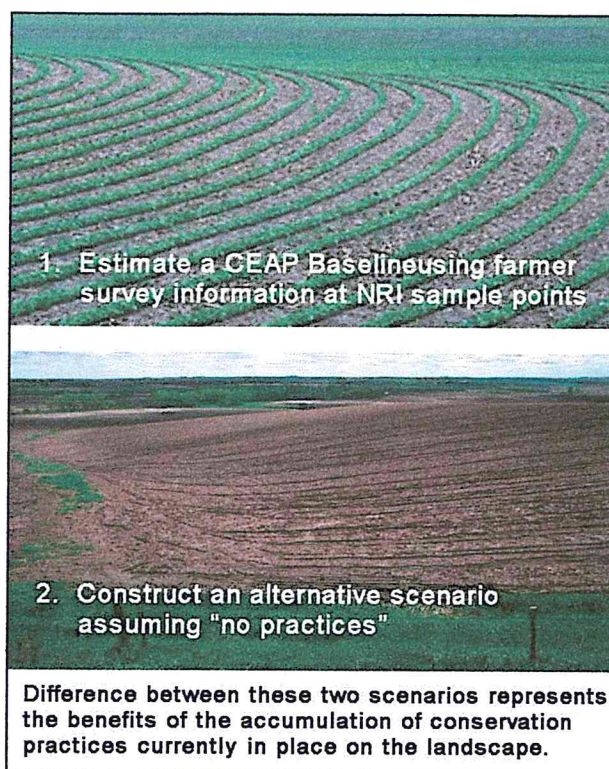


SOURCE: TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (USDA-NASS DATA)

To view or download a PDF version of the full report, visit the NRCS Web site, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, and follow links to Technical Resources / Natural Resources Assessment / CEAP

Study Methodology

The assessment uses a statistical sampling and modeling approach to estimate the effects of conservation practices. The National Resources Inventory (NRI), a statistical survey of conditions and trends in soil, water, and related resources on U.S. non-Federal land conducted by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides the statistical framework for the study. Physical process simulation models were used to estimate the effects of conservation practices that were in use during the period 2003 to 2006. Information on farming activities and conservation practices was obtained primarily from a farmer survey conducted as part of the study. The assessment includes not only practices associated with Federal conservation programs but also the conservation efforts of States, independent organizations, and individual landowners and farm operators. The analysis assumes that structural practices (such as buffers, terraces, and grassed waterways) reported in the farmer survey or obtained from other data sources were appropriately designed, installed, and maintained.



The national sample for the farmer survey consists of 18,700 sample points with 3,916 of these sample points located in the Missouri River Basin. This sample size is sufficient for reliable and defensible reporting at the regional scale and for large watersheds within the region, but is generally insufficient for assessments of smaller areas.

The modeling strategy for estimating the effects of conservation practices consists of two model scenarios that are produced for each sample point.

1. A baseline scenario, the "baseline conservation condition" scenario, provides model simulations that account for cropping patterns, farming activities, and conservation practices as reported in the NRI-CEAP Cropland Survey (2003–06) and other sources.
2. An alternative scenario, the "no-practice" scenario, simulates model results as if no conservation practices were in use but holds all other model inputs and parameters the same as in the baseline conservation condition scenario.

The effects of conservation practices are obtained by taking the difference in model results between the two scenarios. The need for additional conservation treatment was evaluated using a common set of criteria and protocols applied to all regions in the country to provide a systematic, consistent, and comparable assessment at the national level.

Study Findings

These findings represent the baseline conservation condition, using conservation practices reported in the 2003–06 NRI-CEAP Cropland Survey. *Wind erosion is the most pervasive conservation concern in the region. Although only about 18 percent of the cultivated cropland in this region has a high or moderate need for conservation treatment, this represents more than 15 million cropped acres.*

Voluntary, Incentives-Based Conservation Approaches Are Achieving Results

Farmers have reduced sediment, nutrient, and pesticide losses from farm fields through conservation practice adoption throughout the Missouri River Basin, compared to losses that would be expected if no conservation practices were in use. Structural practices for controlling water erosion are in place on 41 percent of all cropped acres in the region, and structural practices for controlling wind erosion are in place on 10 percent. Ninety-three percent of the cropland acres meet criteria for no-till (46 percent) or mulch till (47 percent), and all but 3 percent have evidence of some kind of reduced tillage on at least one crop in the rotation. Ninety-eight percent have structural or management practices, or both. Farmers meet criteria for high or moderately high levels of nitrogen or phosphorus management on more than 60 percent of the cropped acres. About 60 percent of cropped acres are gaining soil organic carbon—84 percent in the eastern part of the region and 42 percent in the western part. Application of these practices has reduced sediment and nutrient losses from cultivated cropland (table 1).

Table 1. Reductions in edge-of-field losses of sediment and nutrients from cultivated cropland through conservation treatment in place during 2003–06, in percent, Missouri River Basin

Location	Sediment		Nitrogen			Phosphorus	
	Windborne	With runoff	Windborne	With runoff	Through leaching	Windborne	Soluble *
----- Percent reduction -----							
Eastern part of region	66	72	47	72	21	63	58
Western part of region	55	79	46	66	60	55	63
Entire region	58	73	46	58	45	58	59

* Soluble phosphorus includes not only phosphorus in runoff but also leaching to loss pathways, such as tile drains and natural seeps, that eventually return to surface water

Opportunities Exist to Further Reduce Soil Erosion and Nutrient Losses from Cultivated Cropland

The need for additional conservation treatment in the region was determined by imbalances between the level of conservation practice use and the level of inherent vulnerability. Areas of sloping soils are more vulnerable to surface runoff and consequently to loss of sediment and soluble nutrients with overland flow of water; areas of level, permeable soils are generally not vulnerable to sediment loss or nutrient loss through overland flow but are more prone to nitrogen losses through subsurface pathways. Three levels of treatment need were estimated:

- **A high level of need** for conservation treatment exists where the loss of sediment and/or nutrients is greatest and where additional conservation treatment can provide the greatest reduction in agricultural pollutant loadings. *Some 1 million acres—1 percent of the cultivated cropland in the region—have a high level of need for additional conservation treatment.*
- **A moderate level of need** for conservation treatment exists where the loss of sediment and/or nutrients is not as great and where additional conservation treatment has less potential for reducing agricultural pollutant loadings. *Approximately 14 million acres—17 percent of the cultivated cropland in the region—have a moderate level of need for additional conservation treatment.*
- **A low level of need** for conservation treatment exists where the existing level of conservation treatment is adequate compared to the level of inherent vulnerability. Additional conservation treatment on these acres would

provide little additional reduction in sediment and/or nutrient loss. *Approximately 68 million acres—82 percent of the cultivated cropland in the region—have a low level of need for additional conservation treatment.*

Although the proportion of cropped acres having a high or moderate level of need for additional treatment is lower than that in other regions in the study series, the total number of acres in these treatment categories is high because the basin is so large. Table 2 shows potential for further reductions (beyond 2003–06 baseline levels) in edge-of-field sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus losses. Potential reductions from existing levels could be achieved through implementation of suites of conservation practices on cropped acres having high or moderate levels of treatment need.

Table 2. Potential for further reductions in edge-of-field losses of sediment and nutrients from cultivated cropland through comprehensive conservation treatment of high- and moderate-treatment-need cropland, Missouri River Basin

Location	Sediment		Nitrogen loss—		Soluble phosphorus *
	Windborne	With runoff	With runoff	Through leaching	
	----- Percent reduction -----				
Entire region	22	37	24	12	20

* Soluble phosphorus includes not only phosphorus in runoff but also leaching to loss pathways, such as tile drains and natural seeps, that eventually return to surface water

Comprehensive Conservation Planning and Implementation Are Essential

The resource concern with the most widespread need for additional conservation treatment related to cropland in the region is wind erosion, which accounts for most of the soil and nutrient losses from farm fields in this region, especially the drier western parts. Despite reductions in wind erosion following conservation practice implementation, model simulations show that in at least some years annual wind erosion rates can exceed 4 tons per acre on 12 percent of the cultivated cropland, and can exceed 2 tons per acre on 20 percent.

Suites of practices that include both soil erosion control and nutrient management—appropriate rate, form, timing, and method of application—are required to simultaneously address soil erosion and nutrient losses by wind, in runoff, and through leaching.

Targeting Enhances Effectiveness and Efficiency

The practices in use during the period 2003 to 2006 achieved about 75 percent of potential reductions in sediment loss, 68 percent of potential reductions in nitrogen loss, and 76 percent of potential reductions in phosphorus loss. Significant per-acre reductions in sediment and nutrient losses could be achieved by focusing on the 15 million high- and moderate-treatment-need cropland acres. Targeting critical acres significantly improves the effectiveness of conservation practice implementation. Use of additional conservation practices on acres that have a high need for additional treatment—acres most prone to runoff or leaching and with low levels of conservation practice use—can reduce most edge-of-field losses by about twice as much or more compared to treatment of acres with a moderate level of need. Even greater efficiencies can be achieved when comparing treatment of high- or moderate-need acres to low-treatment need acres.

