

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE BOARD

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: June 8, 2012

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager

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

B. **PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

1. The District received a letter of thanks from Heidi Neumann, Teacher Librarian and Nature Club Sponsor at Morton Elementary School, thanking the District for the education services we provide to the community and staff in support of the "Family Night Program". Ms. Neumann's letter is attached for your review.

2. The Unofficial Primary Election Results is attached for your review. The Candidates moving forward to the General Election are: Subdistrict #1- Scott Japp and Chris Koenig; Subdistrict #3 - Curt Frost and Brandon Clark; Subdistrict #5 – Rich Tesar and Brad Dunbar; Subdistrict #7 - Patrick Leahy and Jim Powers; Subdistrict #9 – Matt Pinkerton and Patrick Bonnett; and Subdistrict #11 – Gus Erickson and Ron Woodle. Congratulations to all of the Candidates. General Election Day is November 6, 2012.

3. The District received a letter from Pam Bergstrom, Forester from the Lower Elkhorn NRD thanking staff for their assistance in making the 2012 Tree Program such a success. Pam's note is attached for your review.

4. The District received a letter from Shannan Bessey, Clinical Therapy Assistant for QLI, thanking Jeff Koerten for his work in maintaining Chalco Hills, and improving the access to the handicap pier fishing dock. Shannan's note 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 May 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 May 14, 2012. I would ask each Director to review this listing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

E. **PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT:** The May, 2012 Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Monthly Update is attached for your review. The next Partnership meeting will be held on June 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the NRC.

F. **NEWS CLIPS:**

- ✓ May 8, 2012 Omaha World Herald article, Big Mac inflows could be “new normal”
- ✓ May 14, 2012 Lincoln Journal Star article, Lake project near Hubbard gets go ahead from NRD
- ✓ May 15, 2012 Omaha World Herald article, Work to begin on new lake near Hubbard
- ✓ May 17, 2012, Omaha World Herald article, Valley mayor won’t be idle before exiting
- ✓ May 17, 2012, Lincoln Journal Star article, Lied Bridge takes on new role as water quality research station
- ✓ May 17, 2012, Washington County Pilot Tribune article, NRD approves culvert cost sharing
- ✓ June 4, 2012, Omaha World Herald article, NRD buys water rights to help river compact

May, 2012 Information/Education Report

Information

- Assisted with Water Works festival
- Made preparations for Pigeon Jones Site 15 groundbreaking
- Finalized contract for web site assistance
- Prepared I&E budget recommendations
- Continued work on interpretive sign for W. Maple Rd. Access park
- Continued archiving slides and photos
- Updated Facebook page
- Continued scheduling of Public Information campaigns
- Continued work on Summer SPECTRUM Newsletter
- Continued work on Flood Prevention brochure

