

Agenda Item: 15.

Memorandum

To: PPO Subcommittee
From: Amanda Grint, Water Resources Engineer
Date: June 7, 2012
Re: New District Program 17.44 – Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

The District received a request for cost share on the construction of a levee to protect the City of Blair's water and wastewater treatment plants that experienced a severe flood threat during last year's Missouri River flood, see attached letter. District staff met with Blair representatives and discussed the possibility of cost sharing while noting that there was currently no District program that fit the project. The City of Blair also submitted a request for detention to mitigate flooding within the City (see attached letter). This request for assistance has in the past been able to be funded through the Urban Drainageway Program but since the revision to incorporate stream restoration, the flood control aspect has been inadvertently omitted from the program. Several governmental entities have been and could be in need of assistance for flood reduction measures that are not currently covered by a District cost share assistance program. District staff has prepared guidelines for a new program for the Board to consider for adoption and inclusion in its policy manual. This would provide staff direction when responding to inquiries for assistance.

The attached description provides the details and criteria for the proposed program. The three categories for eligible projects will be

- ☐ Flood reduction levees which protect water-dependent, critical facilities
- ☐ Flood reduction detention
- ☐ Flood reduction channel improvement

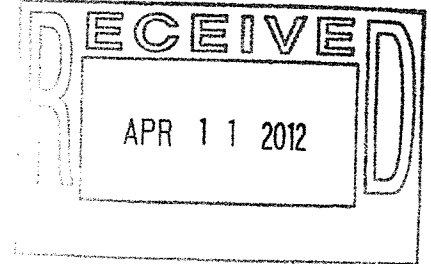
The program will provide a 50% cost share up to a maximum of \$500,000 per project. Sponsors would be required to make an application for FEMA grant funding assistance on all projects as well.

This program, if approved, is expected to be advertised to local communities with the annual mailing on District programs in February and then budgeted for in the next fiscal year. However, the two Blair project requests appear to meet the proposed guidelines and are planned to be presented to the Board for consideration next month if the proposed program is adopted. Staff has preliminarily placed \$400,000 in the draft fiscal year 2013 budget for this item.

Management recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the District adopt District Program 17.44, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, in accordance with the proposed criteria and program guidelines.



CITY OF BLAIR



April 10, 2012

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Attn: John Winkler
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68138-3621

RE: Funding Applications

Dear Mr. Winkler:

The City of Blair, Nebraska was one of the communities in Nebraska that was directly affected by the 2011 flooding of the Missouri River. Specifically Blair, under emergency operations, constructed temporary flood control devices and setup pumping operations to pump storm water and effluent from the city's water and waste water treatment plants. Blair spent over \$3 million during the flooding event to protect the city's facilities. As a result of the challenges and costs of protecting the city's facilities from the 2011 flooding, Blair is submitting a mitigation application with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requesting funding to construct permanent flood control devices protecting the city's water and wastewater treatment plants from future flooding, construct a new pumping station to be utilized during a flooding events to pump storm and effluent from the city's treatment plants and a generator capable to providing adequate power to the city's water treatment plant in the event of losing power to the plant. Blair has retained HDR Engineering of Omaha to assist the city with developing and submitting our application to NEMA for these projects. A meeting between NEMA, HDR and the city took place in early February to review the proposed application and projects. NEMA did not express any concerns with the city's plans for requesting mitigation funding. We anticipate the applications to be submitted yet this spring with approval from NEMA by this fall. The preliminary cost estimate for this work is \$5 million. Blair is going to request the maximum of 75% funding from NEMA through the mitigation program or \$3,750,000. Blair will be responsible for 25% of the funding or \$1,250,000. This brings me to the point of this letter. Blair would like to request a special project with the PMNRD that would split the local cost share. Specifically Blair would like to request funding from the PMNRD in the amount of 12.5% of the local matching funds or \$625,000 based on the current cost estimates.



These mitigation plans will significantly reduce future costs to combat future flooding around our water and wastewater treatment plants by not having to repeat the actions we undertook last summer.

The City of Blair would like to thank you and the PMRNRD Board of Directors in advance for your time and consideration of this request for special project funding. If there are any questions, please call me at 402-426-4191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Schoemaker', written in a cursive style.