Emerging Conservation Challenges for the Missouri River Basin

The evaluation of conservation practices and associated estimates of conservation treatment needs are based on practice use derived from a survey of farming and conservation practices conducted during the years 2003 to 2006. Since that time, however, States in the Missouri River Basin have continued to work with farmers to enhance conservation practice adoption in an ongoing effort to reduce nonpoint source pollution contributing to water quality concerns. As a result, some practices may be currently in wider use within the watershed other than those the CEAP survey shows for the period 2003 to 2006. A challenge for this region will be to *maintain* the conservation gains already achieved in the face of rising commodity prices and expansion of cropped acreage.

- Cultivated acres are increasing in the region as farmers expand their operations in response to the increased demand for food and fuel crops. In some areas, this expansion has resulted in “sodbusting”—cultivation of previously uncultivated acres.
- Acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are increasingly being converted back to cultivation rather than being re-enrolled in the program. The majority of these acres are highly erodible. CRP acres converted back to cultivation will require appropriate suites of conservation practices to minimize environmental impacts.
- Where climate allows, crop mixes are shifting to continuous row cropping (corn and soybeans primarily) and away from the close-grown crops that provide more protection against wind and water erosion. In some areas, climate change has extended the growing season sufficiently to allow more production of row crops.
- Water use efficiency is an ongoing necessity in many parts of the region in order to maintain current levels of crop production.
- Expansion of subsurface drainage, if not accompanied by comprehensive nutrient management practices (timing, method, form, and rate of application) could significantly increase amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus lost from farm fields through leaching.
- The more permanent conservation practices (terraces, wind barriers, and irrigation systems) that predominate in this region have a life span that will require continued maintenance and eventual replacement.

Conservation Practice Effects on Water Quality

Reductions in field-level losses due to conservation practices, including land in long-term conserving cover, are expected to improve water quality in streams and rivers in the region. Figures 2, 3, and 4 summarize the extent to which conservation practices on cultivated cropland acres have reduced, and can further reduce, sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus loads in the Missouri River Basin, on the basis of the model simulations. In each figure, the top map shows delivery from cultivated cropland to rivers and streams within the region and the bottom map shows delivery from all sources to the Mississippi River after accounting for losses and gains through instream processes. On all three figures—

- “no-practice scenario” refers to conditions that would be expected if no conservation practices were in use;
- “baseline conservation condition” refers to estimates of conditions based on farming and conservation practices in use during the period 2003–06;
- “critical under-treated acres” refers to land with a high level of conservation treatment need, as defined on page 3;
- “all under-treated acres” refers to land with high and moderate levels of conservation treatment need, as defined on page 3; and
- “background” refers to expected levels of sediment and nutrient loadings if no acres were cultivated in the region. Estimates of background loadings simulate a grass and tree mix cover without any tillage or addition of nutrients or pesticides for all cultivated cropland acres in the watershed. Background loads also include loads from all other land uses—hayland, pastureland, rangeland, horticultural land, forest land, and urban land—and point sources.

The effects of practices in use during the period 2003 to 2006 are determined by contrasting loads for the baseline conservation condition to loads for the no-practice scenario. The effects of additional conservation treatment on loads are determined by contrasting the loads for the baseline condition to either loads for treatment of cropped acres with a *high* level of treatment need (1 million acres), or loads for treatment of cropped acres with a *high* or *moderate* level of treatment need (15 million acres).

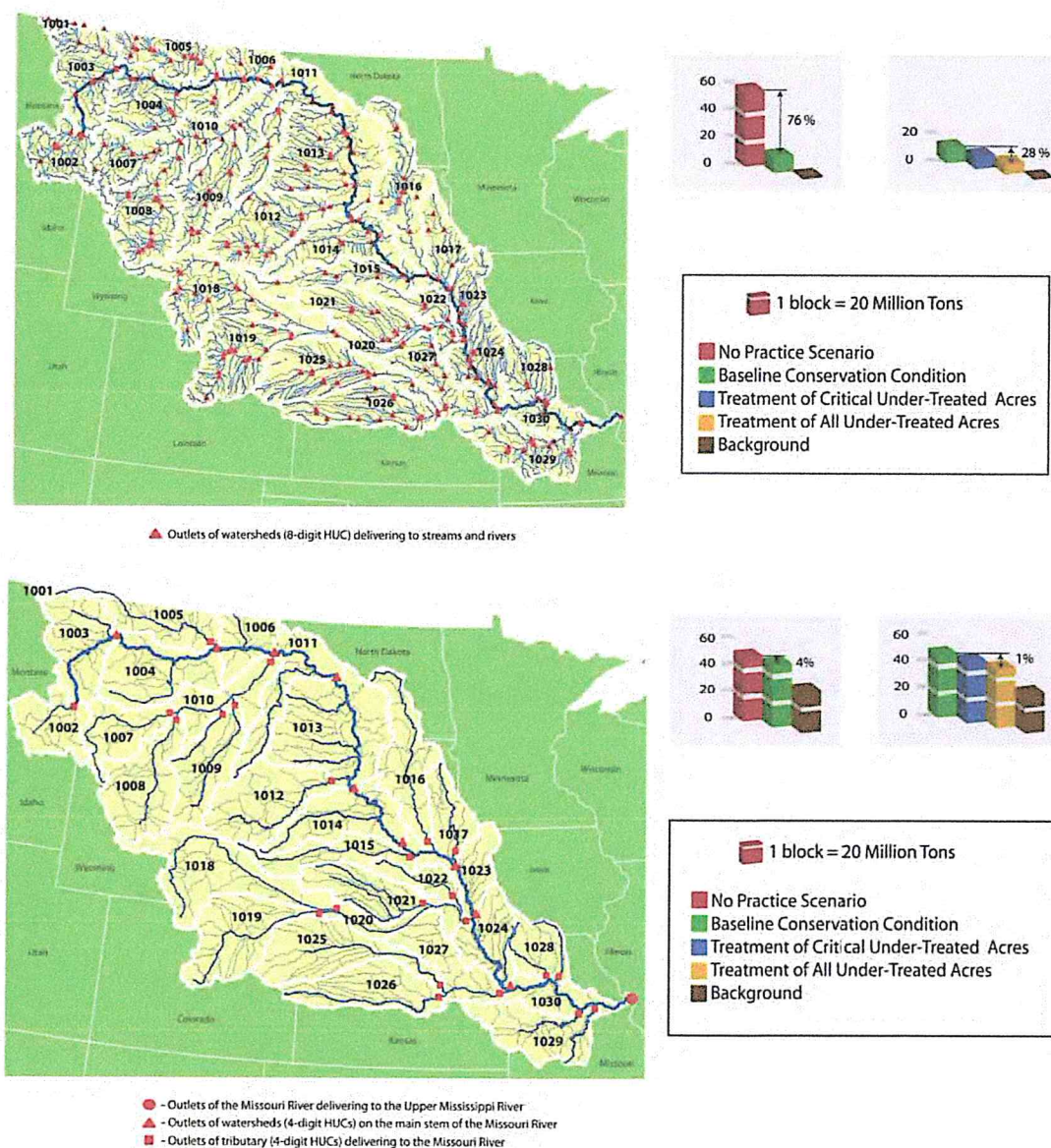
Summary of Findings

Sediment Loss

In figure 2, the top map shows that the use of conservation practices has reduced **sediment loads delivered from cropland to rivers and streams** in the region by 76 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce sediment loads to rivers and streams by 28 percent.

The bottom map shows that the use of conservation practices on cropland has reduced **sediment loads delivered to the Mississippi River from all sources** by 4 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce sediment loads to the Mississippi River by 1 percent.

Figure 2. Summary of the effects of conservation practices on sediment loads delivered to rivers and streams in the Missouri River Basin (top) and to the Mississippi River (bottom)