Education

- **May Programming Schedule:**
 - 5/1- Water Works 5th Grade Festival at Schramm Park
 - 5/1- Girl Scout Hike at Chalco Hills- 14 girls/4 parents
 - 5/1- Holy Name Nature Club (1st-8th grade) - 15 students/3 parents
 - 5/2- Water Works 5th Grade Festival at Schramm Park
 - 5/3- Benson West Elementary (1st grade)- Bird Nests- 50 students/4 teachers
 - 5/5- State Envirothon- Halsey, NE- Wildlife Judge- 80 students/8 teachers
 - 5/7- Spring Lake Elementary (4th grade)- Tree Program- 120 students/4 teachers
 - 5/8- Benson West Elementary (6th grade)- GPS/Geocaching- 65 students/3 teachers
 - 5/9- Harvey Oaks Elementary (3rd-5th grade)- Owl/Pellets Program- 80 students/10 teachers
 - 5/10- Neihardt Elementary (4th grade)- GPS/Geocaching- 85 students/4 teachers
 - 5/11- Fullerton Elementary (1st grade)- Field Trip to Chalco Hills- 115 students/6 teachers/10 parents
 - 5/14- Louisville Elementary (5th grade)- Owl Program- 40 students/2 teachers
 - 5/14- Crestridge Elementary Girl Scouts- Water Conservation Program- 8 girls/1 teacher/1 parent
 - 5/15- Bell Elementary (4th grade)- Natural Resource Program- 45 students/2 teachers
 - 5/15- Holy Name Nature Club (1st-8th grade) - 15 students/3 parents
 - 5/16- Parkview Heights Elementary (2nd Grade)- Field Trip to Chalco Hills- 70 students/4 teachers/10 parents
 - 5/17- Fishing For All Festival (NGPC)- Halleck Lake- Owl Programs- 30 students/10 teachers
 - 5/18- Fishing for All Festival (NGPC)- Two Rivers Rec. Area- Owl Programs- 140 students/20 teachers and parents
 - 5/19- Bellevue Health Fair- Bellevue Medical Center- Trail Map hand out
 - 5/21- Rockwell Nature Club (2nd grade)- Insects and Plant Program-20 students/1 teacher/1 parent
- **Meetings**
 - 5/4-Douglas County-Putting Prevention to Work-Outdoor Classroom Meeting
 - 5/9- MORE Nature Meeting
 - 5/23- Girl Scout Badge Book Advisory Committee Meeting
 - 5/14- World O! Water Meeting – Event planning
 - 5/21-Budget Meeting
- **Planning**
 - NRD Summer Day Camps, confirmation e-mails, presenters
 - Water Works Registration Materials, Presenter Packets
 - MORE Nature and Go! Play Adventure Calendar, FaceBook Page, website
 - Fall Nature Nights
 - Fall Photo/Slide Archiving Internship

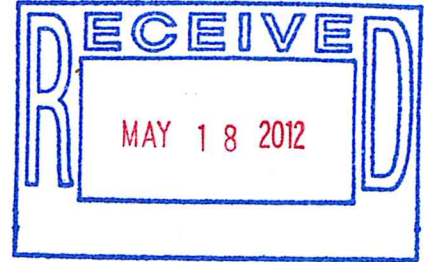
millard

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Morton Elementary School • 1805 So. 160th St. • Omaha, NE 68130-1701 • 402-715-1290 • Fax 402-715-1311

May 11, 2012

John Winkler, General Manager
Papio-Missouri River NRD
8901 S. 154th St.
Omaha, NE 68138



Dear Mr. Winkler,

I am writing to thank you for providing so many enriching, hands-on educational opportunities for our students. Our school, Morton Elementary, is an elementary building in Millard. Over the past two years, we have benefited tremendously from the services and expertise of your Education Department.

We started an after-school Nature Club for our students in 2010-2011, and we would not have been able to do it without the support of the NRD. Heather Guthridge attended many of our club meetings to share lessons about animal tracks, butterflies, ladybugs, and geocaching. She also was instrumental in helping us develop an outdoor classroom by providing plants and working with our students to put them in the ground and learn to care for them.

This year, Christine Jacobsen and Austen Hill conducted engaging activities on recycling and conservation of resources. They provided additional plants for our outdoor classroom, and our Nature Club students had the opportunity to get their hands dirty by putting them in the ground. We found that many of our students had never had the experience of planting directly in the ground! Now, they are showing a genuine sense of pride and ownership in caring for "their" plants right outside the school's front doors.

Our building also was fortunate to host a Family Nature Night this year. This event was a highlight of the school year. Typically, we would have to plan multiple off-site field trips to expose students to the kinds of experiences that Nature Night provided in one evening! It was a true pleasure to see students of all ages and their families sharing a healthy meal and 100% engaged in hands-on nature activities. Because the event was free of charge, every family had an equal opportunity to participate and we had an excellent turnout.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunities that have been offered to our students *free of charge* through the programs of the NRD Education Department. I hope that you will continue to fund Nature Night, as well as the other programs offered to schools through your Education Department. The NRD is a true gem in our community.

On behalf of the students, staff, and families at Morton Elementary, thank you again for the high-quality programs you provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi Neumann".

