

# MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: June 11, 2015

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager



A. **INFORMATION/EDUCATION REPORT:** The Information and Education Report detailing the department's activities for the month of May, 2015, is attached for your review.

B. **PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

1. The District received an email from constituent, Tim Altrock, complimenting staff member Tom Pleiss, Assistant Park Superintendent, on the Prairie Queen Recreation Area. I want to thank all staff members that made this project possible. A copy of Mr. Altrock's email is attached for your review.
2. The District received an email from staff member Kelly Fravel, Program Assistant – Dakota County, thanking the Information and Education Department for the Serviceberry trees and wildflower seed packets that were given to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Dakota City Elementary. Thanks go to Kelly Fravel, Christine Jacobsen, and Austen Hill for their efforts in coordinating this project. The thank you notes from the students are attached for your review.
3. The District received a letter from D. Terry Haack, Superintendent of Bennington Public Schools, thanking the NRD and staff member John Zaugg, for the Celebrate Trees grant that was awarded earlier this year. A copy of Dr. Haack's letter is attached for your review.
4. Staff member Martin Cleveland has provided an update on the Thompson Creek levee project sewer relocation professional services. The District received three work change acknowledgement letters for additional engineering services. A copy of Martin's memo and the letters of change order are 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 from the month of May, 2015. 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, Husch Blackwell, as of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. 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 June 28, 2015, Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership meeting minutes are attached for your review. The next Partnership meeting is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

**F. NEWS CLIPS:**

- ✓ May 12, 2015, Douglas Co. Post-Gazette article, NRD awards contract for Dam Site 15A
- ✓ May 14, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, South Platte River floodwaters from Colorado diverted into Nebraska canals
- ✓ May 15, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Widening Giles Road gets Papio-Missouri NRD board's approval
- ✓ May 18, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, DARK DOINGS BEHIND PLANNING EFFORT? Several groups see Heartland 2050 as a threat to property rights, suspect ties to U.N.'s Agenda 21
- ✓ May 18, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, NRD asking Air Force to pitch in \$10 million for levee repairs around Offutt
- ✓ May 27, 2015, Bellevue Leader article, NRD chief optimistic about federal funding for levee enhancement
- ✓ May 27, 2015, Washington Post article, EPA rule expands protection of waters; Midlands lawmakers vow to continue opposition
- ✓ June 2, 2015 Lincoln Journal Star article, Lake McConaughy could be full in less than three weeks
- ✓ June 4, 2015, Lincoln Journal Star article, Olsson Associates gets authority to use drones
- ✓ June 9, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, This may come as no surprise to you, but May was the wettest month ever in the lower 48 states
- ✓ June 9, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Does Papillion annexation plan go too far? Some Sarpy County officials say the city is being unneighborly
- ✓ June 9, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Volunteers needed for Missouri River cleanup
- ✓ June 10, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Plans call for Riverfront Trail gaps to be filled by late 2016 in \$1.3M project
- ✓ June 11, 2015, Omaha World Herald article, Bluffs must prep levees for FEMA review or risk flood insurance hikes

## May 2015 Information/Education Report

### Information

- Prepared recommendations for I&E budget
- Distributed news releases
- Updated Facebook page
- Updated Web Site. Work continues to set up web site to be easily viewed on all web browsers and screen sizes (responsive web site).
- Continued work on Spring 2015 Spectrum Newsletter
- Responded to requests for information/materials received through web site
- Coordinated scheduling of 2015 TV PSAs
- Coordinated tickets for staff day at Storm Chasers game

### Education

#### May Programming Schedule:

- 5/1- Blair 4H Club- Trees/ Arbor Day- 11 kids  
5/2- Millard Church Group- Owls/Trash pick-up- 12 children and parents  
5/4- Millard Library- trees/planting- 33 kids and parents  
5/4- Louisville Elementary- Animals- 24 kids (Pre-K)  
5/5- Water Works Festival—900kids  
5/5- Boy Scouts- Hike/tree planting- 21 kids and parents  
5/6- Water Works Festival—900 kids  
5/7- Sunset Hills- Family Nature Night- 112 people  
5/7- Maplewood Preschool— Aquatic Animals- 52 children  
5/8- Maplewood Preschool— Aquatic Animals- 29 children  
5/9- La Vista Junior High- Macroinvertebrates- 19 students (6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
5/11- Millard South High- Environmental History- 18 students  
5/11- Sandoz Elementary- Food chains- 68 students (1<sup>st</sup> grade)  
5/12- Elkhorn Valley Middle School- Geocaching- 29 students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
5/13- St. James/Seton- Lizards- 36 students (preschool)  
5/14- Rohwer Elementary-Family Nature Night – 175 students and family  
5/15- Fishing For All (MPS)— GPS- 106 students  
5/18- Millard South High- GPS/Geocaching- 119 students  
5/19- Millard South High- GPS/Geocaching- 102 students  
5/19- Morton Nature Club, Planting  
5/21- Rockwell, 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Geocaching, 55 students

#### Planning:

Spring Nature Nights  
I&E Trailer clean/out load for Nature Nights & Summer Camps  
Updates/Monitoring of Papio-Missouri River NRD Facebook Page and Web Pages  
Water Works—Press Release, Registration Materials  
General NRD Animal Care  
Geocaching Applications

#### Meetings:

Water Works Committee  
Envirothon Conference Call  
Budget Meeting  
Goals/Review for Education Assistant

**From:** Pleiss, Tom  
**Sent:** Monday, May 25, 2015 3:46 PM  
**To:** Winkler, John; Warren, Bill  
**Subject:** Fwd: Happy Memorial Day

**From:** "Tim Altrock" <[t.altrock@yahoo.com](mailto:t.altrock@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** "Pleiss, Tom" <[tplaiss@papionrd.org](mailto:tplaiss@papionrd.org)>  
**Cc:** "Tim R. Altrock" <[t.altrock@yahoo.com](mailto:t.altrock@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Happy Memorial Day

Tom

I just returned from Omaha/Des Moines and wanted to say thank you again for what you have done. Prairie Queen Lake is truly outstanding, well laid out and planned, it has alot of potential for anything that the NRD or the city of Papillion wants to do with it in the future. Had a small gathering of friends, made a small speech and released some balloons into the sky. I placed some additional mulch around the tree I designated as mom's memorial tree, I hope to place that small stone by the tree in a couple of months. Thank you for everything you have done, I hope you had a fantastic weekend.

Tim R Altrock

**From:** Fravel, Kelly - NRCS-CD, Dakota City, NE [<mailto:Kelly.Fravel@NE.nacdnet.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 9:27 AM  
**To:** Hill, Austen; Jacobsen, Christine  
**Cc:** Schumacher, Terry; Egr, Emmett  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for NRD Trees/Wildflowers

Christine and Austen,

Just wanted to share a thank you I received from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Dakota City Elementary School for the Serviceberry trees and wildflower seed packets. This is a great educational opportunity for the District to promote the importance of conservation and preservation of our natural resources and it's very much appreciated by the students and teachers!

Have a good day 😊  
Kelly

P.S. I received several thank-you emails from teachers this spring after I scheduled deliveries of the trees and wildflower seeds too.

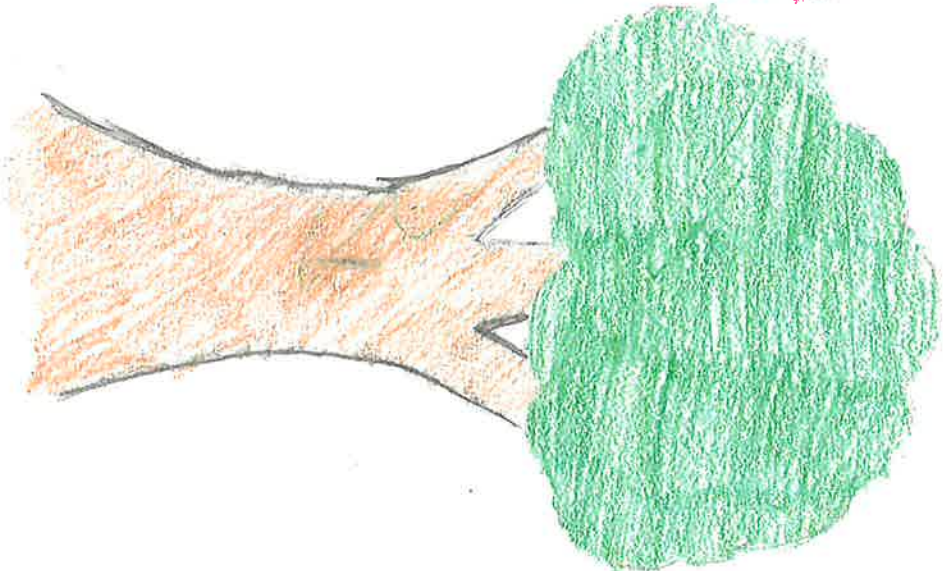
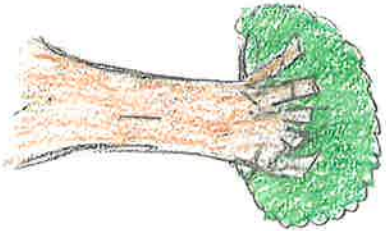


Dear Dakota City NRD,

Thank you for the beautiful trees and colorful flowers. It's very nice of you to think of us. The service berry is going to look beautiful when it's fully grown. For Earth Day we planted the flowers you gave us and the service berry trees. Thank you so much for thinking of us on Arbor Day.