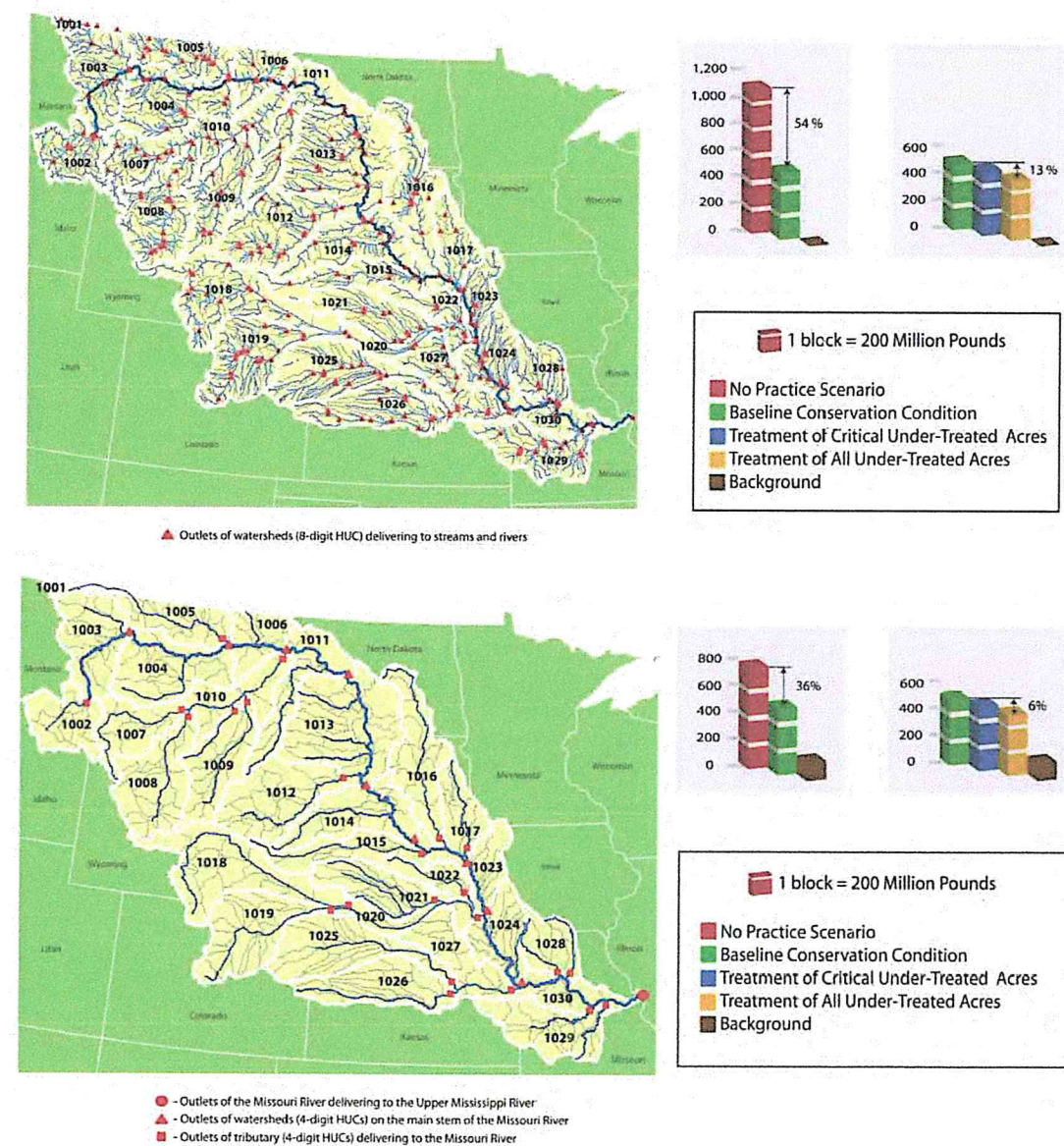


Nitrogen Loss

In figure 3, the top map shows that the use of conservation practices has reduced **total nitrogen loads delivered from cropland to rivers and streams** in the region by 54 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce nitrogen loads to rivers and streams by 13 percent.

The bottom map shows that the use of conservation practices on cropland has reduced **total nitrogen loads delivered to the Mississippi River from all sources** by 36 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce nitrogen loads to the Mississippi River by 6 percent.

Figure 3. Summary of the effects of conservation practices on nitrogen loads delivered to rivers and streams in the Missouri River Basin(top) and to the Mississippi River (bottom)

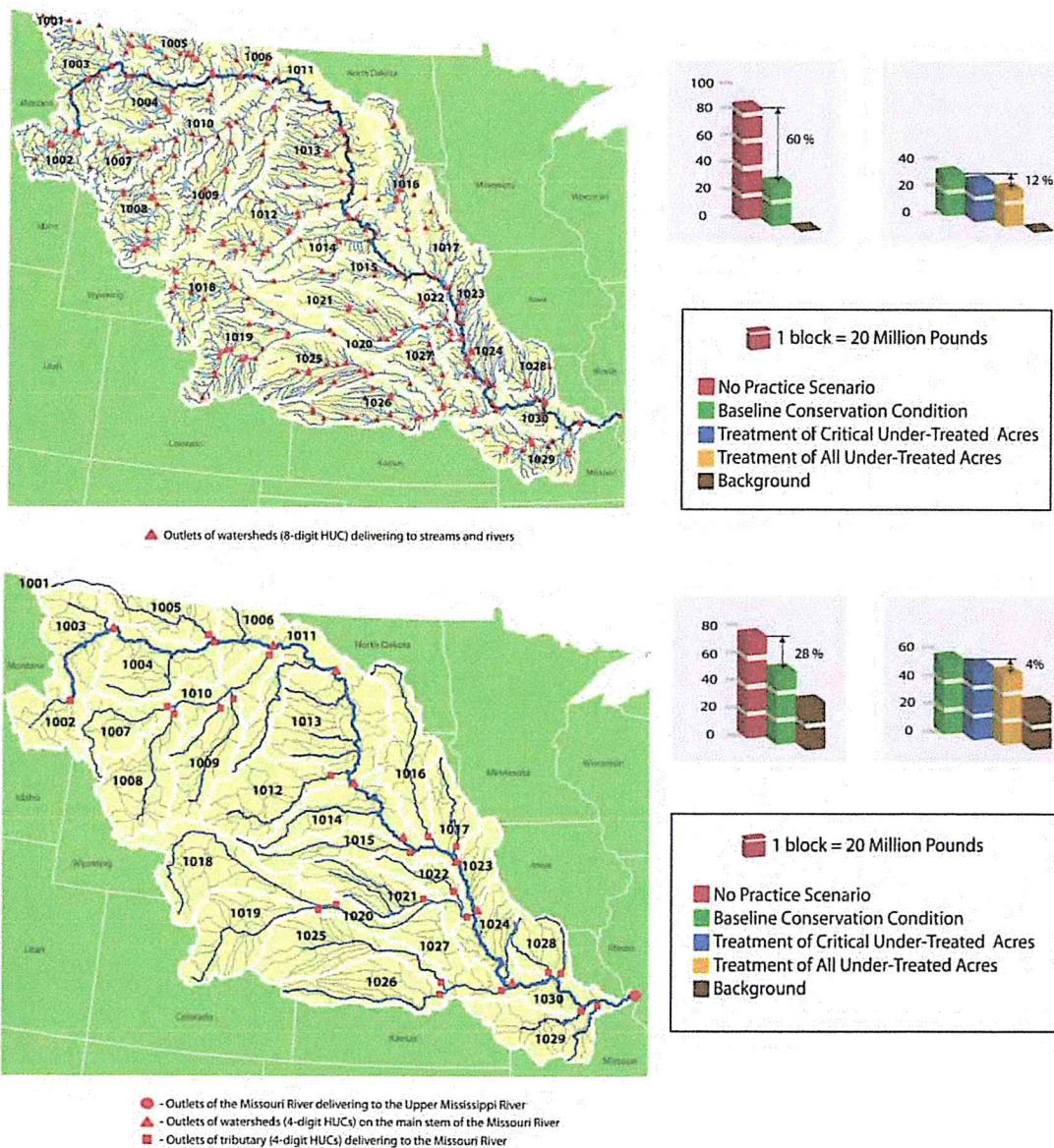


Phosphorus Loss

In figure 4, the top map shows that the use of conservation practices has reduced **total phosphorus loads delivered from cropland to rivers and streams** in the region by 60 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce phosphorus loads to rivers and streams by 12 percent.

The bottom map shows that the use of conservation practices on cropland has reduced **total phosphorus loads delivered to the Mississippi River from all sources** by 28 percent from conditions that would be expected without conservation practices. Application of additional conservation practices on the high- and moderate-treatment-need acres would further reduce phosphorus loads to the Mississippi River by 4 percent.

Figure 4. Summary of the effects of conservation practices on phosphorus loads delivered to rivers and streams in the Missouri River Basin (top) and to the Mississippi River (bottom)



Regional Comparisons:

Missouri, Upper Mississippi, and Ohio-Tennessee River Basins

The Missouri, Upper Mississippi, and Ohio-Tennessee River Basins make up the northern part of the vast Mississippi river drainage area. Vulnerability factors are generally similar among the three basins, except that average annual precipitation in the Missouri basin is 11 inches per year less than in the Upper Mississippi basin and about half that in the Ohio-Tennessee basin. Because of the low precipitation, soils in the Missouri basin are much more prone to wind erosion, especially in the western part of the region.

Table 3 compares several factors across the three regions. *The major difference in findings among the three regions is that the most widespread agricultural conservation concern is the loss of nitrogen through leaching in the Upper Mississippi, the loss of soluble phosphorus in surface runoff in the Ohio-Tennessee, and control of wind erosion in the Missouri.*

Conservation practice use is extensive in all three basins. Structural or management practices for erosion control are in use on 98 percent of cropped acres in the Missouri basin, a slightly higher percentage than in the other two basins. Nutrient management practices are more prevalent in the Missouri basin than in either the Upper Mississippi or Ohio-Tennessee basins; more than 60 percent of the cropped acres meet criteria for high or moderately high nitrogen or phosphorus management.

Farmers' use of structural and tillage practices has reduced sediment and nutrient losses in all three regions. Few farmers, however, are using complete and consistent nutrient application *rate, form, timing, and method* on all crops in all years, although many farmers are successfully meeting one or more of these criteria on some crops in the rotation.