Heidi Neumann

Teacher Librarian and Nature Club Sponsor
Morton Elementary School

May 16, 2012
As of 8:00:07 AM

Papio-Missouri River NRD
Unofficial Primary Election Results
May 15, 2012

SUBDISTRICT #1	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Scott Japp*	3,595
Chris J. Koenig	1,894
Joe Morgan	1,155

SUBDISTRICT #3	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Curt Frost	2,706
Brandon Clark	1,973
Brian J. Kuehl	1,681

SUBDISTRICT #5	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Rich Tesar*	4,574
Brad Dunbar	1,989
Gene Siadek	1,441

SUBDISTRICT #7	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Patrick Leahy	3,266
Jim Powers	2,845
Jerry M. Nielson	767
Lucas C. Billesbach	630

SUBDISTRICT #9	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Matt Pinkerton	Advances Automatically
Patrick Bonnett	Advances Automatically

SUBDISTRICT #11	
NAME	TOTAL VOTE
Gus Erickson*	2,254
Ron Woodle	3,212
Eric Shirey	1,181

Andrew, Josh, Terry,
Justin, & Darlene ~

Thank you for
helping make the 2012
Tree Season a success!

If you can think of
any way to improve the
tree program, let me know.
Again, thank you for
your help.

Tom Bergstrom
LEWD Foster

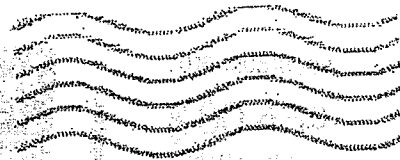
QLI

Tri-Dimensional Rehab
Brain and Spinal Cord
Injury Specialists



OMAHA NE 68138

OCT 10 2012 PM 3:11



JEFF CORTSEN
C/O PAPIO NRD
8901 S. 154th ST
OMAHA NE 68138

JEFF C.

WE WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST
GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE HARD WORK YOU DO WITH
THE PARKS - SPECIFICALLY CHALCO AREA.

YOUR CONCERN FOR OUR RESIDENTS BEING ABLE
TO ACCESS THE FISHING DOCKS DOES NOT GO UN-
NOTICED. I SHARED HOW YOU REALLY TOOK
OWNERSHIP AND BUILT US A BEAUTIFUL, PERMANENT
RAMP FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT. I ALSO SHARED
YOUR DILIGENCE IN KEEPING THE RESTROOMS
CLEAN & STOCKED. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH
WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!

THANKS AGAIN JEFF! YOU TRULY ARE
AN ASSET TO THE NRD AND OMAHA PROPER.

SHANNAN BESSEY
CLINICAL THERAPY ASST QLI
6404 N 70th PLAZA
OMAHA NE 68104

402-574-2886

May, 2012

[illegible]

Updated: May 14, 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 (N)
- **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)
 - ★ MoPac Trail (Hwy 50 to Lied Bridge) BELF Settlement and New Dowd Easement (W)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - ★ Pigeon/Jones Site 15 Purchase Agreements and closing documents (W)
 - Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (F)
 - ★ Papio W-3 Access-Quiet Title Action (W)
 - ★ Pigeon/Jones Sites 1, 9, & 23 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)
 - ★ 3 Purchase Agreements for additional WP5 ROW (W)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Sklenar)
- **Other:**
 - Interlocal Agreement with Fort Calhoun for FEMA Letter of Map Revision (Laster) (N)

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2012



A Partnership meeting was held on May 31, 2012 at 10am at the NRC Building. Minutes are updated regularly on the Partnership's website: www.papiopartnership.org.

Partnership Budget

A proposed budget of the partnership fund was distributed for review. We are currently in the third year of the five-year interlocal agreement. The only anticipated expenses for the fourth year are the CBI Systems, Ltd., software maintenance fee and a professional services contract to review the implementation plan.

Budget had been allocated the last two years for a Natural Resources Inventory, however, the Partnership has not been successful in securing grant funds to complete the inventory. The Partnership is looking at working with other agencies to pool resources to complete the inventory. At this time, it is not anticipated that a financial contribution from the Partnership will be required within the next year.

CBI Systems, Ltd. Software Annual Maintenance Fee

The MS4Web Software is a web-based computer program used to track activities required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The software will allow the PCWP to maintain databases that are accessible by all members to track monitoring data and activities, as well as automatically generate reports that are required by the NPDES permit. The software will also aid in the event of an EPA audit of an individual community. The program will be customized by CBI to fit the specific requirements of the communities' stormwater management plans (SWMP).

