MEMORANDUM

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Burt-Washington Drainage District

Date: 12-1-2010                                      Updated: December 3, 2010

From: Jim Becie

The Burt-Washington Drainage District (Drainage District) is requesting a 50% cost share, not to exceed $3 million for the funding of the Burt County Drainage Ditch Cutoff Project - Brunker Ditch – (enclosed 5 November, 2010 correspondence).

The project is designed to intercept the southerly flows from the existing Combination Ditch approximately seven miles north of Tekamah, Nebraska and divert them to the east into the Missouri River. This diversion would relieve much of the drainage pressure from the remaining miles of the Combination Ditch, Tekamah Diversion Ditch, etc.

The Drainage District opened construction bids for the Cutoff Project on the 19th of November and the apparent low bidder, Dixon Construction Company out of Correctionville, IA, was close to the engineer’s estimate of $2,807,000.

Historically, the Papio-Missouri River NRD (NRD) has collaborated closely with the Drainage District and taken the approach to control flooding and sediment runoff by focusing its efforts on upstream areas rather than bottomland drainage projects. Projects specific to Burt County that benefit by this approach, include the eleven structures in the completed Tekamah/Mud Creek Watershed (Summit Lake, etc.) and the ongoing Silver Creek Watershed.

The Silver Creek Watershed (attachment) is directly west of the proposed Brunker Ditch Project. Since its inception, the NRD has constructed 21 structures and spent or committed approximately $3.33 million on these erosion control/sediment reduction dams and soil and water conservation practices within this watershed. A “Special Watershed” status approved by the NRD Board has additionally allowed a higher cost share rate for conservation practices in the Silver Creek watershed.

Therefore, it is Management’s recommendation that the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Burt-Washington Drainage District funding request for the Brunker Ditch Cutoff Project be denied and that Management work with the Drainage District and NRCS to select a recommended Special Watershed Project Area for consideration of planning and implementation by the Board.
November 5, 2010

Mr. John Winkler  
jwinkler@papionrd.org

Dear Mr. Winkler:

As the local Attorney for the Burt-Washington Drainage District, and at the request of Mr. Randy L. Olson, President of the Burt-Washington Drainage District, I am writing you this letter.

The Burt-Washington Drainage District requests that at the December 2010 subcommittee meeting you add to your agenda consideration for funding for the Burt County Drainage Ditch cut off project. The District has received the proper 404 permit and is in the processing of letting the bids. They are requesting 50% cost share, not to exceed $3 million in the next fiscal year which is year 2012 budget.

You have been previously provided with plans for this project from Mark Mainelli at Mainelli and Wagner Engineering firm in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Board of the Drainage District would like a response to this letter, in writing, within ten days if you plan to include this project on your agenda, and if not, the reasons why.

This office can provide you with any additional or missing information that you may possibly need.

Yours very truly,

ANDERSON & ANDERSON

By:

RMA:jbn

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