Conservation treatment needs in the Missouri basin are proportionately lower than those in the Upper Mississippi or Ohio-Tennessee basins because of lower precipitation, lower edge-of-field losses (other than to wind erosion), and higher level of conservation practice use. Only 1 percent of cultivated cropland in the region has a high need for additional conservation treatment, and only 17 percent has moderate need for additional conservation treatment. These percentages are much lower than in the Upper Mississippi (15 percent high, 45 percent moderate) and Ohio-Tennessee (24 percent high, 46 moderate) basins (fig. 5), but because of the size of the Missouri basin the acreages are comparable.

Figure 5. Percentage (left) and acreage (right) of high- and moderate-treatment-need cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin (UMRB), Ohio-Tennessee River Basin (OH-TN), and Missouri River Basin (MO)

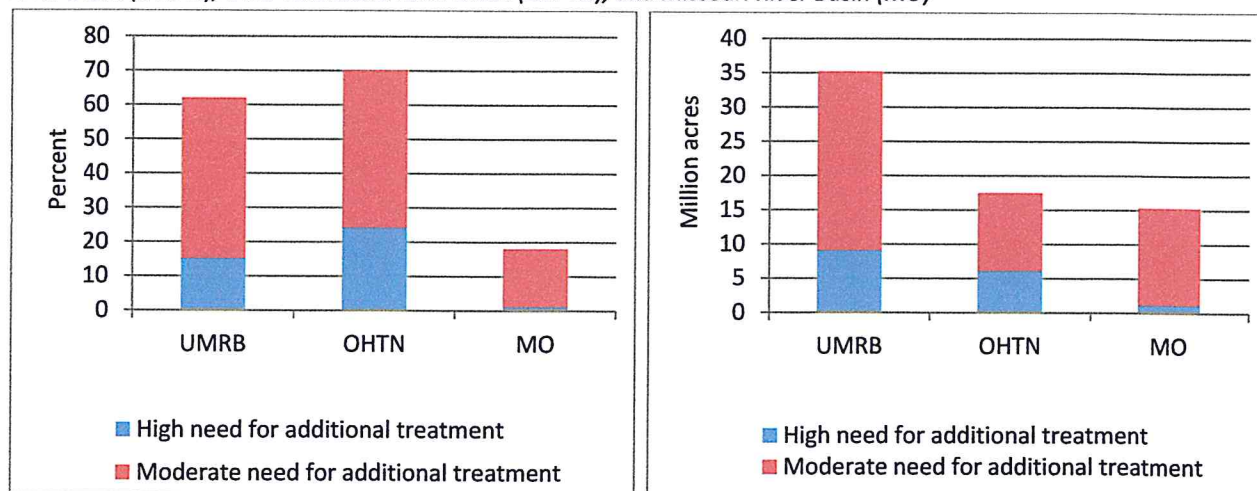


Table 3. Comparison of conservation factors in the Upper Mississippi, Ohio-Tennessee, and Missouri River Basins

Factor	Upper Mississippi River Basin*	Ohio Tennessee River Basin	Missouri River Basin
Basin Overview			
Total acres (million acres excluding water)	118.2	128.5	322.2
Acres of cultivated cropland (million acres)	62.9	26.8	95.1
Percent cultivated cropland (excluding water)	53	21	30
Percent urban land (excluding water)	8	9	3
Vulnerability Factors			
Average annual precipitation (inches)	34	42	23
Slopes >2% (% of cropped acres)	42	33	48
Highly erodible cropland (% of cropped acres)	18	27	40
Prone to wind erosion (% of cropped acres)	1	0	28
Prone to surface water runoff (% of cropped acres)	13	9	12
Prone to leaching (% of cropped acres)	10	8	11
Conservation Practice Use (2003-06)			
Mulch till or no till (% cropped acres)	91	93	93
Structural practices for water erosion control:			
Percent of all cropped acres	45	40	41
Percent of HEL cropland	72	59	49
Reduced tillage or structural practices (% cropped acres)	96	98	98
High or moderately high nitrogen management (% cropped acres)	41	42	65
High or moderately high phosphorus management (% cropped acres)	54	43	63
Land in long term conserving cover (% of cropped acres)	5	4	12
Sediment and nutrient losses, baseline** (average annual)			
Wind erosion (tons/acre)	0.23	0.02	1.13
Waterborne sediment (tons/acre)	0.9	1.6	0.3
Windborne nitrogen (pounds/acre)	2.1	0.2	5.8
Waterborne nitrogen (surface) (pounds/acre)	8.8	13.2	2.6
Waterborne nitrogen (subsurface) (pounds/acre)	18.7	19.2	6.9
Windborne phosphorus (pounds/acre)	0.4	0.0	1.0
Phosphorus lost to surface water (pounds/acre)	2.7	4.5	0.7
Edge of Field Reductions Due to Conservation Practice Use (2003-06)			
Wind erosion (% reduction)	64	60	58
Sediment (% reduction)	61	52	73
Windborne nitrogen (pounds/acre)	37	47	46
Waterborne nitrogen (surface) (% reduction)	45	35	58
Waterborne nitrogen (subsurface) (% reduction)	9	11	45
Windborne phosphorus (% reduction)	55	63	58
Phosphorus lost to surface water (% reduction)	42	33	59
Conservation treatment needs			
Treatment need for one or more resource concerns:			
Cropland with high need (% of cropped acres)	15	24	1
Cropland with moderate need (% of cropped acres)	45	46	17
High or moderate need (% of cropped acres)	60	70	18
High or moderate need by resource concern:			
Wind erosion (% of cropped acres)	0	0	12
Sediment loss due to water erosion (% of cropped acres)	10	25	3
Nitrogen loss with surface water (% of cropped acres)	24	29	4
Nitrogen loss in subsurface flows (% of cropped acres)	47	17	2
Phosphorus loss (% of cropped acres)	22	63	1
Most extensive need:	Subsurface nitrogen loss	Phosphorus loss	Wind erosion control

*Findings from the Upper Mississippi River Basin study were revised in December 2010 (revision published August 2012).

**"Baseline" refers to estimates of conditions based on farming and conservation practices in use during the period 2003–06.

River Basin Cropland Modeling Study Reports The U.S. Department of Agriculture initiated the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) in 2003 to determine the effects and effectiveness of soil and water conservation practices on agricultural lands. The CEAP report *Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Missouri River Basin* is the fifth in a series of studies covering the major river basins and water resource regions of the conterminous 48 United States. It was designed to quantify the effects of conservation practices commonly used on cultivated cropland in the Missouri River Basin, evaluate the need for additional conservation treatment in the region, and estimate the potential gains that could be attained with additional conservation treatment. This series is a cooperative effort among USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service, Texas AgriLife Research of Texas A&M University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Upper Mississippi River Basin (draft released June 2010, revision completed July 2012)

Chesapeake Bay Region (released March 2011)

Great Lakes Region (released September 2011)

Ohio-Tennessee River Basin (released February 2012)

Missouri River Basin (released August 2012)

Arkansas-White-Red River Basin

Lower Mississippi River Basin

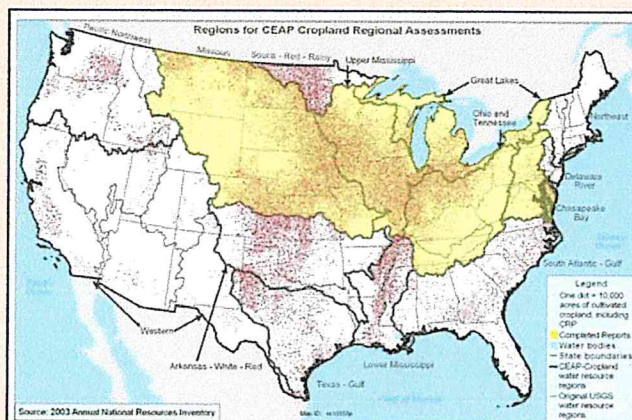
Northeast Region, including the Delaware River Watershed

South Atlantic-Gulf Region

Texas Gulf Water Resource Region

Souris-Red-Rainy Water Resource Regions

Pacific Northwest and Western Water Resource Regions



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MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland, Construction Engineer

SUBJECT: Association of State Dam Safety Officials Annual Conference

DATE: September 24, 2012

On September 17 – 20, 2012, the writer attended the annual conference of the Association of State Dam Safety officials (ASDSO) held in Denver, CO. Over 1200 attendees from the US and Canada attended. The writer attended the following sessions:

- *Opening General Session – Welcome ASDSO*; Zahir (Bo) Bolourichi, P.E., President of ASDSO. Welcome Colorado; Dick Wolfe, P.E., State Engineer, Director, Colorado Division of Water Resources.
- *The Dam Family Feud, Redux*
- *Legal Challenges to Permitting of Low Hazard Dam Removals*; Peter E. Haug, P.E., Water Resources Engineer, Ayers Associates, Inc., and Debbie Peterson, Director, Polk County Parks and Forestry, Buildings and Solid Waste.
- *Restoring Historic Migratory Fish Passage via Dam Removals on the Raritan River, New Jersey*; John W. Jengo, P.G., Principal Hydrogeologist, MWH Americas, Inc.; and Gene Meyer, P.E., Project Manager, El Paso Corporation.
- *Dillsboro Dam Removal: Challenges Encountered and Lessons Learned*; Ty Ziegler, P.E., Environmental Engineering Manager, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- *Update on the National Committee on Levee Safety and a prospects for a National Levee Safety Program*; Steven W. Verigin, P.E., Vice President, GEI Consultants, Inc. and Member, National Committee on Levee Safety.
- *The National Levee Database and the Mid-Term Levee Inventory Integration – a Combined Resource for Agencies, Communities, and Individuals*; Bryan Baker, P.E., Hydraulic Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers; and Brooke Buchanan, P.E., CFM, Senior Engineer, FEMA Region VIII.
- *Status on the International Levee Handbook*; Jamie McVicker, Levee Safety Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Dam and Levee Operations During the 2011 Flooding in the Northwest – What we learned*; David L. Matthews, P.E., Chief, Engineering Division.
- *Emergency Preparedness and Exercising in Indian Country*; Rinda E. Tisdale, Emergency Management Coordinator; and Jack G. Byers, P.E., Dam Safety Branch Chief, Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- *Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program*; Tammy Conforti, P.E., Levee Safety Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers.