Sincerely,

Dakota City Fifth Graders





# Dakota City Dr Graders

Bill

Received A nice Grader Thank you  
for the love I can only hope I'll get it  
on my

Wesley

Thank you for  
I have those trees  
Wesley there are berries  
fruit I also flowers

Estimote

Following a quest  
by the  
and  
love it

Thank you for  
I have those trees  
fruit I also flowers

David I purchased all for you  
the name  
and

Benjamin



My three 15  
Sharon  
Thomas

Thank you for

Thank you  
I already  
ordered

Bradley

Leonardo

Emylee

Harmon

Dana Bibian

Traci

Joe Sisco

I love my wife  
Traci's name  
and just want  
to flow on

# BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.benningtonschools.org](http://www.benningtonschools.org)



*Dr. Terry Haack, Superintendent*  
11620 North 156<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 309  
Bennington, NE 68007  
(402) 238-3044 Fax (402) 238-2185

APR 6 2015

March 31, 2015

Mr. John Zaugg  
Papio-Missouri River NRD  
8901 S. 154th St.  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

Dear John,

Bennington Public Schools would like to thank the NRD for the Celebrate Trees grants that were awarded us this year. As you know, BPS is a growing school district with mostly new schools. The Celebrate Trees grant program has been a great opportunity for us to add trees to our schools. These trees provide many environmental benefits as well as providing a welcoming environment for teachers, students and the patrons of our community. I look forward to the day when children are able to sit in the shade of a beautiful oak tree and read a good book.

Again, thank you for considering BPS for your grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry L. Haack  
Supt., Bennington Public Schools

*Bennington Elementary Principal – Chad Boyes (402) 238-2690 Fax (402) 238-2185*  
*Heritage Elementary Principal – Therese Nelson (402) 238-2095 Fax (402) 238-3351*  
*Pine Creek Elementary Principal – Shannon Thoendel (402) 238-2372 Fax (402) 238-2416*  
*Secondary Principal – Dr. Matt Blomenkamp (402) 238-2447 Fax (402) 238-2950*

*Board of Education: Matthew Wickham, Darren Siekman, Doug Laaker,  
Mark Byars, Valerie Calderon, Brad Renter*

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.



## MEMORANDUM

TO: John Winkler, General Manager

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland

SUBJECT: Thompson Creek Levee Project – Sewer Relocation Professional Services

DATE: June 3, 2015

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Lamp Rynearson and Associates was hired to provide professional services for the referenced sewer relocation project, including engineering design of the sewer, construction staking and construction administration. Enclosed is a copy of the May 19, 2014, Lamp Rynearson and Associates (LRA) contract with the District. The contract is set up on an hourly basis with the maximum not to exceed cost of \$29,900. The 27 inch diameter by 1900 ft. long concrete (RCP) sewer is being moved away from the levee base to allow for levee relocation away from the creek. The sewer project was initially bid in December 2014 and rebid in January 2015 due to higher than expected bid prices. The second bid letting resulted in a \$86,412 cost savings over the first bid letting. The project was awarded to Valley Corporation with a base bid of \$460,721.

LRA has been paid \$15,370.98 to date for engineering work on this project. There are two invoices (\$4,170.10 and 11,810.29) that are pending for June 11, 2015 Board approval. When these invoices are paid, the total paid LRA engineering services to date will be \$31,351.37, which is \$1,451.37 over the original contract amount.

The District has received three work change acknowledgement letters for additional engineering services (March 6, March 26 and June 3, 2015), copies of which are enclosed. A summary of these work change acknowledgement letters and associated cost impact is as follows:

- 1. March 6, 2015 letter:** Additional services during design phase including revising the plans in order to rebid the project with multiple pipe materials. Additional contract cost: **\$2,100**
- 2. March 26, 2015 letter:** Additional services during construction administration/observation phase to address City of LaVista inspection requirements. City of LaVista required more on site observation for RCP joint testing by LRA than LRA anticipated in the original contract scope. Additional contract cost: **\$6,000**
- 3. June 3, 2015 letter:** Additional services during construction administration/observation phase to address MUD water line conflict, cracked sewer pipe, weather delays and overall slowness of the sewer contractor. These tasks required additional on-site construction observation, site survey and re-engineering of sewer at MUD water line conflict area. Additional contract cost: **\$10,100**
- 4. Original contract amount: \$29,900; Work Additional Services (Letters 1, 2, 3): \$18,200; Revised contract total(estimated): \$48,100**

CC: Marlin Petermann, NRD



**LAMP RYNEARSON  
& ASSOCIATES**  
ENGINEERS | SURVEYORS | PLANNERS

14710 W. Dodge Rd., Ste. 100  
Omaha, Nebraska 68154  
[P] 402.496.2498  
[F] 402.496.2730  
www.LRA-inc.com

May 19, 2014

VIA EMAIL  
Mr. Martin Cleveland  
Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621  
[mcleveland@pmnrd.org](mailto:mcleveland@pmnrd.org)

REFERENCE: Proposal for Civil Engineering Services  
Thompson Creek Levee Improvement Project – Sewer Relocation  
LaVista, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Cleveland:

Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc. (LRA) is pleased to present this proposal to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (CLIENT) to provide civil engineering services associated with the Thompson Creek Levee Improvement Project – Sanitary Sewer Relocation. We understand that the scope of our services for this project will include the following tasks.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**A. Engineering Design**

1. Complete one (1) pre-design site visit.
2. Prepare preliminary plans for P-MRNRD and local agency approval
3. Prepare final construction plans for the 27" sanitary sewer relocation, in accordance with local regulatory agency requirements, as required by the proposed improvements.
4. Prepare contract documents and technical specifications.
5. Prepare cost estimates for public improvements, as required by the local regulatory agency.
6. Complete one (1) plan-in-hand meeting.
7. Coordinate with local regulatory agency staff to assist in obtaining approval of final plans and specifications.
8. Coordinate with the CLIENT.
9. Submit plans and application for a wastewater construction permit to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and respond to any comments.
10. Attend one (1) pre-bid meeting at the project site.
11. Answer contractor questions during the bidding process.

**Engineering Design Assumptions**

1. A topographic survey has been completed by the CLIENT and provided to LRA. If additional topographic survey is required, it will be provided by the CLIENT.
2. A siphon structure will not be required. If a siphon structure is required, the design will require additional services.
3. The grading and SWPPP sheets will be provided under a separate proposal.
4. Removal plan sheets will be provided by others.
5. Relocation of OPPD power poles will be coordinated by others.

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6. The Papio-Missouri River NRD will provide and compile the contract documents and will put together the contract.
7. The Papio-Missouri River NRD will bid the project. LRA has assumed three (3) hours during the bidding process to answer contractor questions. If additional time is required, it will be discussed with the CLIENT.
8. Temporary easement, permanent easement and property acquisition documents will be completed by others.
9. Geotechnical testing is not included in the scope of services. LRA recommends that the CLIENT retain a geotechnical engineer to perform any required testing.
10. The CLIENT will prepare any required wetland delineation and US Army Corp of Engineer's 404 Nationwide Permits required for the project.

**B. Construction Staking**

1. Provide construction staking for the CLIENT.
2. Complete an as-built survey for the construction record drawings.

**C. Construction Administration**

1. Attend one (1) pre-construction meeting with the contractor.
2. Provide construction administration services, including:
  - a. Full-time construction observation as required by the local regulatory agency for the construction of public improvements,
  - b. Complete weekly reports,
  - c. Review pay applications and make recommendations for payment,
  - d. Coordinate testing, and
  - e. Coordinate with the contractor and CLIENT.
3. Answer contractor questions and RFIs during construction.
4. Prepare and submit construction record drawings (CRDs) to the local regulatory agency.

**D. General Assumptions**

1. The project will be completed in accordance with the scope outlined above and assumes a "one-time design." Any modifications to the design concept after work has been completed will be considered additional services.
2. Fees for any applications, filings or permitting, fees required by governing agencies, or any other fees not specifically defined herein are not included in our fees and, if required, will be paid by the CLIENT.
3. Unless LRA specifically requests that shop drawings or other material information be submitted for review, LRA will not accept, review, or transmit any shop drawing or other submittals.
4. Materials testing is not included in our scope of services and will need to be provided by others.

**SCHEDULE**

We anticipate our work to take approximately six (6) weeks after the geotechnical and topographic survey is completed. We will coordinate the project schedule with the CLIENT.

**COMPENSATION**

We propose to bill for our services on the basis of hourly charge rates plus reimbursable expenses incurred. For the tasks listed above, our fees will not exceed the amounts listed below.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Engineering Design                     | \$14,000        |
| Construction Staking / As-built Survey | \$2,600         |
| Construction Administration            | \$13,300        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                        | <b>\$29,900</b> |

A copy of our current charge rate schedule is attached. This schedule is updated on approximately April 1 of each year. Additional services beyond the scope of services outlined above will be billed on the basis of hourly charge rates plus reimbursable expenses incurred.