Allen Schoemaker
Director of Public Works



CITY OF BLAIR



May 29, 2012

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Attn: John Winkler
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68138-3621

RE: Funding Request

Dear Mr. Winkler:

The City of Blair, Nebraska would like to request funding assistance for a storm water detention facility that is needed to assist the city in controlling flooding in the western portion of the city. I have enclosed a marked up aerial photo showing the location of the proposed storm water detention facility. Also enclosed is a map showing the entire drainage area that converges onto this location. Storm water backs up in the area proposed for the detention facility because there are only two 24 inch culverts under the Union Pacific Railroad embankment, which are not sized sufficiently to pass a 10 year frequency storm event through the railroad embankment. The city has evaluated the required culvert size to pass a 10 year frequency storm event through the railroad embankment, and it will take a 72 inch culvert to sufficiently pass a ten year storm event through the railroad embankment. However, installing this sized culvert will only change the location of the flooding that currently occurs on the south side of the railroad embankment. The drainage infrastructure to the north of the railroad embankment was only sized and constructed to accommodate the amount of storm water that can pass through the existing culverts. Over the years Blair has experienced significant flooding of this property threatening the surround homes and businesses, so Blair would like to construct this detention facility to help protect the surrounding properties from being inundated with flood waters. The engineer's cost estimate for the detention facility is \$236,000 including construction and land acquisition. Blair would like to request a 50/50 split of the project cost. We would like to plan on construction of the detention facility within the next year.