- *A Comparison of the Dutch and USACE Approach to Levee Safety: Who Does It Right?* Jason T. Needham, Senior Consequence Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Managing a Mammoth Dam Enlargement Project*; Steven M. Maly, P.E., Principal; James A. Ferentchak, P.E., Vice President; and Donald B. Lopez, Professional Engineer, W.W. Wheeler & Associates, Inc.
- *Geologic Discoveries and Geotechnical Challenges of Mammoth Proportions: The Reservoir Enlargement Project at Ziegler Reservoir*; John Sikora, P.E. Vice President; David Lady, P.E., Engineer; and Craig Helm, P.E., Engineer, URS Corporation.
- *The Snowmastodon Project*; Kirk Johnson, Ph.D., Chief Curator and Vice President for Research and Collections, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
- *USACE Risk Assessments: Building a Successful Cadre, Lessons Learned, and Keys to Developing the Dam Safety Case for Decision Makers*; J. Bart Best, P.E., Geotechnical Engineer; USACE.
- *FEMA's Geospatial Dambreak, Emergency Action Planning, Consequences and Hazards Toolset*; Sam Crampton, P.E., Senior Associate, Dewberry; James E. Demby, Jr., P.E., Senior Technical and Policy Advisor, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and Edward G. Beadenkopf, P.E., Principal Engineer, URS Corporation.
- *USACE Modeling, Mapping & Consequence Center – How You Can Use Our Products?*; Edward L. Stowasser, P.E., Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Risk Based Approach to Stream Diversion for Dam Construction*; Thomas J. Fitzgerald, P.E., Senior Associate; Jonathan Pittman, P.E., Senior Engineer; Laura Sheerin, P.E., Project Engineer; and Sam Kees, E.I., Senior Staff Engineer, Schnabel Engineering.
- *Innovative Construction Solutions for Upper Chiquita Reservoir*; Brena Sheridan, P.E., Associate Engineer, AECOM; Darren J. Brinker, P.E., Dam safety Manager, Denver Water; Andrew Dinsick, P.E., Project Engineer, GeoPentech; Dan Ferons, P.E., Chief Engineer; and Bart Lantz, Construction Services Manager, Santa Margarita Water District.
- *Wolf Creek Dam Foundation Remediation – An Innovative Successful Solution*; Alberto Fabio Santillan, Project Manager, TREVIICOS Corporation ; and Pierre Salas, Project Manager, Soletanche-Bachy.
- *Nesbitt Dam: Perched on a Ledge*; Anthony M. Nokovich, P.E., Senior Engineer, Pennsylvania American Water Company.
- *Lower Dam Rehabilitation – From Inception to Construction*; Gregory Zamensky, P.E., Regional practice Leader; and Everett Litton, Engineer, Black & Veatch Corporation; Mishelle R. Noble-Blair, Senior Water Plant Engineer, Fairfax Water; and William Duke, P.E., Engineer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- *Martin's Landing Dam Rehabilitation – A Labyrinth of Issues Addressed Over 30 Years*; Randall P. Bass, P.E., Principal; and James R. Crowder, P.E., Senior Associate, Schanbel Engineering.

- *A Work in Progress: Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Release No. 60 – Earth Dams and Reservoirs*; Thomas Brown, P.E., Geotechnical Engineer; and Karl Visser, P.E., Hydraulic Engineer; USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Mark A. Locke, P.E., Dam Safety Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Constructability Reviews: Why Should We Do Them? What Are They? How Would We Do Them?*; David B. Paul, Lead Civil Engineer; and Barney Davis, Retired, US Army Corps of Engineers; Dan Hertel, P.E., Consultant, Engineering Solutions, LLC; and Wayne D. Edwards, P.E., W.D. Edwards and Associates.
- *The Dam Engineer's Swiss Army Knife: Montana and Wyoming Develop a New Dam Design Standard Reference Tool*; Michael T. Hand, Safety of Dams Engineer, Wyoming State Engineer's Office; and Michele Lemieux, P.E., Manager Dam Safety Program, Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation.
- *Use of Technology for Inspecting Critical Infrastructure*; Jason Vazquez, Dam Safety Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Life Loss Estimates to Support Levee Safety Risk Assessment using LifeSim*; Christopher D. Bahner, P.E., D. WRE, Senior Hydraulic Engineer; and Christopher R. Goodell, P.E., D. WRE, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, WEST Consultants, Inc., and Jason T. Needham, Senior Consequence Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *LIFESim Enhancement: What Can We Do to Improve Loss-of-Life Estimates?* Maged A. Aboelata, Ph.D., P.E., CFM, Senior Project Engineer, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; David S. Bowles, Ph.D., P.E., Managing Principal, RAC Engineers & Economists; Jason T. Needham, Consequence Specialist; William P. Lehman, Economist; and Elke Ochs, Physical Scientist, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- *Failure of the Fujinuma Dam following the March 11, 2011 Tohoku Offshore Earthquake, Japan*; Leslie F. Harder, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., P.G., Senior Water Resources Technical Advisor, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- *The Lawn Lake Dam Failure – Flash Flooding on a Sunny day*; Wayne J. Graham, P.E., Bureau of Reclamation.
- *Gilboa Dam – Reacting to a Major Hurricane Event During a Major Reconstruction Project*; Rodney E. Holderbaum, P.E., Manager, Dams and Hydraulics Section; and Robert A. Kline, Jr., P.E., Vice President and Engineering Manager, Gannett Fleming, Inc.; John H. Vickers, P.E., Division Chief; and Thomas E. DeJohn, P.E., CPESC, Dam Safety Engineer, New York City Department of Environmental Protection.
- *30th Anniversary of the Lawn Lake Dam Failure: A Look Back at the State and Federal Response*; Mark E. Baker, P.E., Dam Safety Officer, National Park Service; and Bill McCormick, III, P.E., P.G., Chief, Dam Safety Branch, State of Colorado.
- *New Direction – BIA Safety of Dam Program*; Jack Byers, BIA.
- *Dammed if you Do, Dammed if you Don't: Tensions Between Dam Safety and Colorado's Water Supply*; Scott Ikard, Ph.D., Candidate; Jason Delborne, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Kenley Brundsdale, Adjunct Professor, Colorado School of Mines.

- Field Trip to Homestake Dam Rehabilitation Project Field Trip, located near Leadville, Colorado. The project construction cost is \$31 million, dam is 231 feet tall, stores 43,000 acre-feet of water and the dam top is above 10,000 ft. MSL elevation. The rock filled dam front slope was being resurfaced with 14 inch thick layer of asphalt.

40312 MC:pb file 817

MEMORANDUM

TO: The File

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland, Construction Engineer

SUBJECT: Little Papio Channel (72nd Street to Dodge Street)
Emergency Repair Project Status

DATE: October 8, 2012

At the August 9, 2012 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to negotiate and execute professional services and construction services for the Little Papio Channel Repair Project near Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha.

District staff have been negotiating a professional services contract with HDR Engineering, currently estimated at about \$250,000. Development of the required scope of work was delayed as the Corps of Engineers searched their files for geotechnical records from the 1999 repair work they performed. The Corps was ultimately unable to retrieve that information, which has greatly increased the anticipated engineering cost, due to the fact that it is needed to provide the geotechnical and geophysical data necessary for the project design. The staff does believe that the scope of work negotiated with HDR Engineering fairly depicts the effort required for this complex and critical project.

In response to the considerable professional service contract anticipated, District staff approached the Corps of Engineers to reconsider their responsibility and involvement in the project. The Omaha District office in Omaha has agreed to appeal that decision to the Headquarters office in Washington, D.C. They anticipate a response within the next one to two months. Although there is concern by staff of the need to address this in a timely manner, the financial issues are considerable. Staff is considering proceeding with some geotechnical and geophysical work in the interim but is not planning to execute a full contract with HDR Engineering until a final determination of involvement has been made by the Corps of Engineers.