IN February 2010, the Partnership voted to purchase the software with the intent that it would be hosted at the NRD or the City of Omaha. The annual maintenance fee for self hosting was \$4,020. After months of technical issues, CBI agreed to host the software for on their servers for one-year at no cost to the Partnership.

During the year of the CBI hosting the software, the program was accessible and proved to be a benefit to the Partnership. However, the annual maintenance fee for CBI hosting is \$15,279.02.

The Partnership members voted to approve the \$15,279.02 maintenance fee for one year. If at the end of the year, the program is determined to still be a benefit to the Partnership, the Partnership would then vote to approve another year.

Next Meeting:

The next Partnership meeting will be **June 28, 2012 at 10 am** at the NRC building.



Big Mac inflows could be 'new normal'

By David Hendee
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER
Published Tuesday May 8, 2012

North Platte River flows into Lake McConaughy have fallen to lows similar to last decade's drought years.

But referring to "drought conditions" when McConaughy experiences low inflows may no longer be accurate, said Mike Drain, natural resources manager for the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

"It may very well be a 'new normal' inflow condition that we're going to have to deal with on a more frequent basis," he said Monday.

Normally, Lake McConaughy's water supply is tied to return flows from the previous year's snowmelt runoff. In other words, snow that fell during the winter and spring of 2010-11 melts and runs off to be stored in U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs in Wyoming.

The water then is released for hydropower generation and irrigation projects in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. Water that enters the underground water system and flows back to the North Platte River — return flows — makes up most of the water available for storage in Lake McConaughy.

Over the years, a fundamental change has occurred in the timing and amount of water available for storage in McConaughy, said Cory Steinke, Central's civil engineer in charge of water operations.

Last year's record inflows were an exception to a developing trend of significantly lower flows, he said.

Steinke said many factors influence return flows to the North Platte River, including more groundwater development in the Nebraska Panhandle and improving irrigation efficiencies above McConaughy. The bottom line, he said, is that average annual inflows to McConaughy have been declining for several years.

"We can't rely on the occasional high-flow years for the reservoir to remain at healthy levels," he said. "We're in decent shape now, but future reservoir levels are much more uncertain."

Drain's and Steinke's remarks came during a meeting of Central's board in Holdrege, Neb.

Steinke summarized the current water supply situation as "not much snow, warm temperatures and early snowmelt."

McConaughy's level is slowly falling as releases to satisfy downstream irrigation requirements exceed inflows. Recent inflows have been about 500 cubic feet per second, or 42 percent of the historic average. Outflows from Kingsley Dam have been around 800 cfs.

Lake McConaughy was 82.4 percent full Monday, or down 10.8 feet from maximum elevation.

Steinke said higher inflows this spring should have resulted from the tremendous amount of water that came down the North Platte River last year.

Though last year's snowpack was well above normal, this year's snowpack accumulation in the upper North Platte Basin is 38 percent of normal for this time of year, and 18 percent of normal in the lower basin. Snowfall accumulation this year all but ended in mid-March.

It typically continues to accumulate through mid-April.

Work to begin on new lake near Hubbard

By Kevin Cole
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER
5-15-12

Construction of a flood-control and recreation lake in northeast Nebraska is scheduled to begin this summer.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District board announced Monday that it has accepted a low bid of \$6.5 million for the project near Hubbard, Neb., in Dakota County.

The bid by Dixon Construction Company is approximately \$1 million below the engineer's estimate.

Emmett Egr, a spokesman for the NRD, said the reservoir is part of a comprehensive plan that will provide flood and erosion control, recreation and grade stabilization in the 20,316 acre Pigeon-Jones Creek Watershed.

The NRD will create a 226-acre no-wake lake surrounded by a 750-acre park. The recreation area will include camping, boating, fishing, five miles of hiking and biking trails and 10 miles of equestrian trails.

A ground-breaking ceremony is planned for June 7.

Lake project near Hubbard gets go ahead from NRD

Lincoln Journal Star
5/14/12

Construction of a flood-control and recreation lake near Hubbard in northeast Nebraska will start soon.