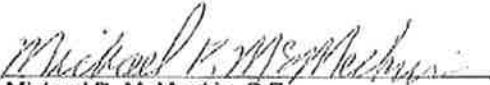
**SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Invoices will be submitted monthly. All invoices are due upon receipt.
2. All reports, drawings, specifications, computer files, field data, notes, and other documents prepared by Lamp, Ryneerson & Associates, Inc. are instruments of professional service and shall remain the property of Lamp, Ryneerson & Associates, Inc. Lamp, Ryneerson & Associates, Inc. shall retain all common law, statutory, and other reserved rights, including, without limitation, the copyrights thereto.
3. This proposal is valid if acceptance of this proposal and work authorization for our services are both received within 90 days from the date of this proposal. After this deadline, our scope of services and fees may be re-evaluated.
4. Past due accounts are charged a one percent (1%) interest rate per month on any unpaid balance. If payment in full is not paid within 30 days from the date of the invoice, LRA reserves the right to immediately cease work. LRA shall be entitled to recover attorney fees, court costs, and any other costs of collection that may be incurred in collecting this account.
5. If directed to suspend or cease work, LRA shall be paid for services performed prior to the receipt of notice to cease work, together with any expenses from cessation of work. Should work on this project be stopped and consequently re-started, CLIENT hereby agrees that LRA may adjust the proposed fees or other compensation for the remaining work.

We appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal and look forward to assisting you in the successful completion of this project. We would be glad to discuss any questions you may have on our proposal. Please refer questions to Mike McIntosh, our project manager. If this proposal is acceptable, we ask that you acknowledge by signing below and returning one signed copy to us.

Sincerely,

LAMP, RYNEARSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Michael P. McMeekin, P.E.  
President



Michael P. McIntosh, P.E., CFM  
Senior Project Manager

Accepted By:



Martin Cleveland, P-MRNRD  
Martin Petermann

Enclosure

5/20/2014  
Date



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14710 W. Dodge Rd., Ste. 100  
Omaha, Nebraska 68154  
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www.LRA-Inc.com

March 6, 2015

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Martin Cleveland  
Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621  
[mcleveland@pmnrd.org](mailto:mcleveland@pmnrd.org)

REFERENCE: Work Change Acknowledgement #001  
Thompson Creek Levee Improvement Project – Sewer Relocation  
La Vista, Nebraska  
LRA Job No. 0114041.01-310

Dear Mr. Cleveland:

This letter is intended as a work change acknowledgement (WCA) for the above mentioned project. Our work is being completed under a standard Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc. (LRA) letter agreement dated May 19, 2014. LRA performed additional services in the amount of \$2,100 during the design phase of the project. These additional services included the work required to revise the plans in order to re-bid using multiple pipe materials and to perform additional pre-bid services.

LRA has additional tasks under the letter agreement to perform construction staking and construction administration. If there are fees remaining at the end of the project, a change order for this WCA may not be necessary; however, if LRA uses the original contract fees during the construction phase of the project, a change order may be required. This will be determined at the conclusion of the project.

Sincerely,

LAMP, RYNEARSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Michael P. McIntosh, P.E., CFM  
Senior Project Manager

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[F] 402.496.2730  
www.LRA-Inc.com

March 26, 2015

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Martin Cleveland  
Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621  
[mcleveland@pmnrd.org](mailto:mcleveland@pmnrd.org)

REFERENCE: Work Change Acknowledgement #002  
Thompson Creek Levee Improvement Project Sewer Relocation  
LRA Job No. 0114041.01-310

Dear Mr. Cleveland:

This letter is intended as a work change acknowledgement (WCA) for the above-referenced project. Our work is being completed under a standard Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc. (LRA) letter agreement dated May 19, 2014.

LRA had a discussion with Mr. John Kottman of the City of La Vista, regarding the level of effort for construction observation services. Due to the contract requirements for the contractor to air test all the R.C.P. joints, the City would like LRA on-site to view random joint tests. Mr. Kottman stated that LRA did not need to be present for all the joint testing. From our conversation, it was agreed that LRA would spend three to four hours on site each working day to observe construction and to verify random joint tests. Based on these requirements, we anticipate that our fee for construction observation of \$13,300 could be exceeded by \$6,000. If the contractor were to use two crews or otherwise finish ahead of schedule, we believe the overrun could be less. If the contractor exceeds his schedule, the additional fees could increase above the stated amount.

LRA will continue to work diligently under the existing contract fees; however, if the amounts are exceeded, it will require a change order. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this.

Sincerely,

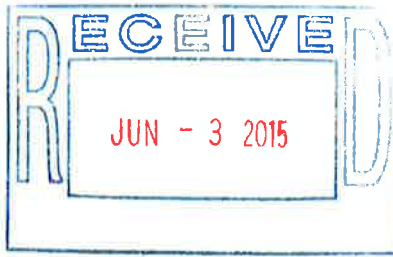
LAMP, RYNEARSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Michael P. McIntosh, P.E., CFM  
Senior Project Manager

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www.LRA-Inc.com

June 3, 2015

Mr. Martin Cleveland  
Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District  
8901 South 154 Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621  
[mcleveland@pmnrd.org](mailto:mcleveland@pmnrd.org)

REFERENCE: Work Change Acknowledgement 003  
Thompson Creek Levee Improvement Project Sewer Relocation  
LRA Job No. 0114041.01-310

Dear Mr. Cleveland:

This letter is intended as a work change acknowledgement (WCA) for the above-referenced project. Our work is being completed under a standard Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc. (LRA) letter agreement, dated May 19, 2014.

LRA has been encumbered with additional services for construction administration in addition to the work described in WCA 001 and WCA 002. The additional services were required due to an existing water main conflict encountered during construction. The water main conflict resulted in additional on-site construction observation, site survey, and re-engineering. In addition, LRA has provided additional on-site construction observation due to issues with cracked pipes, weather delays, and overall slow progress by the contractor.

LRA has estimated the additional work under this WCA 003 as \$10,100. This estimate is the total additional costs we believe necessary to complete our services, including development of as-built record drawings.

The following summarizes the three WCAs that have been provided.

**WCA 001:** Additional services due to drawing modifications to re-bid the plan with multiple pipe materials - \$2,100;

**WCA 002:** Additional construction administration services estimated due to the additional site observation required for R.C.P. joint testing - \$6,000;

**WCA 003:** Additional construction administration services estimated due to issues encountered during construction, weather delays and slow progress from general contractor - \$10,100.

The following table summarizes the additional services:

| Services                             | Original Contract Amount | Additional Services Request | New Proposed Fee Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Design                               | \$14,000                 | \$2,100                     | \$16,100               |
| Construction Observation and Staking | \$15,900                 | \$16,100                    | \$32,000               |
| <b>Total Estimated Final Fee</b>     |                          |                             | <b>\$48,100</b>        |

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this.

Sincerely,

LAMP, RYNEARSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Terry Atkins, P.E., LEED® AP  
Senior Vice President

Michael P. McIntosh, P.E., CFM  
Senior Project Manager

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Leaving a Legacy of Enduring Improvements to Our Communities - PURPOSE STATEMENT

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Updated: May 19, 2015

## **Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel**

★ = **Top Priority**

F = Future Work – No Assignment

N = New Assignment

O = Others Handling

W = Work in Progress

P = Counsel Portion Completed

B= Next Board Meeting

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
  
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
  - Culvert Repair Project Consultant Contract (W)
  
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
  - ★ Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96<sup>th</sup> St.) (W)
  
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
  - NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (F)
  - Review NE-ARNG WSCC Chute Monitoring Right-of-Way (B)
  
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
  - ★ Iske Place Closings (W)
  - ★ King Lake Purchase Agreements and Closings (W)
  
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
  - ★ West Papio Trail, Union Pacific Rail Road Right-of-Way Review Rail Bank Provisions (N)
  
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)

- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
  - ✦ Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (W)
  - Papio W-3 Access-Quiet Title Action (F)
  - Tek/Mud PL 566 Site 41A access (F)
  - ✦ Papio PL 566 Site W-2 Issues (W)
  
- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
  - ✦ Transfer Deed to City of Papillion for Prairie Queen (N)
  - ✦ Review of Zorinsky Basin #1 Olsson Associates Monitoring Contract (N)
  - ✦ Review of WP6 & WP7 FYRA Contract (W)
  - ✦ Contract/Agreement Amendments for DS-15A Sewer Modifications with HDR, Omaha, and McArdele (N)
  
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
  - ✦ Interlocal Agreement w/City of Omaha on NDEQ 319 Grant (B)
  
- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
  - ✦ Offutt AFB O&M Agreement (P)
  
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)
  - ✦ Fort Calhoun Lawsuits on WCRW (W)
  - TCRW (Rosalie) Easements for Waterline (W)
  
- **Other:**
  - ✦ Elkhorn River 240<sup>th</sup> Street Land Acquisition Documents (W) (Williams)
  - ✦ Glacier Creek Interlocal Agreement w/UNO (W) (Grint)
  - ✦ City of Blair Interlocal Agreement on Flood Mitigation Project (W) (Grint)
  - Chalco O&M Shop/156<sup>th</sup> Street ROW (W) (Cleveland)
  - ✦ Chalco Hills Recreation Area Pedestrian Trail Agreement w/Sarpy County (W) (Cleveland)
  - Interlocal Agreement w/LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and ENWRA for Ashland Groundwater Pilot Model Phase II (W) (Woodward)



# PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

## MEETING MINUTES



### Partnership Meeting May 28, 2015 – 10:00 AM – Board Room Natural Resource Center, 8901 S 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE

#### Attendants:

See attached sign-in sheet.