District staff and HDR Engineering met with Nebraska Furniture Mart (NFM) representatives on October 2, 2012 to discuss the repair project and possible NFM involvement in the project. NFM agreed to cooperate fully, but were hesitant to consider sharing repair costs with District in the event the Corps of Engineers ultimately upholds its position to not be involved.

NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE
ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF INTERIM COMMITTEE HEARINGS
September 28, 2012

Friday, September 28, 2012

Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1507, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR513 (Wightman) Interim study to examine ways in which health benefit policies and contracts could provide coverage for patient-centered medical homes

Agriculture Committee

1:30 p.m. - Room 1524, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR557 (Carlson) Interim study to examine the progress of the creation of a blender fuel pump infrastructure in Nebraska

LR559 (Carlson) Interim study to examine potential structural models for commodity development programs to enhance flexibility, resources, and accountability to producers

Friday, October 5, 2012

Health and Human Services Committee and Judiciary Committee

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR529 (Campbell) Interim study to provide for review and assessment and make recommendations relating to the entry of children into the child welfare system

LR525 (Coash) Interim study to examine how Nebraska's system for screening, assessing, and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect contributes to Nebraska's rates of out-of-home care

Education Committee and Agriculture Committee

1:30 p.m. - Room 1113, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR511 (Sullivan) Interim study to examine Nebraska's kindergarten through twelfth grade education standards and curricula to determine whether agriculture is incorporated as an essential component

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Natural Resources Committee

9:00 a.m. - Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, 8901 S. 154 St., Omaha, NE

LR495 (Mello) Interim study to examine the flood control needs of Omaha and the greater Omaha metropolitan area

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Health and Human Services Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR506 (Sullivan) Interim study to examine issues surrounding the moratorium on long-term care beds under the Nebraska Health Care Certificate of Need Act

LR551 (Conrad) Interim study to assess the effectiveness of ACCESSNebraska for clients, community-based partners, and workers using qualitative and quantitative analysis

1:30 p.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR532 (Schumacher) Interim study to assess mechanisms in place for school districts to detect any cause and correlation of unusual health patterns among staff and students arising during construction, renovation, or other school projects in public school buildings

LR465 (Smith) Interim study to examine the impact of the pulse oximetry procedure in testing for critical congenital heart disease in newborns

Friday, October 19, 2012

Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1507, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

Briefing on insurance exchange program by the Nebraska Department of Insurance

Open to the public, invited testimony only.

Business and Labor Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1524, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR581 (Lautenbaugh) Interim study to analyze the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation in workers' compensation cases in Nebraska

LR569 (Fulton) Interim study to examine implementation of utilization and treatment guidelines in cases before the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Health and Human Services Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR555 (Gloor) Interim study to review and examine the ongoing issues within Nebraska's Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities, also known as Nebraska's Medicaid Buy-In, enacted in 1999

LR517 (Nelson) Interim study to examine the benefits of adult day service programs currently provided to Nebraska seniors

LR519 (Mello) Interim study to examine wage subsidy programs

1:30 p.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR537 (McGill) Interim study to gather data and develop recommendations on the unmet needs of and gaps in services available to youth who transition or "age out" of Nebraska's foster care system

LR533 (McGill) Interim study to examine whether there are enough resources currently present in schools to detect and treat mental illness in school-age children

Friday, October 26, 2012

Judiciary Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 120, South Omaha Campus, Metro Community College, S. 27 St. & Q St., Omaha, NE

LR516 (Nordquist) Interim study to examine issues relating to the crime of destruction of property through the use of graffiti and to develop recommendations to prevent, combat, and abate graffiti in communities

Revenue Committee and Urban Affairs Committee

1:30 p.m. - South Omaha Campus Conference Room, Metro Community College, S. 27 St. & Q St., Omaha, NE

LR553 (Nordquist) Interim study to examine strategies to promote the restoration and revitalization of historic business districts throughout Nebraska

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Health and Human Services Committee and Appropriations Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR549 (Conrad) Interim study to determine the range of investment returns on the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund over the next ten years and the actual demands upon the current recipients of the funds over the next ten years

LR508 (Gloor) Interim study to review, assess, and provide recommendations relating to the implementation and sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee and Appropriations Committee

1:30 p.m. - Room 1113, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

Joint Hearing of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee and the Appropriations Committee State Highway Needs Assessment Briefing

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Executive Board of the Legislative Council

5:00 p.m. - Platte River State Park

Legislative Issues Symposium

Friday, November 16, 2012

Executive Board of the Legislative Council

8:00 a.m. - Platte River State Park

Legislative Issues Symposium

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1525, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR452 (Nordquist) Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board

LR518 (Mello) Interim study to examine issues surrounding the investment of state funds -

LR628 (Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee) Interim study to examine the pensions provided for firefighters in cities of the first class ***Canceled***

Presentation and public hearing as required by 84-1503(1)(h) of the Compliance Audit of plans administered by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Health and Human Services Committee

9:00 a.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

Briefing by NCSL regarding the federal Health Care Act and Medicaid. Also, a "Medicaid Fundamentals" briefing by Vivianne Chaumont, Director of DHHS' Division of Medicaid and Long-term Care.

Open to the public, invited testimony only.

Health and Human Services Committee and Appropriations Committee

1:30 p.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR546 (Nordquist) Interim study to examine the potential impact of implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the state budget in upcoming years

Health and Human Services Committee

3:00 p.m. - Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR515 (Nordquist) Interim study to examine new ways to pay for and deliver health care services through the medicaid program that improve the quality of care and health of participants while lowering costs

Friday, December 7, 2012

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

9:30 a.m. - Room 1507, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

LR496 (Mello) Interim study to examine the issues surrounding the adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations

LR502 (Mello) Interim study to examine the issues surrounding governmental transparency

LR486 (Mello) Interim study to examine the issues surrounding state procurement policies

LR512 (Avery) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

LR561 (Harms) Interim study to examine the feasibility of a merger between the Dept. of Economic Development and the Dept. of Labor, as proposed in LB971

Updated: September 17, 2012

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 = PFP's Portion Completed

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Interlocal Agreement with Papillion on Fricke ditches and culverts (W)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland)
 - Saunders County side ROW agreement and easements (F)
 - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (P)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster)
- **Trail Projects:** (Bowen)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (F)
 - Papio W-3 Access-Quiet Title Action (W)
 - Pigeon Creek Watershed Site 23 and Weir Structure Easements (W)
- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Bowen)
 - Interlocal agreement with Douglas County for DS-15A (F)

- Interlocal agreement with City of Omaha for DS-15A (P)
 - ✳ Zorinsky Basin #1 – purchase agreements, deeds and easement (W)
 - ✳ Exchange Agreement with Eurich's for WP-5 ROW (W)
 - ✳ Pink Easement for WP-5 Project (N)
 - ✳ DS-15A Contract with HDR (N)
 - ✳ Warranty Deed for Otte parcel, WP-5 (N)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
 - **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Henkel)
 - ✳ R-616 Purchase Agreements/Easements for USACE Seepage Berm Repairs (W)
 - **Rural Water Projects:** (Sklenar)
 - **Other:**
 - ✳ Voluntary Integrated Management Plan Contract with Olsson Associates (Henkel) (N)
 - ✳ Elkhorn River 240th Street Bank Stabilization Contract with FYRA Engineering (Bowen) (N)



NRD Project to be named after Kramper

Usually, the Papio Missouri Natural Resource Board of Directors holds their monthly meetings in the Omaha office. However, once a year the group travels to the Dakota City NRD office for their meeting. For the last 23 years, the Vincent and Dorothy Kramper family have hosted a dinner at their home prior to that meeting. This year's meeting was special because one of the items on the Thurs., Sept. 13, agenda was naming the Pigeon-Jones dam site 15 project with the following resolution: Whereas, the Pigeon-Jones Dam Site 15 Project is being constructed by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on lands in Dakota County, Neb., that resemble the terrain of Denmark and which evoke the proud heritage and homeland of the Danish immigrants who settled such lands; and, whereas, Vince Kramper has been a long-standing advocate for and protector of the natural environment, having served as a Natural Resources Commission, and as a member of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board, always working tirelessly and effectively for the betterment of the natural resources of Nebraska. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District that the recreation area being constructed by the District as a principal feature of its Pigeon-Jones Dam Site 15 Project, should be named and henceforth shall be referred to as the "Danish Alps Recreation Area." Be it further resolved that, in recognition of and sincere appreciation for Vince Kramper's support and advocacy for environmentally valuable programs and projects such as the Pigeon-Jones Dam Site 15 Project, the flood

control reservoir located in the Danish Alps Recreation Area should be named and henceforth shall be referred to as "Kramper Lake."