The Omaha-based Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District recently accepted a low bid of \$6.5 million from Dixon Construction Co. to build the project.

The bid was about \$1 million below the engineer's estimate, said Emmett Egr, the NRD's spokesman, in a news release.

The lake is part of a comprehensive watershed plan that will provide flood and erosion control, recreation and other benefits in the 20,000-acre Pigeon/Jones Creek watershed in Dakota County.

Recreational opportunities at the 750-acre park, with a 226-acre lake, will include boating, fishing, five miles of hiking and biking trails, 10 miles of equestrian trails, mountain biking trails, and separate campgrounds for recreational vehicles, equestrians and tents.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for June 7.

Published Thursday May 17, 2012

Valley mayor won't be idle before exiting

By [Kevin Cole](#)

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Valley Mayor Mary Caffey won't be at her city's helm much longer, but she's committed to working hard until her term ends.

The two-term mayor failed to advance to the November general election in Tuesday's voting, placing third in the three-person primary race. Carroll Smith, who tallied 145 votes, and William Sager, 128 votes, will face off to replace Caffey, who had 99 votes.

"It is what it is, and I say good luck to them and good luck to the future of our city," Caffey said. "We have several projects in the works that I need to follow through on. I'll stay very busy."

Caffey, 65, said two items on her to-do list are getting approval for building a pedestrian overpass between the Twin Rivers YMCA to Douglas County West High School and expanding the Valhaven nursing home that is owned by the city. To do the projects, Valley would work with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on the pedestrian bridge and with the company that leases the nursing home on the expansion.

Caffey said both projects need to be approved by the Valley City Council, and she is optimistic work will begin before she steps down in December.

Smith said Caffey has "done a lot" for Valley during her eight years as mayor and another eight years on the council. He is a former mayor and council member who lost to Caffey in the 2008 general election.

"I thought it would be her and I again," Smith said Wednesday. "She's done a nice job. We really campaigned along the same lines. But I think that sometimes, after eight years, people just want a change and maybe a different way of doing things."

Smith also gave credit to Sager, a political newcomer, for running a grass-roots campaign.

"Bill did a very good job at the grass-roots level," Smith said. "He was talking to people all around town, and I think they respected him for coming out and sharing his views."

Sager could not be reached.

Smith said he stopped by City Hall to thank Caffey on Wednesday morning while he was out collecting the 37 yard signs he had planted around town. But the mayor was attending a meeting in Omaha.

"I just stopped in to pat Mary on the back and tell her I think she's done a good job," Smith said. "Valley is maybe a little different than some other cities. I think we're all pulling for the same things."

Contact the writer:

402-444-1272, kevin.cole@owh.com

Lied Bridge takes on new role as water quality research station

By [ALGIS J. LAUKAITIS / Lincoln Journal Star](#)JournalStar.com | Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2012 10:00 pm |



[Buy this photo](#)

Plans are in the works to build a shelter-like structure, like this one on the Elkhorn River, onto the Lied Platte River Bridge near South Bend. The bridge will allow scientists, students and the public to conduct experiments and learn how pollutants affect the river and its aquatic species. (Courtesy photo)

Plans are in the works to build a water quality research station on the Lied Platte River Bridge near South Bend in Cass County.

It will be similar to one built on the Elkhorn River on UNO's T.L Davis Prairie south of 245 and Q streets.

For more information about the Elkhorn River Station visit: www.unomaha.edu/envirotox/errs.php.

The Lied Platte River Bridge near South Bend has carried walkers and cyclists across the Platte River since it opened a decade ago.

Now it will have an additional purpose: water quality research.

Plans are in the works to build a shelterlike structure onto the bridge that will allow scientists, students and the public to conduct experiments and learn how pollutants affect the river and its aquatic species.

"Using the bridge makes total sense because you have a lot of people going by. From a public outreach and educational perspective, it's ideal," said Alan Kolok, director of the Nebraska Watershed Network.

Kolok, a University of Nebraska at Omaha biology professor, has built a similar research station on the Elkhorn River on the T.L. Davis Prairie in Douglas County. UNO owns the property.

Last summer, groups of "citizen scientists" tested the river for the chemical atrazine as part of "What's in Your Watershed?" day.