#### Purpose

A meeting of the Partnership was held on the above date in order to discuss topics stated in the attached agenda. The meeting began at approximately 10:06 am.

#### 1. Introductions

- An agenda, sign-up sheet, and handouts were distributed.

#### 2. Review of Vote – CBI Software Annual Fee

- The Partnership utilizes CBI MS4Web Software for tracking required permit activities under the MS4 permit issued by NDEQ. The annual maintenance and hosting fee for this software is \$15,279.
- When the software was originally purchased by the Partnership it was agreed that the annual fee would be voted on each year to allow the Partners to assess the software's usefulness.
- As a meeting of the Partnership was not held in April to approve the expenditure, votes were taken by email.
- The Partnership voted to approve the payment of the fee. See attached vote sheet.

#### 3. Papillion Program Audit – Jesse Poore, FHU

- Jesse Poore presented the finding of a non-regulatory, self-evaluation of the City of Papillion's Stormwater Program. Papillion requested the audit to ensure that they were in general compliance with their MS4 permit and to determine areas that need improvement or increased staff training.
- The FHU audit reviewed documentation of the City's program activities, interviewed municipal staff on their roles and processes, and evaluated the MS4 software use by the City. FHU then prepared a report with observations and recommendations for improvement.
- FHU also looked at the minimum control measures as prescribed in the MS4 stormwater permit.



- The audit identified several areas where the Partnership as a whole can take credit for the activities of Omaha, however there are actions that Papillion can take on their own to streamline reporting processes and increase public awareness.
- While the work FHU completed was for the City of Papillion, Jesse believes it could be useful to other communities as well. He will work with Jeff Thompson in Papillion to distribute the final report.
- Discussion from those in attendance indicated that dry weather monitoring training for inspectors would be a good idea. The Partnership will also start discussing the permit minimum control measures as a group during meetings to identify areas that need improvement or where increased public outreach would be easily attainable.

#### 4. NDEQ 319 Grant

- The City of Omaha and the P-MRNRD have submitted a Project Implementation Plan (PIP) to develop a Watershed Plan that will meet the EPA 9 Element format. This plan will cover all the area within the Papillion Creek Watershed as well as areas contributing to the Missouri River Watershed. If approved, funding will be available to develop the 9 Element plan that will then make all communities eligible for 319 funding for projects without developing a full watershed plan.
- Comments were received from EPA on the PIP and they have been addressed. The PIP has been resubmitted.
- The total project cost is \$133,000. The grant will provide \$79,000. It is proposed that the Partnership will provide \$35,000, and the City of Omaha will provide the remaining \$19,000.
- A Partnership Fund budget will be presented at next month's meeting for discussion of the \$35,000 Partnership contribution.
- **NOTICE: at the next meeting, the Partnership will vote on the \$35,000 contribution.**

#### 4. Other Items of Interest

- The 2015 Omaha Green Infrastructure Tour has been scheduled for July 9th. An email notice will be sent by UNL Extension soon with more details.
- In March 2016, UNO will host the Midwest LID Symposium and Design Competition. Steve Rodie will be coordinating the planning of the event. More information will be coming in the next few weeks.

#### 5. Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be held June 25, 2015 at 10am at the NRC building.

#### 6. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:16 am. An agenda, attendance list, and the handouts passed out at the meeting are available upon request.

Please contact Lori Laster at 444-6222 regarding any questions or comments concerning these meeting minutes.

**PAPILLION CREEK  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**



**SIGN-IN SHEET**

**Partnership Meeting  
May 28, 2015 – 10:00 AM– Board Room  
Natural Resources Center, 8901 S 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE  
(Please Print)**

|     | NAME &<br>EMPLOYER                  | MAILING ADDRESS<br>STREET - CITY/ZIP                 | TELEPHONE &<br>EMAIL ADDRESS                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| X   | Lori Laster<br>P-MRNRD              | 8901 S. 154 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Omaha, NE 68138  | (402) 444-6222<br>llaster@papionrd.org             |
| X   | Amanda Grint<br>P-MRNRD             | 8901 S. 154 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Omaha, NE 68138  | (402) 444-6222<br>agrint@papionrd.org              |
| X   | Marlin Petermann<br>P-MRNRD         | 8901 S. 154 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Omaha, NE 68138  | (402) 444-6222<br>mpetermann@papionrd.org          |
|     | Marty Grate<br>Omaha Public Works   | 1819 Farnam St.<br>Omaha, NE 68183                   | (402) 444-5225<br>mgrate@ci.omaha.ne.us            |
| X   | Nina Cudahy<br>Omaha Public Works   | 5600 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Omaha, NE 68107      | (402) 444-3915<br>ncudahy@ci.omaha.ne.us           |
|     | Selma Kessler<br>Omaha Public Works | 5600 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Omaha, NE 68107      | (402) 444-3915<br>skessler@ci.omaha.ne.us          |
| LK  | Jim Kee<br>Omaha Public Works       | 5600 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Omaha, NE 68107      | (402) 444-3915<br>jkee@ci.omaha.ne.us              |
|     | Bruce Fountain<br>Sarpy County      | 1210 Golden Gate Dr.<br>Papillion, NE                | (402) 593-1555<br>bfountain@sarpy.com              |
| WZ  | Donna Lynam<br>Sarpy County         | 1210 Golden Gate Dr.<br>Papillion, NE                | (402) 593-1555<br>dlynam@sarpy.com                 |
|     | Scott Kardell<br>Boys Town          | 355 McBreen Circle<br>Boys Town, NE 68010            | (402) 498-1135<br>scott.kardell@boystown.org       |
| MS  | Mark Stursma<br>City of Papillion   | 122 E. Third St.<br>Papillion, NE 68046              | (402) 597-2060<br>mstursma@papillion.org           |
|     | Jeff Thompson<br>City of Papillion  | 122 E. Third St.<br>Papillion, NE 68046              | (402) 898-9092<br>jefft@papillion.org              |
| JMK | John Kottmann<br>City of La Vista   | 8116 Park View Blvd.<br>La Vista, NE 68128           | (402) 331-4343<br>jkottmann@cityoflavista.org      |
|     | Chris Solberg<br>City of La Vista   | 8116 Park View Blvd.<br>La Vista, NE 68128           | (402) 331-4343<br>csolberg@cityoflavista.org       |
|     | Joe Soucie<br>City of La Vista      | 8116 Park View Blvd.<br>La Vista, NE 68128           | (402) 331-4343<br>jsoucie@cityoflavista.org        |
|     | Dan Freshman<br>City of Ralston     | 8220 Serum Ave.<br>Ralston, NE 68127                 | (402) 331-4118<br>dfreshman@cityofralston.com      |
|     | Jerry Chancellor<br>City of Ralston | 8220 Serum Ave.<br>Ralston, NE 68127                 | (402) 331-4118<br>jchancellor@cityofralston.com    |
| X   | Chris Shewchuk<br>City of Bellevue  | <del>210 W. Mission Ave.</del><br>Bellevue, NE 68005 | (402) 293-3000 3032<br>chris.shewchuk@bellevue.net |

1510 W. 154<sup>th</sup> Street

**PARTNERS**

Bellevue Boys Town Gretna La Vista Omaha Papillion Ralston Sarpy County Papio-Missouri River NRD

**PAPILLION CREEK  
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**



**SIGN-IN SHEET**

**Partnership Meeting  
May 28, 2015 – 10:00 AM– Board Room  
Natural Resources Center, 8901 S 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE  
(Please Print)**

|     |                                   |  |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|     | Tammi Palm<br>City of Bellevue    |  |                             |
|     | Jeff Roberts<br>City of Bellevue  |  |                             |
| X   | Kris Faris<br>City of Gretna      |  |                             |
|     | Tammy Tisdale<br>City of Gretna   |  |                             |
|     | Steve Perry<br>City of Gretna     |  |                             |
| X   | Andy Szatko<br>City of Omaha      |  | andy.szatko@cityofomaha.org |
| X   | Adam Rupe<br>JEO Consulting Group | 2700 Fletcher Ave<br>Lincoln, NE 68504 | arupe@jeo.com               |
| X   | Lynn Dittmer<br>MAPA              | 2222 Cuming St.<br>Omaha, NE 68102     | ldittmer@mapalog.com        |
| JRP | Jesse Poore<br>City of Papillion  | 310 S. 9th St.<br>Lincoln, NE<br>68508 | jesse.poore@fhuey.com       |
|     |                                   |  |                             |
|     |                                   |  |                             |
|     |                                   |  |                             |