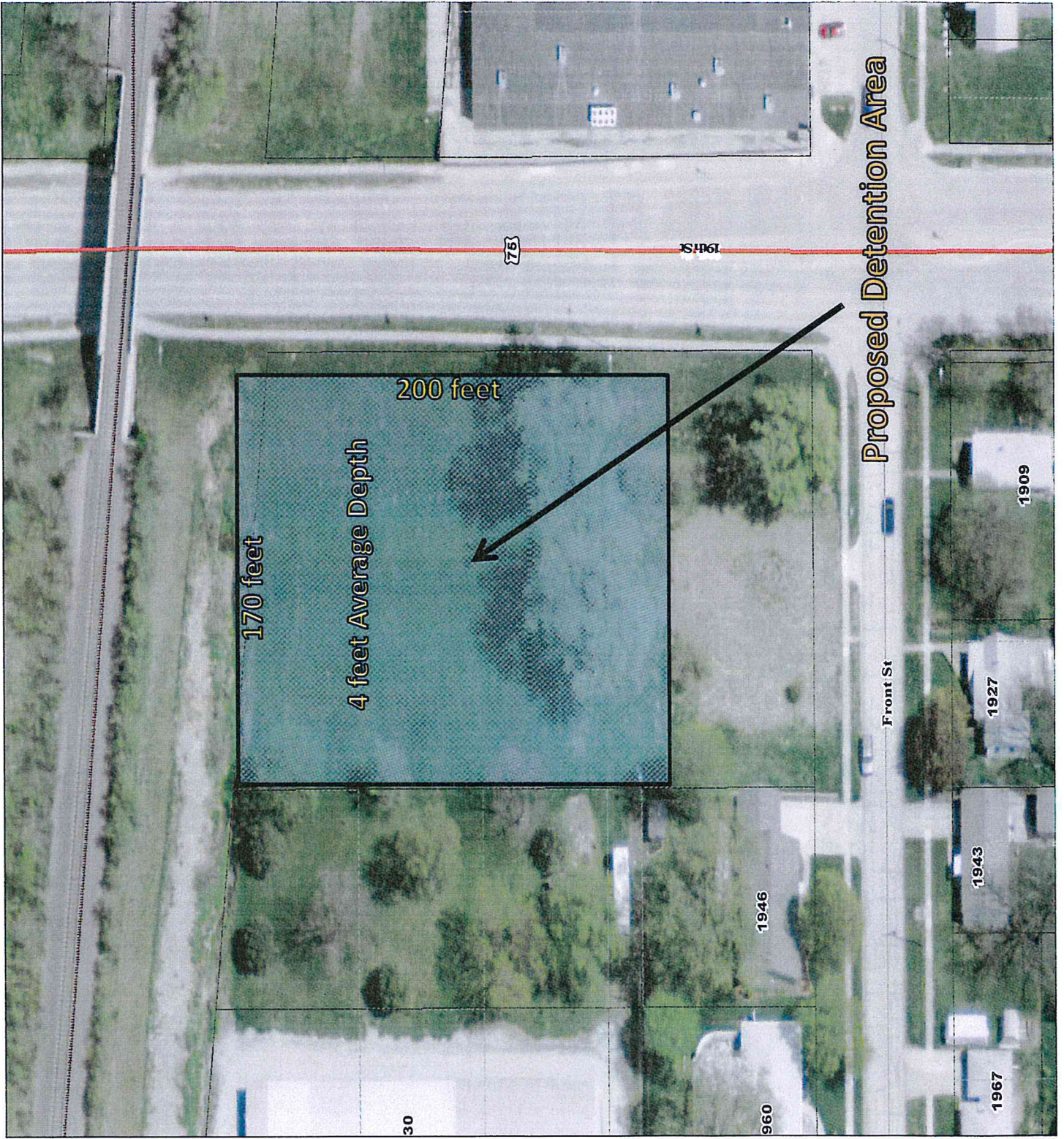


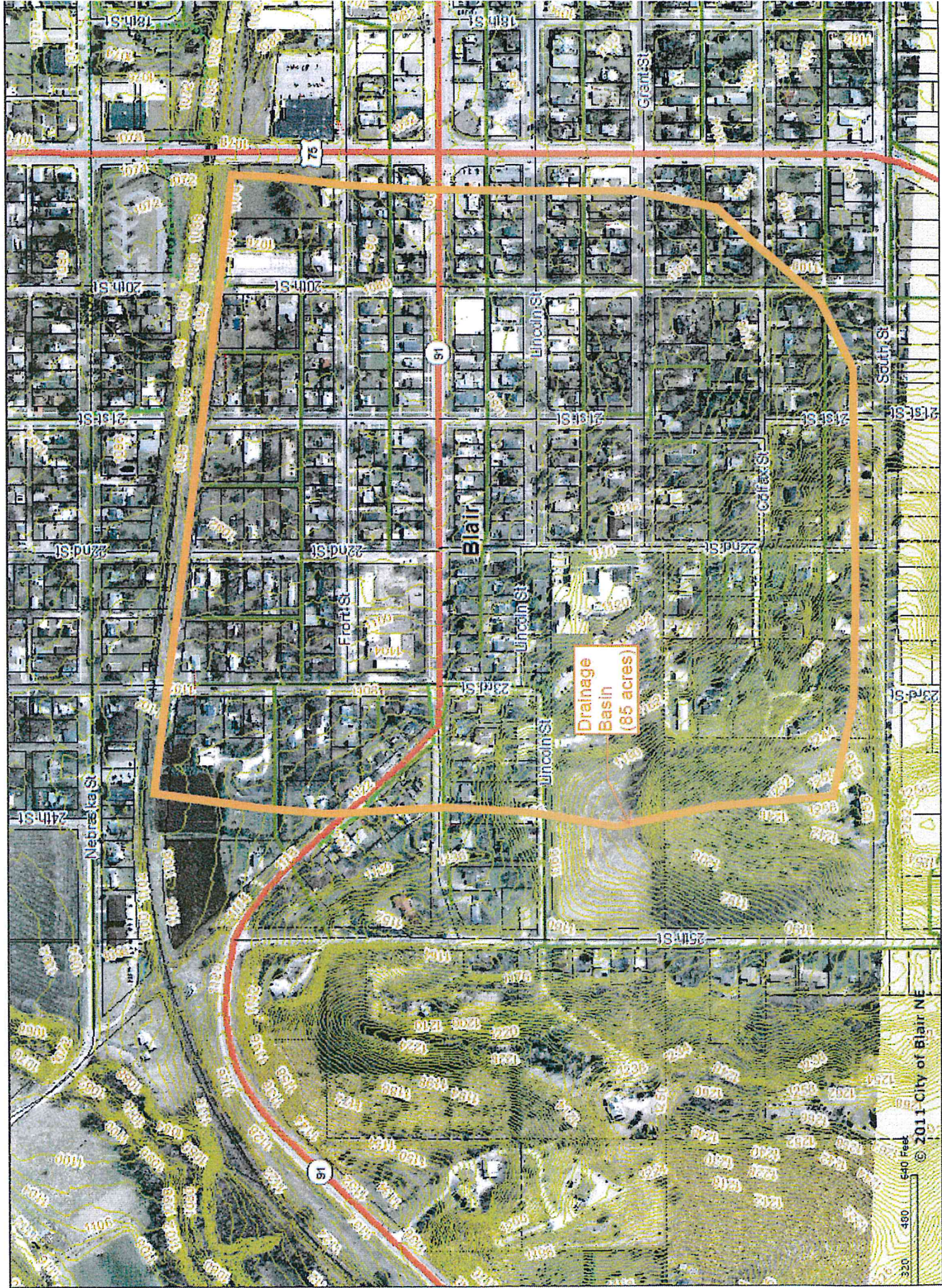
The City of Blair would like to thank you and the PMRNRD Board of Directors in advance for your time and consideration of this request for special project funding. If there are any questions, please call me at 402-426-4191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Schoemaker", with a stylized, flowing script.