Kolok said the Elkhorn station pumps water directly from the river into holding tanks so researchers also can study the effects of agriculture runoff and veterinary pharmaceuticals on fish, frogs and other amphibians.

Installation of the Elkhorn station was the genesis of Nebraska Watershed Network, a proposed system of water quality research stations on the three rivers that encircle Omaha: the Elkhorn, Platte and Missouri.

The Lied Platte River Bridge will be the second, and talks are under way for a third near Haworth Park along the Missouri River near Bellevue.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District on Wednesday approved a memorandum of understanding to allow construction of the research station on the Lied Platte River Bridge.

Opened in 2002, the bridge is a key link in a proposed 50-mile recreational trail between Lincoln and Omaha. Partners in the bridge are the Lower Platte South NRD, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Now that the Lower Platte South NRD has given its approval, construction of the research station on the Platte River will start this summer with a spring opening.

The project will cost between \$150,000 and \$250,000, Kolok said. Funding came from the Nebraska Research Initiative, a state-sponsored program to help stimulate economic growth.

Meghan Sittler, coordinator of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance, believes the greatest effect of the water research stations will not be scientific but educational.

The stations will provide opportunities not only for students to develop research projects but for other groups such as scouts to get involved in learning more about the Platte River, Sittler said.

"It fits right in with the mission of the bridge," she said, noting that agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey already have water flow gauge instruments on the span.

The station on the Platte River will be on the Omaha side of the Lied Platte River Bridge, close to a public parking lot, Sittler said.

Architects will design the station so it fits in with the beauty of the bridge, she said, adding that they did a great job incorporating the Elkhorn station into its surroundings.

"You barely see it. It folds into the bluff. The coloring and the way it was designed -- it really doesn't stick out."

Kolok said the research stations will serve as a "masthead" for a virtual laboratory on the Internet. Researchers and the public will be able to access archival data collected at the stations.

Reach Algis J. Laukaitis at 402-473-7243 or alaukaitis@journalstar.com.

5-17-12

NRD approves culvert cost sharing

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District approved cost sharing with Washington County on a road structure to replace an aging Walnut Creek box culvert on County Rd. 38 at its May 10th meeting. Washington County applied for \$150,000 to help fund the project about 2 miles southeast of Arlington.

Construction of a reservoir for flood control and recreation near Hubbard in Dakota County will begin soon. The board of the Papio-Missouri River NRD approved the low bid of \$6.5 million from Dixon Construction Company. The bid was approximately \$1 million below the engineer's estimate. The Pigeon/Jones Site #15 Reservoir is part of a comprehensive watershed plan that will provide flood control, recreation, erosion control and grade stabilization benefits in the 20,316 acre Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed in Dakota County. Recreational opportunities at this 750-acre park with a 226-acre lake will include "no wake" boating, fishing, 5 miles of hiking and biking trails, 10 miles of equestrian trails, mountain biking trails, separate RV campgrounds, equestrian camp grounds and tent campgrounds.

Flood control benefits will be realized on thousands of acres of irrigated cropland in the Missouri River bottomlands where the combined Pigeon and Jones creeks empty into the Pigeon Creek Levee System.

A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for June 7th.

The board approved contributing \$20,000 to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a cost share to assist with construction of 30 electrical campground locations at the Summit Lake State Recreation Area in Burt County. The site was originally constructed by the NRD and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. It has been operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for many years using Game and Parks Commission funding and NRD cost sharing.

NRD buys water rights to help river compact

CURTIS — The Middle Republican Natural Resources District has purchased surface water rights for 672 acres to help Nebraska stay in compliance with a three-state compact that governs use of the Republican River.

The NRD said the rights acquired from Riverside Irrigation Co. will free up 2,400 acrefeet of surface water that will now flow downstream.

The project was funded through the NRD's occupation tax and the federal Agricultural Water Enhancement Program. The price was not disclosed.

Use of the Republican River's water is governed by a 1943 compact involving Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. Colorado was given 11 percent of the water, Nebraska was allotted 49 percent and Kansas got 40 percent. There is a longstanding dispute between Kansas and Nebraska over whether Nebraska has used more than its share. — AP