**PARTNERS**

**Bellevue Boys Town Gretna La Vista Omaha Papillion Ralston Sarpy County Papio-Missouri River NRD**



**Record of Vote  
April 24, 2015  
Proxy Vote via email**

**Vote to Pay CBI Systems MS4Web Software Annual Maintenance Fee**

| <b>Community</b>    | <b>Voting Representative</b> | <b>Vote</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Bellevue</b>     | <b>Jeff Roberts</b>          | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Boys Town</b>    | <b>Did not vote</b>          |             |
| <b>Gretna</b>       | <b>Did not vote</b>          |             |
| <b>La Vista</b>     | <b>John Kottmann</b>         | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Omaha</b>        | <b>Marty Grate</b>           | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Papillion</b>    | <b>Marty Leming</b>          | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Ralston</b>      | <b>Dan Freshman</b>          | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Sarpy County</b> | <b>Bruce Fountain</b>        | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>P-MRNRD</b>      | <b>Marlin Petermann</b>      | <b>Yes</b>  |







## NRD awards contract for Dam Site 15A

The Board of Directors of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District held their monthly meeting on April 9. Actions at this meeting included the following:

- Dam Site 15A construction;
- approved bond refinancing;
- Cost share with Omaha Fire Department for rescue boat purchase;
- Surplus land at Prairie Queen Rec Area to be auctioned; and
- City of Blair to receive cost sharing for flood control project

### Flood Control Reservoir 15A construction

Construction of Dam Site 15A could begin soon following the awarding of a construction contract totaling \$16,950,700 to McArdle Grading of Omaha.

This reservoir, to be built near 168th and Fort Streets in Omaha, is the latest flood control/outdoor recreation/water quality project of the Papio-Missouri River NRD and the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership. The multi-purpose project consists of a flood control reservoir, water quality basin, basic recreation amenities, fisheries enhancements, sanitary sewer installation, and improvements to Ida Street, including replacement of an impacted bridge.

"Because of rapid urbanization in our area, time is running out to get flood control structures in place to protect lives and property in metro Omaha," said NRD General Manager, John Winkler.

Portions of the project will be funded by the City of Omaha, Douglas County and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The City of Omaha will reimburse the District for sanitary sewer installation upon completion of the project.

Due to the reservoir level, the Ida Street bridge needs to be replaced and the bridge profile raised.

Douglas County has agreed to cover the cost of additional earthwork to grade additional lanes of Ida Street. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission awarded the project \$1.1 million for fisheries enhancements and other recreational improvements. The engineer's estimate for the Dam Site 15A work was \$15,925,000.

The dam at Site 15A will store potential flood water during heavy rainfall, providing greater flood protection for areas downstream along the West Branch Papillion Creek.

"This structure is a key component of the overall flood protection and water quality improvement plan developed by the NRD along with the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership," said Winkler.

The partnership includes representatives from Omaha, Papillion, Bellevue, Gretna, Boys Town, Ralston, La Vista, Sarpy County and the Natural Resources District.

"Construction of this reservoir will be a result of many years of coordination between the NRD and our Papillion Creek Watershed partners. Also, additional water-based recreation facilities and stream water quality improvements are needed in our constantly-growing metro area," he added.

### NRD Board approves bond refinancing

The NRD board also voted to approve the refinancing of 2010B Series Flood Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Bonds to a lower interest rate, potentially saving District taxpayers \$400,000-500,000 over the remaining term of the bonds. The term of the bonds will not be extended past the original issue and the District will not realize any additional funds for current or future expenditures.

"Bonds of this type are proving invaluable to the NRD and

taxpayers," said Winkler. "Without this funding source the District could not build needed flood control and water quality projects, such as the recently completed Prairie Queen Recreation Area and the soon to be constructed Dam Site 15A."

A super-majority vote (eight board members) was required to pass the resolution authorizing the refinancing. Voting yes were Patrick Bonnett, John Conley, Fred Conley, Tim Fowler, David Klug, Patrick Leahy, Richard Tesar, Jim Thompson and Ron Woodle. Curt Frost voted no and Scott Japp abstained.

### Purchase of search and rescue boat

The NRD Board of Directors has approved cost sharing with the Omaha Fire Department toward the purchase of a search and rescue boat to be used in response to all types of water rescue incidents such as ice rescue, flooding and general public safety events on area lakes, rivers, creeks and other waterways. The District will provide a 50-percent cost share toward the purchase with a NRD funding maximum set at \$28,000.

In the last two years, the Fire Department Water Rescue Team has responded to 42 life rescue incidents. In addition, the team assisted in the 2011 Missouri River Flood and the 2014 flooding in northeast Omaha.

The Department has removed its primary portable rescue boat from service and is seeking a boat capable of responding to smaller waterways not accessible with the remaining Omaha Fire Department Fleet. The boat to be purchased is ideal for use on area lakes such as Lake Zorinsky, Cunningham Lake, Standing Bear, Wehrspann Lake and other waters in the Papillion Creek Watershed.

"The need for this type of rescue vessel is growing as more water-based recreation areas are opened and being enjoyed by our residents,"

said Winkler. "We provided a similar cost share two years ago to assist the Sarpy County Sheriff's office in their purchase of a search and rescue boat," he said.

### Surplus land at Prairie Queen Recreation Area to be sold

Approximately 76 acres at Prairie Queen Recreation Area have been declared surplus land by the NRD Board and will be sold at auction. Prairie Queen Recreation area is near 132nd Street and Highway 370 in Sarpy County and opened for public recreation on March 31. Fifty-two acres to be auctioned are located along 132nd Street and 24 acres are along Highway 370.

"We originally purchased the additional acres at the request of the sellers to not break up tracts of land formerly used for agriculture," said Winkler. "The acres to be sold have no current recreational amenities and park users will not lose any recreational benefits associated with the new park," he said.

Proceeds of the sale will be used by the NRD to help fund other flood control/ outdoor recreation area structures.

### Blair flood prevention

The Papio-Missouri River NRD will assist the City of Blair in funding Missouri River flood control projects related to the city's water and waste water treatment facilities. The City's project calls for the construction of flood control berms to protect its water treatment facilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved federal funding to pay 75 percent of project costs. The estimated cost for improvements is \$4.9 million. The NRD will assist the City with the local cost share and has approved up to \$500,000 in cost sharing to be paid over two years.

## **South Platte River floodwaters from Colorado diverted into Nebraska canals**

POSTED: THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015 6:57 PM /By David Hendee / World-Herald staff writer The Omaha World-Herald

OGALLALA, Neb. — Some South Platte River floodwater from Colorado is being diverted into Nebraska irrigation canals to help minimize flooding and recharge aquifers.

The river, which usually carries meager flows out of Colorado, is carrying upwards of 300 times more water than normal for this time of year.

The diversion projects were quickly set up in western and central Nebraska as the state prepared for the possibility of significant lowland flooding in Keith and Lincoln Counties, according to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

The river remains largely within its banks, though it is running full.

The floodwater is from recent heavy rainfall in northeast Colorado coupled with snowmelt from the Rocky Mountains.

Flows in the South Platte at Julesburg, Colorado, near the Colorado-Nebraska state line, measured 10,500 cubic feet per second Wednesday.

Forecasts called for flows at the state line to peak at 15,000 cubic feet per second Friday. Average flow there is 50 to 60 cubic feet per second.

The state's agreements with local natural resources and irrigation districts coordinate the timing of the diversions in an attempt to reduce peak flows, said Jim Schneider, acting director of the department.

The diversions have the added benefit of recharging aquifers as water seeps into the ground beneath the canals and lakes along the South Platte, North Platte and Platte Rivers.

**Contact the writer:** 402-444-1127, [david.hendee@owh.com](mailto:david.hendee@owh.com)

## Widening Giles Road gets Papio-Missouri NRD board's approval

POSTED: FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015 1:00 AM/ By Cody Winchester / World-Herald staff writer The Omaha World-Herald

A project to widen a stretch of Giles Road and build a half-mile of new trail at the Chalco Hills Recreation Area is on track to begin this summer.

Thursday, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District board approved an agreement with Sarpy County on the trails portion of the project, which will add a turning lane to Giles Road, widening the roadway from two lanes to three from 144th to 156th Streets.

At the intersection with 144th Street, Giles Road will widen from three lanes to five, with one westbound lane and four eastbound lanes at the approach to the light.

Engineering plans show a new sidewalk on the north side of the road from 154th Street to the east end of the Omaha Sports Complex property.

On the south side, the county will build a 10-foot-wide trail inside the recreation area. The project also includes some drainage improvements and a new turn lane at the Chalco Hills entrance.

The NRD, whose headquarters is at the recreation area, isn't helping pay for the project but will maintain the new trail.

Sarpy County Engineer Denny Wilson said officials hope to begin the \$2.6 million project by mid-July. Construction crews will work into November or so and finish next spring, unless the winter is mild and the contractor is ahead of schedule, he said.

Traffic volume on that segment of Giles Road is expected to double in the next 20 years, and eventually the county will need to widen the roadway to five lanes, Wilson said. Adding more lanes now would have dramatically increased the project's cost, he said.

Although the trail agreement was approved, some NRD officials worry that the project's design exposes pedestrians to more risk from car traffic.