Allen Schoemaker
Director of Public Works





17.44 FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is an authorized program of the District to provide technical and financial assistance to municipalities and other units of government to mitigate flood losses through structural flood control projects in developed, urban areas.

A. Criteria for Assistance

1. An eligible project involves improvements made to protect critical infrastructure from flooding.
2. Each project must be sponsored by a municipality, or other unit of government (including SIDs) with authority and capability to carry out the project
3. Eligible measures include:
 - a. Flood reduction levee systems to protect water dependent, critical infrastructure
 - b. Flood reduction detention structures
 - c. Flood reduction channel improvements
4. This program will not pay to assist with levee accreditation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
5. This program will not include levees that are federal levees or that are currently in the USACE PL-8499 program.
6. This program will not assist with levees that are intended to be shown as providing flood protection on the FEMA flood maps.
7. This program will not assist with a change of map process on the FEMA flood maps.
8. This program will not help to fund any projects that are necessary to meet federal, state or local ordinances.
9. Approved projects may be implemented over a period of consecutive years.
10. All measures must be technically feasible and environmentally acceptable.

B. District Responsibilities

1. Administer the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.
2. Review and prioritize all applications.
3. Provide 50% cost sharing on all eligible costs of the project to a maximum amount of \$500,000 for District's share. Eligible costs shall include all costs associated with design, construction, and construction inspection. Land rights are not an eligible cost. The following shall also apply:
 - a. Sponsor's in house design and construction inspection costs are eligible for cost-sharing provided that the work is performed or supervised by a licensed profession engineer and all hours can be documented.
 - b. Construction must be performed by a qualified contractor. Reimbursement for use of Sponsor's labor and/or equipment is not an eligible cost.
 - c. Preliminary study costs (if necessary) are eligible for cost-sharing only if the project is installed.
4. The District may require construction of component parts in consecutive years.

5. The District reserves the right to approve or reject plans, specifications, and/or implementation schedules.
 6. The District shall budget funds for the component parts of all approved projects. Previously approved projects have priority funding.
- C. Sponsor Responsibilities
1. Sponsor shall submit an application on forms provided by the District (Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Application, Form 17.44, Manual of Standard Forms, Appendix E.
 2. The sponsor shall submit preliminary plans with the application. The following items should be included:
 - a. Total estimated cost
 - b. Implementation schedule, including estimated costs for component parts
 - c. Environmental acceptability statement
 - d. Preliminary survey and design information
 - e. Location maps
 3. The sponsor shall obtain all land rights for the project at no cost to the District.
 4. The sponsor shall provide all future operation and maintenance on the project at no cost to the District.
 5. The sponsor must comply with all local, state and federal laws.
 6. The sponsor must obtain all local, state, and federal permits necessary for the project.
 7. The sponsor shall administer all contracts for design, construction and construction inspection.
 8. The sponsor must have applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. A copy of the application should be submitted with the application.
 9. The sponsor shall hold and save the District free from damages or claims due to the design, construction, or operation and maintenance of the project.
 10. The sponsor shall execute an agreement with the District which will outline these guidelines.
- D. Requesting Reimbursement
1. Upon completion of construction of each component, reimbursement may be requested by the sponsor by providing the following information:
 - a. Certificate of Completion, signed by a licensed, professional engineer.
 - b. Copies of final pay estimates which shows total units, unit costs, and total component costs.
 2. Progress payments on individual components will not be allowed.
 3. Any state, federal or other grant funds received for the project will equally reduce the District and the sponsors share of the project.

(June 4, 2010)