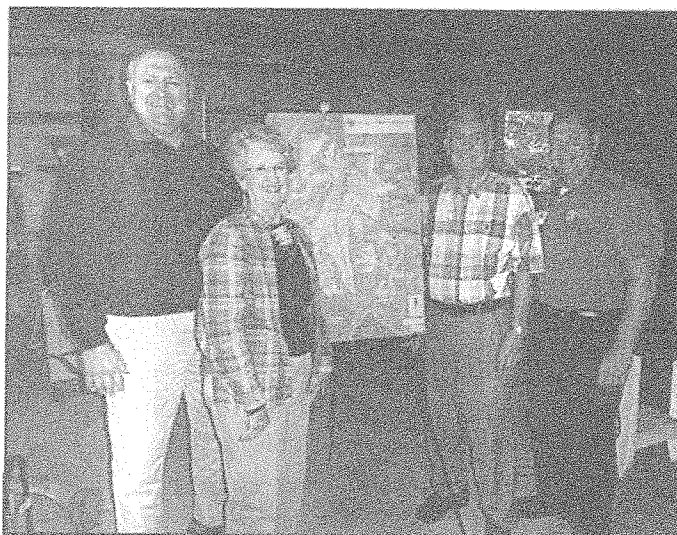
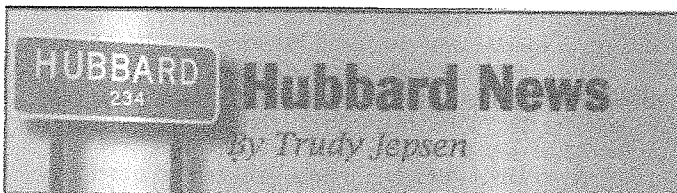


Photo by Trudy Jepsen

Papio Missouri Natural Resource District Chairperson Rick Kolowski, far left, and P-M NRD Manager John Winkler, far right, announce the resolution to name the Pigeon Jones Site 15 Project honoring the Krampers, Vince and Dorothy are pictured in the center.

UNMC cancer center may team with natural resources district

By John Ferak

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is discussing an agreement to help defray costs related to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's \$370 million cancer research and treatment center.

Papio-Missouri General Manager John Winkler said his agency wants to help the UNMC project, but no specific costs or projects have been discussed to this point.

Winkler said he guessed that the NRD's funding might be in the tens of thousands of dollars. A UNMC official suggested the possibility of around \$250,000 in funding.

Ken Hansen, UNMC's assistant vice chancellor of business and finance, said there has been one lunch meeting with NRD officials to discuss the possibility of a partnership.

"No one has promised them anything," Winkler said Friday. "We don't want anybody to think the NRD is going to give them millions of dollars. There is no way we are a major player financially."

Winkler said the NRD cannot provide funds toward the construction, as two other local governments have discussed.

The Douglas County Board agreed to contribute \$5 million to help finance the UNMC project. The money will come from the county's inheritance tax revenue and be spread over 10 years.

The Omaha City Council is considering a new occupation tax on cigarettes that would provide \$35 million over 10 years. The proposed ordinance would add about 35 cents to a \$5 pack of cigarettes.

Last spring, the state of Nebraska pledged \$50 million to the project.

University officials approached the City of Omaha and Douglas County as part of a \$200 million fundraising campaign for the project.

Rick Kolowski, chairman of the Papio-Missouri River NRD board, told the Douglas County Board that the district was willing to help fund recreation areas, trails on the UNMC campus, stormwater management and playgrounds for children.

"All within our mission and what we might be able to contribute," Kolowski said earlier this month. "Again, if we can work this out in the future with our board, we'd be very proud to be able to become a partner in this excellent project."

Typically, cost-sharing agreements are split evenly by the NRD and another entity, Winkler said. Any funding would need the NRD board's approval.

One potential project: UNMC has said it wants to eventually extend the Field Club Trail north to the student plaza. Other possibilities involving the NRD are parks, healing gardens and retention ponds.

Hansen said the funding would not be "in the millions."

"I would say it could be in the six digits, but it's more likely to be closer to \$250,000 than \$1 million," he said.

He added: "We are looking to the NRD to come to us for their take on this. They are involved in stormwater management and flood control. We know they support our cancer center project. Certainly they have some good ideas."

Hansen said there are no plans to relocate Saddle Creek Road as part of the cancer center project. And he said no discussions are under way with the NRD related to any road realignment that could create extra space on campus.

Winkler agreed, saying the NRD has not had any discussions with UNMC officials about Saddle Creek Road as part of the cancer center project.

NRD board member Larry Bradley said he wants an update on the UNMC talks at the board's October meeting so the whole board and the public are aware of what has taken place.

Bradley said some aspects of the project may have merit and fall within the NRD's mission.

"We're about flood control," Bradley said. "If it's for flood-control measures associated with Saddle Creek Road and rain gardens, then I am for that."

Contact the writer: 402-444-1056, john.ferak@owh.com

WORLD-HERALD EDITORIAL

Are there no options?

Omaha World-Herald

It's a great idea. How best to pay for it is the catch.

The proposed \$370 million cancer research and treatment center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center offers many positives for the city and state.

As Dr. Kenneth H. Cowan details on today's More Commentary page, those benefits include 4,800 construction jobs, 1,200 new jobs when the cancer center is completed, advanced research and comprehensive treatment to combat a terrible disease.

Much of the cost will be paid for with private donations. But the state has contributed \$50 million, and taxpayers in Douglas County and Omaha have been asked to do more. The county board voted to give \$5 million over 10 years from inheritance taxes. The Omaha City Council is considering imposing a new occupation tax on cigarettes to raise \$35 million over 10 years.

Without question, a \$35 million investment for a project that would generate an estimated \$100 million a year in new revenues is important for the city's future. But hitting up taxpayers for another new tax should not be the first option whenever a worthy project comes along.

City government in a fiscal hole? Impose a restaurant tax. Want to contribute to a cancer research center? Tax tobacco. What's next? An occupation tax on milk shakes or super-sized soft drinks?

And what happens when the price of cigarettes, which also are taxed by the state and federal governments, goes up an extra 35 cents? Most likely, some smokers will call it quits. Some will buy their cigarettes elsewhere. So what happens if the new tax falls short?

At a time when the city's AAA bond rating has been downgraded because of long-term problems with underfunded pensions — a development Mayor Jim Suttle called “a devastating blow for the taxpayers” — why not look for other options?

Are there no savings to be found in a proposed \$789 million city budget that could provide \$3.5 million a year to invest in such an important project?

What about the restaurant tax, which is bringing in more than both its original \$15 million-a-year projection *and* the upwardly revised \$19 million estimate? In its first full year, the tax collected \$23.8 million for the city. The 2012 figures are on pace to surpass that total, and for next year the revenue number is expected to hit \$25.6 million. Why not make some of that money available for the cancer center?

When a \$250,000 contribution was suggested to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, officials of that agency, which extends from the South Dakota border to the Platte River, smartly looked at their options.

Responding with good sense and an eye on its mission, the NRD suggests that the district might be able to participate through its responsibilities for creating recreational opportunities, such as hiking and biking trails, parks and playgrounds and its flood-control mission, including retention ponds, rain gardens and stormwater management.

Bottom line: The UNMC cancer center is a significant project that needs to be built. The City Council needs to evaluate all options before rushing to approve another new tax.

Democrat led primary in legislative race despite District 31's GOP tilt

By Paul Goodsell

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Omaha World-Herald

RICK KOLOWSKI

Age: 67

Party: Democratic

Home: Omaha

Occupation: Educational consultant; retired principal, Millard West High School

Offices held: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, elected 2004; Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, elected 2008

Education: Bachelor's degree, government, Lake Forest College; master's degree, history and secondary education, University of Nebraska at Omaha; doctorate, secondary education, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Military service: Marine Corps Reserve, 1964-67

Family: Married, two adult children

Faith: Christian

Website: rickkolowski.com

ACELA TURCO

Age: 49

Party: Republican

Home: Omaha

Occupation: Co-owner, Tuffy Auto Service Center

Offices held: Nebraska Foster Care Review Board (appointed), 2009-12

Education: Bachelor's degree, Spanish, Radford University; computer programming diploma, Computer Learning Center, Virginia

Family: Married, two children

Faith: Lutheran

Website: acelaturco.com

Southwest Omaha voters usually lean Republican, but in the May primary they tilted toward Democrat Rick Kolowski in the race to fill the open seat in Legislative District 31.

Kolowski edged Acela Turco, a Republican, by 339 votes despite her fundraising advantage and endorsements from leading GOP figures, including Gov. Dave Heineman.

His primary win was particularly notable because Republicans accounted for more than two-thirds of the District 31 voters in the May primary. The winner of the Nov. 6 general election will replace State Sen. Rich Pahls, a Republican who is leaving the officially nonpartisan Legislature because of term limits.

"I had good bipartisan support," Kolowski said. "I'm someone they know and trust."

Kolowski, 67, is widely known in the area as the former principal of Millard West High School, which serves much of District 31. He also has won three recent elections for other local offices.

Turco, 49, is a ballot newcomer, although she has worked for GOP candidates in the past. Co-owner of a local auto repair franchise, Turco was an early leader two years ago in the unsuccessful effort to recall Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle.

After more than a year of campaigning, Turco said she is confident that she has caught up to Kolowski in name recognition.

"The primary was my time to get my name out there. Mission accomplished," Turco said. "When I go door-to-door, people know exactly who I am."

Turco is a staunch conservative who told a like-minded audience at a July event that she was willing to devote “every ounce of me to stop socialism and communism from spreading in this country.”