Some of the new trail will be set back from the roadway, but it won't run in a straight shot to 144th Street. Part of it will be built nearly adjacent to the Giles Road curb, with no barrier between trail users and eastbound traffic.

Martin Cleveland, a construction engineer with the NRD, asked the county's design consultant to consider adding a barrier or increasing the distance between traffic and trail users.

Wilson said the county had to avoid a wetland and accommodate the space constraints involved with extending a box culvert that helps drain Wehrspann Creek.

Some board members questioned why there wasn't a traffic signal at the park entrance. Wilson said that pedestrian traffic doesn't warrant a signal now, as that stretch of road lacks sidewalks on either side.

# **Several groups see Heartland 2050 as a threat to property rights, suspect ties to U.N.'s Agenda 21**

POSTED: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 12:00 AM /By **Jordan Pascale** / World-Herald staff writer **The Omaha World-Herald**

When a new long-range planning effort for the metro area came out, it laid out some simple goals.

Better public transit. Better infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians. Expanded housing options. More thoughtful use of land for development. A better metro area for everyone.

But a small group of conservatives is taking their case to local governments that the Heartland 2050 vision is a sham. They allege that it's a shade of Agenda 21, a 23-year-old sustainable development plan from the United Nations that has drawn opposition from the Republican National Committee and conservative commentator Glenn Beck.

While opponents say Heartland 2050 has good intentions, they say it may filter down policies that are bad for citizens. They assert that the local planning effort, led by the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, aims to take away citizens' property rights through restrictive policies.

Groups such as Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom and Omaha Liberty Ladies have gone before the Douglas County Board, Omaha City Council and Bellevue City Council to argue that the initiative is wrapped up in an Agenda 21 conspiracy. And they've posted lengthy arguments against Heartland 2050 on social media.

Greg Youell, who heads MAPA and Heartland 2050, says all of that is misinformation and misunderstanding.

Youell said MAPA, a regional council of local governments, is working to address regional challenges and is not trying to force its plan or take over local control.

"We simply want roads and trails to connect with one another at city and county boundary lines," Youell said. "It's a collaborative coordination."

Last week, a Bellevue City Council member proposed a resolution, in part as a response to Heartland 2050, declaring that Bellevue residents' property rights must come first.

[Bellevue property rights resolution, page 1](#)

[Bellevue property rights resolution, page 2](#)

[Bellevue property rights resolution, page 3](#)

Councilman Jim Moudry said planning and zoning matters, by nature, restrict property rights. He said he wants citizens to know that Bellevue holds private property rights as a prime consideration over other interests.

“We need to give citizens the sense that we are interested in fulfilling the purpose of government – securing their rights, not restricting them,” Moudry said.

The council voted down the resolution 5-1, but Moudry promised to bring back a revised proposal.

Other council members said existing state laws in Nebraska adequately protect landowners.

“The skepticism toward Agenda 21 feeds on the fear of Big Brother wanting to take over land or our rights,” Councilwoman Carol Blood said. “I challenge you to find one example in Bellevue in the last 20 years. ... You won’t find one.”

Doug Kagan of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom called Heartland 2050 and regional planning a “trendy regional movement.” He said Youell and MAPA don’t see the larger picture of what’s going on.

“I don’t think they understand the purpose of Agenda 21,” Kagan said. “I don’t think they understand the true implications of what they’re doing.”

[Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom handout, page 1](#)

[Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom handout, page 2](#)

Kagan said he doesn’t want the heavy hand of the government coming down on individuals. He disputes whether the Heartland 2050 action plan is voluntary. Youell says it is.

“If it was voluntary, that’s fine, but I’ll be keeping an eye on what (local governments) are voting on,” Kagan said. “I’ll be fighting against every single vote.”

Among the opponents’ concerns: MAPA is pushing the “green” agenda and trying to get citizens out of their cars and onto public transit, that it is trying to establish population

control to extend resources and that it is creating another taxing authority and layers of bureaucracy.

In response to the claims, MAPA created a one-page [information sheet](#) called “Why Heartland 2050 is Not Part of the ‘UN Agenda 21’” to debunk the connections.

### [MAPA handout: The Heartland 2050 Project](#)

Every government retains complete local authority to pick its own destiny — there are no dictates or mandates, the sheet says. MAPA says it does not have and cannot get taxing authority.

Heartland 2050 aims to address how the metro area should adapt to the projected doubling of the population to 1.5 million people by 2050, according to its website.

The planning process began in summer 2013 and has involved public hearings, open houses, workshops and group meetings. This year, MAPA officials started presenting the vision to 22 local governments.

So far, none of the local governments has declined to adopt the voluntary goals that address economic development, education, health and safety, housing and development, infrastructure and natural resources issues.

### [Heartland Regional Compact, page 1](#)

### [Heartland Regional Compact, page 2](#)

The plan encourages mass transit, but still foresees 90 percent of people using personal vehicles.

“This is not a radical plan to shift them out of their cars,” Youell said.

“Housing does list new opportunities like row houses and town homes to respond to growing market demand.

“This is not limiting freedom. These types of housing may not be the choice for everyone, but we are not taking away the ability to own a car or a suburban home.”

**Contact the writer:** 402-444-1276, [jordan.pascale@owh.com](mailto:jordan.pascale@owh.com), [twitter.com/jwpascale](https://twitter.com/jwpascale)



Board members also raised concerns about the location of proposed pedestrian crossings, including one across Giles Road into the park and one across the entrance road to connect the new trail. Another crossing farther east will have a pedestrian refuge on a traffic island.

Once traffic engineers get a better grasp of the pedestrian and bicycle traffic, Wilson said, they might install lighted signs triggered by people crossing into the park.

“We think that would be a good addition,” he said.

**Contact the writer:** 402-444-1216, [cody.winchester@owh.com](mailto:cody.winchester@owh.com), [twitter.com/cody\\_winchester](https://twitter.com/cody_winchester)

# NRD asking Air Force to pitch in \$10 million for levee repairs around Offutt



POSTED: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 1:00 AM/By [Cody Winchester](#) / World-Herald staff writer [The Omaha World-Herald](#)

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District will ask the Pentagon for \$10 million to help pay for levee repairs around Offutt Air Force Base.

The levees protect the base and the surrounding community from Missouri River flooding, and local officials have been working to recertify them since 2010.

Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, the land they protect will revert to flood plain status — including the base, the Papillion Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and a number of properties along the Highway 34 corridor that have been targeted for development.

Last week the NRD board approved a draft agreement under which the Air Force would chip in \$10 million for the project. The NRD would repair and maintain 19 miles of levee and fix ailing storm sewers by the Capehart Road gate.

John Winkler, the NRD's general manager, and Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders will fly to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to pitch the agreement to Air Force officials.

"To put anybody's mind at ease who's looking at bringing a mission here, who's bringing a business here, we need certified levees," Sanders said.

Previously the Defense Department determined that it is not responsible for the repairs and suggested that the NRD work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The NRD has since modified its proposal, Winkler said.

The project is expected to cost at least \$25 million. Even if the NRD's request is approved, Winkler said the federal money probably won't be available until fiscal year 2017 or later.

The NRD also plans to apply for \$10 million from a state water fund to finance the project, and the remaining cost would be split with Bellevue, Omaha and Sarpy County.

Winkler said the NRD already has spent about \$2 million in engineering costs.

David Brown, president of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, said the base's future is tied to the levee repairs. And if private land behind the levees reverts to flood plain, he said, "it essentially becomes impossible to develop."

Winkler said that if the NRD can't get federal money for the project, the agency will focus on rebuilding the northern stretch of levee around the base. But, he said, "we're moving forward as though the money's coming in."

Winkler said officials hope to start working on the project next year.

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## **NRD chief optimistic about federal funding for levee enhancement**

A plan is in place to persuade the federal government to contribute \$10 million to the estimated \$25 million cost of improving 19 miles of levees around Offutt Air Force Base, according to John Winkler, general manager of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

Winkler said he and Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders traveled to Washington, D.C., May 12 to meet with Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb., and Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb. They also met with staff members from the offices of Rep. Brad Ashford, D-Neb. and Ben Sasse, R-Neb. All four meetings, Winkler said, proved helpful.

“These were the most positive meetings we have had,” he said. “We now have a plan and a process in place, it’s just a matter of executing it. It won’t be fast, and it won’t be pretty, but we’re getting there.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has ruled the levees that contain the Missouri River as it flows past Offutt and south Bellevue do not meet current standards. If they are not improved, Offutt Air Force Base, along with thousands of developable acres south of the base, will be designated as floodplain.

That prospect has economic development officials worried.

They have voiced fears a floodplain designation would prevent needed infrastructure from being installed in thousands of acres south of Offutt, and might propel the base onto future base-closing lists.

Winkler said he and Sanders were careful to stress the potential for economic development if the levees are improved.

“You’re talking billions and billions of investment in the future growth of that corridor,” he said. “We’ve missed out on 14,000 or 15,000 jobs over the last seven or eight years because of the levee issue and because those sites are just not ready.”

Sanders said she is confident, having met with the state’s federal delegation, that the money will be found.

