

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Nebraska Game and Parks Request for Cost Share Assistance for
Debris Removal at Lied Platte River Bridge

Date: December 1, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

The District received a request from the Nebraska Game Parks Commission (NGPC) for cost share assistance to remove debris accumulated from flooding last June on the upstream side of the Lied Platte River Bridge (see attached letter).

NGPC has applied for and received approval for FEMA disaster assistance to remove the debris. The estimated cost of the removal is \$280,000, of which 75% (\$210,000) is provided by FEMA. The remainder is the local share, or \$70,000. The NGPC is requesting that the Papio and Lower Platte South NRDs equally split this local share of the costs, or \$23,330 each.

The two NRDs own the bridge, but have leased the bridge and trail project to NGPC for a period of 30 years. The lease was dated November 25, 2002. The Operation and Maintenance Manual, Exhibit "E" to the lease (attached) calls for NGPC to perform routine operation and maintenance items, including debris removal. The manual does allow for cost sharing by the NRDs in the event of "catastrophic conditions". The June, 2010 flood produced higher than normal debris in the Platte River, thus the disaster declaration by FEMA.

The Lower Platte South NRD staff is recommending approval of the request to their Board of Directors. A subcommittee of their Board will meet next week to consider the request. Management recommends approval.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the District cost share equally with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Lower Platte South NRD on the non-federal share of the cost for debris removal at the Lied Platte River Bridge resulting from the June, 2010 flood, in an amount not to exceed \$23,330.**

NEBRASKA

— GAME PARKS —

November 3, 2010

Dan Schulz
Resources Coordinator – Lower Platte South NRD
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Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

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Gerry Bowen
Natural Resources Planner – Papio-Missouri River NRD
8901 S. 154th St
Omaha, NE 68138

Dear Mr. Schulz and Mr. Bowen;

Thanks for visiting with me regarding the debris removal needs associated with the Lied Platte River Bridge Trail. As requested I am sending this letter to summarize the issue and to request funding assistance as described below.

As a result of unusually high precipitation in the Elkhorn and Platte River drainages this summer, lowland flooding and related high water flows in both rivers, and associated tributaries, produced accumulations of woody debris upon the Lied Bridge structure near South Bend. As a result of those flood events a federal disaster relief declaration was assigned to the locality, and representatives of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) proceeded to investigate and discuss options for removal of that debris from the bridge supports. This work is necessary to restore desired river flows under the bridge, and to protect the structural integrity of the bridge. Also, local residents are vigilant in monitoring this situation given their concern for the potential of ice jams and flooding as related to the accumulated debris. FEMA supports removing the debris and will reimburse removal expenses up to 75% of related costs.

In 2009 the Game and Parks Commission contracted with Hawkins Construction of Omaha to remove debris accumulations from the bridge, product of 2008 flood events. That contract cost was \$297,141.00 and was offset with a 75% reimbursement from FEMA in conjunction with the disaster declaration implemented for those events. No

funding assistance was requested from the partner Natural Resource Districts in 2009 to help fulfill the required 25% match that was paid by Game and Parks.

Staff from our agency's Engineering Department has consulted with Hawkins Construction to develop a cost estimate for removing the current debris accumulation, product of the 2010 flood events. Their estimated project cost is \$280,000.00 and FEMA will reimburse for \$210,000.00 of that amount. Our matching share (25%) is \$70,000 based upon that estimate.

Section 3.06 and Exhibit "F" of the Interlocal Agreement signed in 1996 both include language that would allow the partner Natural Resource Districts to assist with expenses related to catastrophic repairs resulting from floods. Therefore we request that both the Lower Platte South and Papio-Missouri River NRD's consider joining the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in a 3-party split of the required match, in order finalize an eventual contract and initiate efforts to restore desired river flow beneath the bridge and protect the structure. Each partner's obligation will be approximately \$23,333.00 based upon the current estimate.

We appreciate your review and consideration of this request, and hope to receive an answer from each of you soon. If you need further information or have any questions please contact me at 402-471-5499 or Chris Lemke (Engineering) at 402-471-5557.

Respectfully,



James A. Swenson
East Region Parks Manager

cc: Roger Kuhn – Parks Division Administrator
Duane Westerholt – Park Planning
Chris Lemke – Engineering Division





EXHIBIT "E"
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will operate the Bridge and accesses as a State Recreational Trail. Its responsibilities will include, but not be limited to: mowing, noxious weed control, fence construction and repair, trail grading and resurfacing, deck and handrail repair, and other related repairs necessitated by normal use.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District will be jointly responsible for catastrophic repairs to the Bridge resulting from ice floes, dynamiting for flood relief, or other catastrophe. Such parties also will be responsible for water erosion repairs on the Bridge structure and supports that result in a hazardous condition endangering the health and well being of trail users.

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