If elected, her priority in the Legislature would be to cut taxes, reduce government spending and curb government regulations. The result, she said, would be to create jobs.

Turco said she wants government to be more accountable and efficient, to ensure that taxpayer money is spent wisely. Programs should pass a three-part test: “Is it affordable? Is it sustainable? Is it your job?”

Turco opposed last year's proposed \$140.8 million bond issue for Millard schools, while Kolowski favored it. Voters rejected the plan.

Turco said she gained experience in looking at government activities and budgets when she served on the state's Foster Care Review Board. Heineman appointed her to the post.

She also is familiar with the challenges of small businesses through owning a Tuffy Auto Service Center near 184th Street and West Center Road with her husband, Jay. She does the finances, advertising and marketing.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 31



SOURCE: The Nebraska Legislature

THE WORLD-HERALD

Acela Turco grew up in Virginia after she and her family fled from communist rule in Cuba in 1965. Later she was employed by a defense contractor dealing with quality assurance, software engineering and data management.

Turco met her husband, an Omaha native, when he was working in Virginia for a defense contractor.

Kolowski is a native of Illinois who has lived in the Omaha area for more than four decades. He worked for the Millard schools for most of that time, including serving as principal at Millard West from the day it opened in 1995 until he retired in 2008.

By his estimate, some 6,000 students graduated from Millard West during those years, and he is remembered by those students and their parents as

he campaigns around the district. People call him “Dr. K,” as they did when he was principal, and eagerly tell him what their families have been doing since they last saw him.

“I’m the luckiest candidate in the state because I get so much reinforcement when I go door-to-door,” he said.

Kolowski said he’s an experienced, respected leader who knows how to make decisions and solve problems — and not just in school settings.

Kolowski won elections in 2004 and 2008 for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District board and was chosen by fellow board members to serve as chairman for the past three years. Similarly, he was elected to the two-county Learning Community board in 2008, heading that panel from 2009 through 2011.

As a state senator, Kolowski said, he would use his skills on a range of issues, including balancing the budget, implementing health care changes, ensuring effective schools and managing water and other natural resources.

“I’m going to be open and accessible,” he said. “I’ll listen, I’ll ask questions, and I’ll tell you the final decision and why.”

Kolowski said he expects to be outspent by Turco in the general election, as he was in the primary. The most recent campaign reports show that Turco had raised \$67,475 through June 19, while Kolowski had raised \$34,287.

Her top contribution was \$5,000 from the Republican State Leadership Committee, based in Virginia.

Kolowski's biggest donor was the Nebraska State Education Association, which has given him \$11,500.

Kolowski and Turco have had only one joint appearance — five-minute speeches to the Millard Business Association earlier this year — and are not planning any debates. But they have sparred in other ways.

At her July speech at Walnut Grove Park, Turco described Kolowski as “a very liberal Democrat” who wants to raise taxes, “take away more of our freedoms” and give tax dollars to “illegals that come into this country and want to do harm to us.”

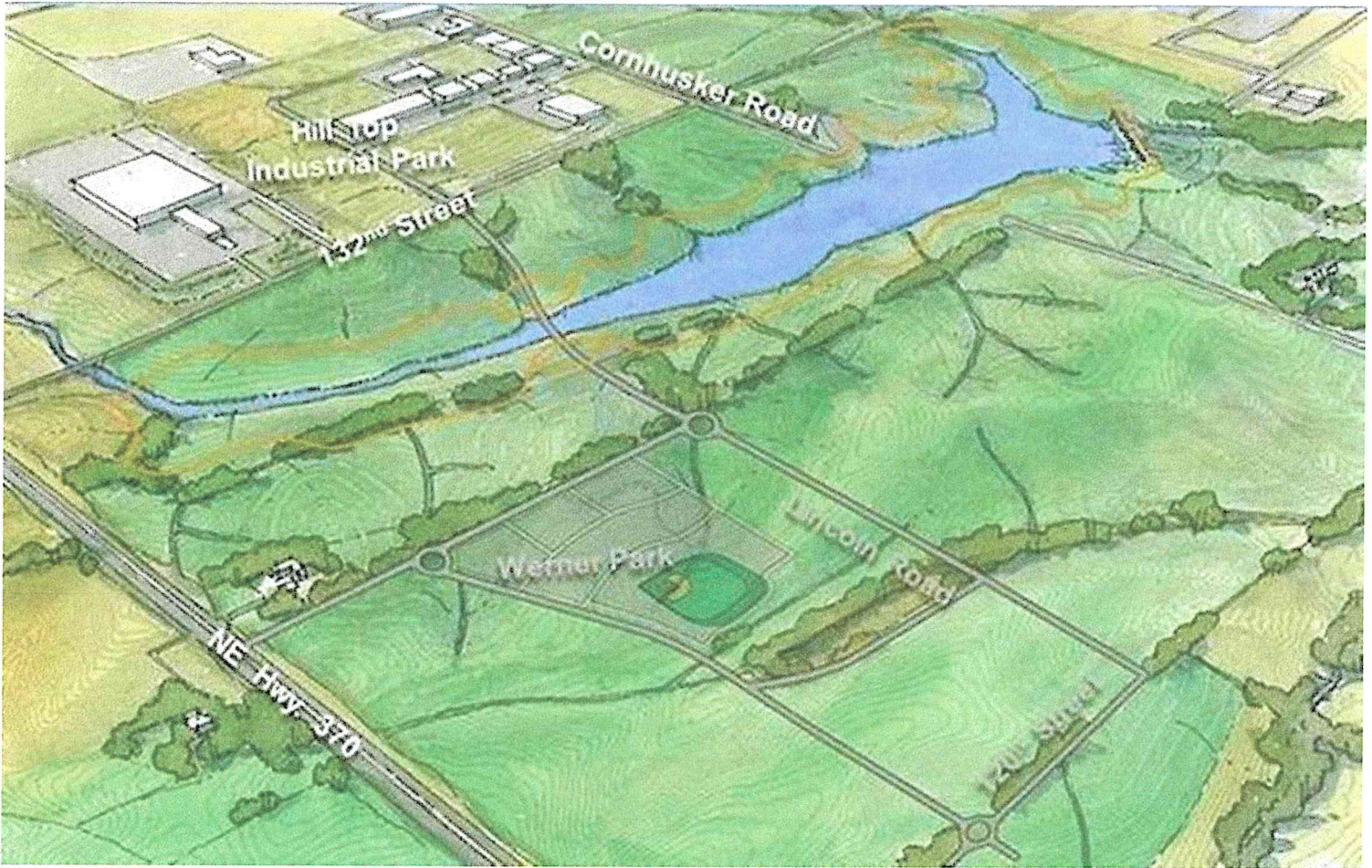
Kolowski said her statements are “ridiculous.” He said he has a track record of being fiscally conservative, noting that the NRD hasn't increased its property tax rate for the past eight years and the Learning Community hasn't used its full tax levy authority.

In an interview this week, Turco took issue with the Learning Community's decision this year to fund a \$100,000 program that will intervene in the lives of young mothers in north Omaha in hopes of giving their children a better chance. She dismissed the one-year program as a temporary fix and said the money would be better spent in classrooms.

Kolowski said the Legislature created the educational cooperative to find ways to boost academic achievement for disadvantaged youths in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The \$100,000 program, he said, is one strategy aimed at preventing developmental problems that cause academic achievement gaps when children reach school.

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Graphic submitted by Papio-Missouri River NRD

A flood-control reservoir being built by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is expected to eventually include recreational offerings. However, the lake itself should be finished in 2014.

Construction to begin soon on flood-control reservoir

By Mike Bell

Times Staff Writer

Omaha World-Herald

The contract to construct a new lake near Werner Park has been assigned to a contractor and is slated to be finished by June 2014.

The Board of Directors of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District approved a \$14.5 million contract with Hawkins Construction Co. on Thursday.

The Omaha-based company will build the flood control reservoir and recreational features, including hiking and biking trails, boat ramps and picnic shelters. The construction contract was awarded \$4.5 million below what engineers estimated it would take to build the reservoir.

The lake, called project WP-5 by the NRD, will be built near 132nd Street and Cornhusker Road, which is located just northwest of Werner Park. The end result should be similar to the Walnut Creek Recreational Area.

Amanda Grint, a water resources engineer, said the project fulfills several roles.

“It’s a dam, so it holds water back and releases it at a lesser rate, eliminating peak flows,” she said.

The 135-acre reservoir will collect water and alleviate flooding downstream of the western branch of Papillion Creek. Included with the project is an extension of Lincoln Road and a bridge.

The area would also feature 315 acres of recreational space, and Nebraska Game and Parks is working to supply fish for fishing, Grint said. Boats will be allowed on the water, but not jet skis.

NRD Manager John Winkler said in a press release that the project will help protect lives and property downstream, including the City of Papillion.

“Our studies have shown that this area of Sarpy County is in dire need of additional flood protection,” Winkler said.

The project is the first to be implemented under the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership’s watershed management plan. Construction is expected to begin soon with a groundbreaking ceremony planned for sometime in October.