“I think everyone we visited with understands,” she said. “It’s just what pot is the money going to come out of, and there are so many different pots. It will get done, doggone it, and then we’ll celebrate.”

The Papio NRD plans to add \$10 million from the state's newly created Water Sustainability Fund to a \$10 million federal contribution. The remaining cost would be split between the NRD, the City of Bellevue and Sarpy County.

Winkler said Nebraska's congressional delegation hopes to add the levee improvements to a list of "community development projects" the Air Force and the Department of Defense have established with communities throughout the nation.

"These are programs where they enter into agreements with local agencies to provide services or solve issues on military installations," he said. "It could be as simple as picking up garbage and providing extra security, to providing flood or stormwater control."

Winkler said he is confident the problem will be resolved, and plans are proceeding.

He said the NRD has already spent about \$2 million on engineering work related to the project and intends to proceed in full confidence that the money will be provided.

"I think everyone we met with is very much in agreement that we don't want the base impacted negatively," he said.

"If it is, there would be a huge amount of political blowback so we're doing everything we can to avoid that."

# EPA rule expands protection of waters; Midlands lawmakers vow to continue opposition

POSTED: WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015 11:30 PM/The Washington Post The Omaha World-Herald

WASHINGTON — Nearly a decade after the U.S. Supreme Court pointed out the confusion over exactly which waters fall under the Clean Water Act — the nation’s primary water-pollution law — the Obama administration responded with a new rule Wednesday stating what is protected and what is not.

But the fight over the 1972 act showed no sign of easing.

Nebraska and Iowa Republicans in Congress who have been fighting the water rule on behalf of farmers and developers vowed more opposition.

“Make no mistake, this is a blatant attempt to expand the federal government’s control,” said Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska. “This rule will have far-reaching consequences and hurt Nebraska families, communities, and businesses.”

Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse called it “the epitome of Washington absurdity.”

On the other hand, environmentalists praised the rule as the biggest victory for clean water in a decade.

In announcing the “Waters of the U.S.” rule, Environmental Protection Agency chief Gina McCarthy sought to soothe farm interests by saying it makes clear that the law covers only waters with a “direct and significant” connection to larger bodies of water downstream, which already fall under federal protection, and will apply only if a landowner takes steps to pollute or eliminate those waters.

President Barack Obama said the rule “will provide the clarity and certainty businesses and industry need” and “will ensure polluters who knowingly threaten our waters can be held accountable.”

Previously there was confusion over whether a permit was required to pollute anything from a farm ditch to a suburban creek, said Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary in the Army Corps of Engineers, which issued the new rule jointly with EPA.

“Needless to say, it didn’t make sense,” she said. “We’ve always known streams and wetlands determine water quality.”

EPA and the Army Corps looked at 1,200 peer-reviewed studies and held 400 meetings around the country in designing the rule.

In anticipation of criticism, McCarthy and Darcy said it does not add to the waters already protected and does not seek to micromanage farming.

“It will not get in the way of agriculture and recognizes the crucial role that farmers play,” McCarthy said. “Farmers, ranchers and foresters are all original conservationists. And we recognize that.”

Artificial ponds and lakes on private property are exempt, along with the majority of ditches, according to an explanation the agencies issued. Navigable waters are covered, Darcy said, but not the large majority of ditches or ephemeral streams that do not affect downstream waters.

The explanations did not sway critics in the Senate, which is considering whether to match a House vote this month to block the rule.

Iowa’s Sen. Joni Ernst complained that the EPA “has repeatedly ignored the legitimate concerns raised throughout this process and continues to act as an unchecked federal agency of the Obama administration.”

In the House, Rep. Adrian Smith, who represents Nebraska’s mostly rural 3rd District, also raised concerns.

“Washington bureaucrats should never have control over the puddles and irrigation ditches on rural farmers’ property,” Smith said. “I will continue to vigorously oppose this federal power grab.”

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts struck a similar tone.

“This rule has the potential to saddle our farmers, ranchers, and other businesses with a huge, unwarranted regulatory burden,” Ricketts said. “It should be scrapped.”

And Democratic Rep. Brad Ashford of Omaha suggested that instead, the EPA take a page from the state’s book.

“The federal government should be learning from Nebraska. Through our Natural Resources Districts, we have a 30-year water plan that is the envy of the country.”

Environmental groups and some Democrats praised the rule as bringing vital protection to the streams that are most vulnerable to pollution.



“Our rivers, lakes, and drinking water can only be clean if the streams that flow into them are protected,” said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America, a Washington nonprofit.

“That’s why today’s action is the biggest victory for clean water in a decade.”

Whit Fosburgh, chief executive of the Theodore Roosevelt Partnership, hailed the rule as historic for hunters and sportsmen.

“We finally have a rule in place that will stem the tide of wetlands loss and ... restore water-quality protections to trout habitat and salmon spawning waters,” Fosburgh said.

Likewise, the Nebraska Wildlife Federation said the rule would more precisely define federally protected waters.

## Lake McConaughy could be full in less than three weeks



12 HOURS AGO • BY ALGIS LAUKAITIS | LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

In early spring, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District officials were skeptical that Lake McConaughy would fill up this year.

“Runoff from snowpack in the North Platte Basin was projected to amount to about 36 percent of normal this spring,” civil engineer Cory Steinke told Central's board of directors Monday.

But heavy snow and rain in May changed the picture dramatically, and now the Holdrege-based district said in a news release that Lake McConaughy near Ogallala could be full in less than three weeks.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has told the district to expect inflows over the next few weeks to be high and to peak around 8,000 cubic feet per second, which would be about seven times greater than normal inflows for this time of year.

Lake McConaughy, the state's largest reservoir, appeared to have reached its peak several weeks ago at elevation 3,251.1 feet, but as of Monday morning was at elevation 3,255.1 feet and rising by 3 or 4 inches per day. The maximum storage elevation is 3,265 feet.

Steinke said Central will continue to monitor the situation closely and store as much water as possible in the reservoir on the North Platte River to help minimize downstream flooding problems that are the result of high flows in the South Platte River.

The district also will consider asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for permission to exceed its maximum storage level by up to 2 feet if the high South Platte River flows continue.

The South Platte River has been experiencing similar high flows because of heavy spring precipitation, but those conditions had been expected after good snowpack accumulation in the South Platte Basin and above-normal carryover storage conditions in Colorado's off-stream reservoirs.

“We pretty much expected high flows in the South Platte to continue through June,” Steinke said. “We've been running South Platte water through the system and diverting as much as possible for various groundwater recharge projects. At this point, it's not

clear how long the high flows will continue; it depends upon how much more rain falls out west."

The forecast over the next several days shows gradually declining flows in the South Platte River, a trend that could reverse course if additional rainfall occurs.

Although Lake McConaughy is expected to be full, general manager Don Kraus said that at this point Central will continue to follow plans to deliver 12 inches of water per acre to its irrigation customers because of the difficulty of altering irrigation schedules at such a late date.

# Olsson Associates gets authority to use drones



**Olsson Associates unmanned aircraft systems**

Courtesy photo / Olsson Associates - Journal Star JournalStar.com • [Lincoln Journal Star](#) 6/4/2015

Olsson Associates, the engineering company based in Lincoln, has received federal approval for commercial use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, also known as drones.

With Federal Aviation Administration permission granted May 20, Olsson appears to be the first or among the first Nebraska companies to receive permission for commercial drone work. BNSF Railway has received permission to monitor track, as well.

Olsson said it uses UAS for a variety of services, spanning many of its practice groups. Applications include aerial inspection, photogrammetric and light detection and ranging survey, wildlife monitoring and architectural pre-visualization.

"Our UAS guy has been using them, we have two, internally, such as in demonstrations," said spokeswoman Linda Van Hoosen. "We can now use it for clients and get paid for the service."

The firm said it has been given federal exemption to integrate the Draganfly X4, the 3D Robotics Aero-M and the 3D Robotics X8 into service at Olsson.

"This exemption is an important step for Olsson Associates in providing accurate, actionable and defensible aerial data products to our clients," said Jonathan Harris, unmanned systems program manager for Olsson Associates, in a news release. He's Olsson's UAS guy. "Our clients are continually looking for new and innovative ways to reduce costs while increasing their safety of operations. UAS are an incredible tool to meet those demands."

Olsson Associates provides engineering and design services in water resources, transportation, structural, water/wastewater, land development, landscape architecture and urban planning, environmental resources and compliance, survey, technology, geotechnical and mechanical/electrical. The firm has more than 28 offices in the Midwest and Southwest United States.

# This may come as no surprise to you, but May was the wettest month ever in the lower 48 states

POSTED: TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 1:00 AM BY Nancy Gaarder / World-Herald staff writer The Omaha World-Herald

Flooding rains that caused heartache across the Plains in May have earned a place in the record books.

May was the wettest of any month in the lower 48 states in 121 years of record-keeping, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information (formerly known as the National Climatic Data Center).

While Texas and Oklahoma were hardest hit by floods, excessive rains wreaked havoc in multiple states, including Nebraska. The bodies of three of the four Nebraskans killed last month in flooding have yet to be recovered.

According to the monthly climate report released Monday, Nebraska had its eighth wettest May. In Iowa, it was the 32nd wettest. For the two states, only the Nebraska Panhandle was a record wettest region. Individually, the community of Lincoln recorded its wettest May.

Luigi Romolo, regional climatologist for the southern United States, said the underlying causes of the excessive rainfall are hard to pin down. El Niño, a periodic weather pattern known for its tendency to create stormy weather in the southern U.S., played a role. But there's likely more to the story, he said.

"People keep expecting ... a universal answer to this question, but we don't really know why (this El Niño) is so much wetter than we expected it to be," he said. "Obviously, something else is going on."

For the 48 contiguous states, precipitation averaged 4.36 inches in May. Previously, the record wettest month was October 2009, when precipitation averaged 4.29 inches.

Certainly, not all states saw wet weather. Nearly 70 percent of California, for example, is still in an extreme drought, and 99 percent is still abnormally dry.

*This report includes material from the Associated Press.*

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## Does Papillion annexation plan go too far? Some Sarpy County officials say the city is being unneighborly

Posted: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 1:45 am By Emily Nohr /Omaha World-Herald staff writer

Some elected officials in Sarpy County are feeling blindsided by Papillion's proposed western annexation. Others are calling the move unneighborly.

Last month, Papillion announced plans to annex 1,000 acres along its western edge and extend its zoning jurisdiction 3,700 acres to Interstate 80.

The city has called the area its gateway to growth. But the plan includes an area Springfield considers its own growth area.

Springfield City Council President Bob Roseland said his city was open with the public while working on its master development plan, which calls for enhancing the Highway 50 corridor as an entrance to the city.

Then, he said, Papillion came out with its plans.

The proposal would stretch Papillion city limits to include Prairie Queen Recreation Area and would extend its zoning jurisdiction from an area south of Giles Road to roughly Capehart Road, and from 132nd Street as far west as Interstate 80.

Roseland worries what the annexation would mean for Springfield's future, and how it could trickle down to school and fire districts.

"What's going to be the next step after these annexations?" he said. "Do we just eventually get taken over?"

Sarpy County has a controversial annexation history. In the past, cities have been accused of land grabbing, and some annexations have led to lawsuits.

Papillion City Administrator Dan Hoins said he's made an effort to approach the topic with sensitivity and openness. He said he called the Springfield and Gretna city administrators before Papillion's plan became public and sent the cities maps of the proposal.

Still, Gretna City Council President Jason Stahr said Papillion's latest move isn't neighborly.

Stahr isn't concerned about Gretna — the city has a boundary agreement with Papillion. But he said he doesn't like "the way Papillion is going about" claiming an area Springfield and the county have planned around and invested in.

Stahr said that although he doesn't want to deny Papillion the opportunity to grow, he's unsure whether now is the right time for the annexation.

The area of Highway 50 and Schram Road is home to a Travelers Co. data center, a \$200 million development. It's the future home of the Omaha National Cemetery, and plans for at least two more data centers have gone before county planners.

"In the end, I just don't think it's nice," Stahr said. "They're not doing something very nice or polite."

Papillion Mayor David Black said the proposal is intended to bring Prairie Queen into city limits, and state law allows a city's zoning jurisdiction to extend 2 miles beyond city limits.

"We're doing something that the Legislature established, and it's legal," he said. "So where in that are you not neighborly? I'm not sure."

Black said local governments can disagree but be good neighbors. For example, he said, Papillion disagrees with the Springfield-Platteview school district on school district boundaries.

"We've felt Platteview has been holding us hostage on development, but yet we still believe they're a very good neighbor," Black said.

Hoins said he and County Administrator Mark Wayne are discussing an agreement that would share building permit revenues during an annexation transition period.

Papillion projects that building permits filed in the proposed zoning jurisdiction area would generate \$2.3 million annually for the next decade.

Hoins said such an agreement would come before city and county leaders before Aug. 5. That's when Papillion expects the annexation would go before City Council for final approval.

Hoins said that he doesn't want the annexation to hurt anyone and that the city is open to sharing revenues where the county has made an investment or commitment.

"We will work out the finite details so that it's fair and so that the developments can proceed as they've been proceeding at the county level," he said.

Roseland said that he doesn't want Springfield to be "shut out" of Highway 50 and that he'd like to come to a boundary agreement with Papillion. Papillion already has such agreements with Gretna, Bellevue and La Vista.

Boundary discussions have been ongoing between Papillion and Springfield, though no specific proposal is on the table.

County Board member Tom Richards said he wants more information about the plan. Everybody seems to be signing off on it, he said, yet no one has briefed the County Board.

"If it's a legal annexation, cities have a right to do what they're empowered to do," he said. "I'd like to see what the plans are."

Board member Don Kelly said he supports Papillion's move. He'd like the city to annex Werner Park, too.

"I think that would be a huge benefit to see them move out that way," he said. "That whole corridor out there is just ripe to develop."

Hoins said his biggest challenge is working in the smallest county, geographically, in the state with six governments, those being the county and five cities. Although there's "inherent conflict," Hoins said he believes they can work it out.

"Interrelationships are important to success," he said.



# Volunteers needed for Missouri River cleanup

POSTED: TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 12:01 PM | UPDATED: 1:48 PM, TUE JUN 9, 2015.

## Volunteers needed for Missouri River cleanup

By Jay Withrow / World-Herald staff writer The Omaha World-Herald

Volunteers are being asked to turn out Saturday for a trash cleanup effort along the banks of the Missouri River.

The cleanup, from 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, will be based at the boat ramps at Lake Manawa State Park in Council Bluffs, officials said.

Sign-up will begin at 8:30 a.m. and volunteers will be taken by boat to pre-scouted locations along the Manawa bend of the river that need cleanup, officials said.

Sponsors and organizers of the event are Fontenelle Forest, and Missouri River Relief and Back to the River, two groups dedicated to reconnecting Iowa and Nebraska communities to the river through cleanups and education events.

Volunteers, who will be taken to their cleanup locations by Missouri River Relief, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Army Corps of Engineers boats, are asked to wear appropriate work clothes.

Missouri River Relief said it has had held five other cleanup efforts since 2006, with 1,026 volunteers removing 30 tons of trash along the river.

## Plans call for Riverfront Trail gaps to be filled by late 2016 in \$1.3M project



### riverfront trail map

By **Natasha Rausch / World-Herald staff writer Live Well Nebraska**

Posted: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 1:00 am Omaha W-H

Riverfront Trail bicyclists will soon be finished with dead ends and run-ins with traffic.

The Riverfront Trail, which extends almost 20 miles from the Douglas County border past the Henry Doorly Zoo to Highway 275, was partially built five years ago. By next year, City of Omaha planners will fill in about 3 miles of unfinished trail in Phase 4 of the project.

“I’ve looked forward to this for a long time,” said Russ Kramer, who was mayor of Carter Lake, Iowa, for eight years until he retired last year.

During his tenure, Kramer, 65, helped in the construction of a small trail on the east side of Carter Lake. Phase 4 of the Riverfront Trail will put 2.26 miles of 10-foot-wide cement on the north and west sides of the lake.

Just south of Carter Lake is a 1-mile stretch where the trail also is incomplete. That stretch is right along Abbott Drive near Eppley Airfield.

Completing both of those areas will bring continuity and safety, Kramer said.

“The folks who ride the trail coming from the north, run out of trail right next to 45 mph traffic,” Kramer said. “Either you go into the grass, or you merge.”

The southern leg of the trail in South Omaha is closed for the rest of the year because of sewer construction.

Dennis Bryers, an Omaha Parks and Recreation Department planner, said construction on the new segments is tentatively scheduled to finish at the end of 2016.

The project — which will cost \$1.3 million — is using remaining federal earmark money from the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge. Omaha's capital improvement program also is providing funds. Any leftover costs will be covered by grants.

The project still needs to be put out for bids. Bryers said that will happen next spring.

The trail will have to be completed sooner or later, Kramer said. Kramer bikes 5 to 10 miles of the trail every so often with his wife, Linda. He said his son, daughter and son-in-law, however, frequently bike more than 20 miles around Omaha and are looking forward to the finished Riverfront Trail.

"It's been a long time coming," Kramer said. "It's going to be nice to see it all come to fruition."

# Bluffs must prep levees for FEMA review or risk flood insurance hikes

POSTED: THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015 1:00 AM

**Bluffs must prep levees for FEMA review or risk flood insurance hikes**

World-Herald News Service The Omaha World-Herald

COUNCIL BLUFFS — The clock is ticking on recertification of the Council Bluffs levee system, Mayor Matt Walsh said Wednesday.

“We need to get our construction done,” he said.

The city’s levee system provides flood protection from the Missouri River, as well as from Indian and Mosquito Creeks. The levees, however, need to be recertified by the Federal Emergency Management Administration to meet new requirements.

In the meantime, FEMA is in the early stages of updating its flood protection maps, and, without recertification, a large portion of Council Bluffs will be considered flood-prone, risking significant rate increases for flood insurance.

Walsh believes it could be five years or more before FEMA completes its work, though the city’s levee certification process could take longer.

Work on the levees along the riverfront is intended to reduce seepage, while the levees along Council Bluffs’ creeks need to be raised to meet federal standards.