

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE BOARD

SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

DATE: May 4, 2012

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager

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

B. **PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

1. The April 27th and 17th editions of the USACE update on the 2011 Missouri River Levee Rehabilitation Project is attached for your review.

2. We have been notified that the District has been designated as one of the "Safest Companies in the Greater Omaha Area!" A copy of the letter is attached. The District will be recognized with the Award of Honor – Gold category at the Greater Omaha Chapter, National Safety Council Awards Luncheon on May 17, 2012. All P-MRNRD employees are to be commended for this honor. **I would like to acknowledge the work of our Safety Coordinator, Heather Guthridge, and the members of the P-MRNRD Safety Committee: Mike Bickley, Gerry Bowen, Jo Lene Kohout, Marty Thiemann and Ryan Trapp.**

3. The District received a letter of thanks from Peg Shea, Principal of Longfellow Elementary School, Council Bluffs, Iowa thanking our staff in support of their "Family Night Program". Thank you to the Information Education Staff for putting on this program. Principal Shea's letter is attached for your review.

4. The District received a letter from John Engel, Project Manager for HDR Engineering notifying us of additional design services and cost increase to be include with Phase III of the construction services for WP-RB5 Flood Control Contract. HDR will bring the Phase III contract to the PPO Subcommittee in June.

5. The District received a letter from Andrew Miller, Project Manager for Benesch regarding additional services for the Glacier Creek design. Additional details will be presented to the PPO Subcommittee in June.

C. **REPORT ON PURCHASES – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Pursuant to Board direction, attached is a report indicating construction services, professional services and personal property purchases for the month of April 2012. Please review this report and contact me if you have any questions.

- D. **CURRENT AND ON-GOING PROJECTS – P-MRNRD LEGAL COUNSEL:** Attached is a copy of the current and on-going projects for District Legal Counsel, Paul Peters, as of April 16, 2012. I would ask each Director to review this listing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- E. **PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT:** The April, 2012 Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Monthly Update is attached for your review. The next Partnership meeting will be held on May 24, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the NRC.
- F. **NEWS CLIPS:**
- ✓ April 13, 2012, Omaha World Herald article, Flood-fighting berms may earn riverfront stay
 - ✓ April 22, 2012, Lincoln Journal Star article, Large lake planned for Northeast Nebraska
 - ✓ April 25, 2012, Associated Press article, \$15 dam-lake project planned
 - ✓ April 25, 2012, Ground on new rec area to be broken this summer
 - ✓ April 27, 2012, KTIV.com story, New lake and recreational area in the works in Dakota County

April, 2012 Information/Education Report

Information

- Assisted with staffing of Earth Day Booth
- Secured new professional Web site assistance
- Prepared NRD informational packets for NRD and State Legislature candidates
- Continued work on Flood Control brochure
- Began work on interpretive sign for W. Maple Rd. Elkhorn River access site
- Continued work on Photo archiving project
- Updated Facebook and NRD website
- Continued scheduling of PSA Information campaigns
- Prepared budget recommendations
- Continued work on Spectrum Newsletter
- Assisted with Longfellow School Nature Night
- Began planning for Pigeon Site 15 groundbreaking

Education

- **Programming:**
 - 4/6- Picotte (5th grade) - Owls-62 students/3 teachers
 - 4/9- Sandoz (Pre-K) - Animal Adaptations- 25 students/2 teachers
 - 4/9- Lewis and Clark Middle School (Bellevue)- Science Olympiad Q&A- 9 students/1 teacher
 - 4/9- Girl Scout Trip to Chalco- Insect Hike- 10 kids/2 parents
 - 4/9- Crestridge Girl Scouts- Water Cycle and Conservation- 8 kids/1 teacher
 - 4/10- Benson West (6th grade) - Owls- 65 students/3 teachers
 - 4/10- Sandoz Elementary Life Cycles Frog/Turtle 3 programs (1st) 70 students/3 teachers
 - 4/11- Holy Name Nature Club (1st-5th grade) - 15 students/1 teacher
 - 4/12- Wake Robin- Chalco Field Trip (K)- 70 students/3 teachers
 - 4/12- Benson West (1st Grade) – Animal Adaptations
 - 4/16- Rohwer Tree Program (4th grade) - 4 programs- 65 students/4 teachers
 - 4/17, 4/19, 4/24- Creighton Teacher Pre-Service Workshop- 20 students/1 professor
 - 4/17- Morton Nature Club- School grounds clean-up- 25 students/2 teachers
 - 4/18- Platte River Expo- Outdoor Journaling (4th-5th grade) - 131 students/ 6 teachers
 - 4/18-4-H Nature Hike (K-5th grade), 12 kids/5 adults
 - 4/19- Platte River Expo- Outdoor Journaling (4th-5th grade) - 126 students/ 6 teachers
 - 4/19-Longfellow Nature Night—175 families attended
 - 4/20- Masters Elementary (2nd Grade)- Tree Program- 75 kids/15 adults
 - 4/21- Earth Day Omaha- NRD booth
 - 4/22- Week of Young Child- Children’s Museum- Very Lonely Firefly
 - 4/22- Bellevue Earth Day- Everett Park
 - 4/23- Fullerton Magnet (1st-6th) - Tree Program- 20 teachers
 - 4/23-Louisville Elementary Owl Program (5th) 20 students/1 teacher
 - 4/23- Crestridge Girl Scouts- Water Cycle and Conservation badge- 8 kids/1 teacher
 - 4/23, 4/24- Teacher Tree Pickup
 - 4/24—Sandoz Elementary-Food Chains/Owls 3 programs (1st grade) 70 students/3 teachers
 - 4/25- Field Club (3rd & 4th grade) – Tree Programs (9) – 128 students/ 9 teachers
 - 4/26- Deerfield Nature Night- 150 children/300 parents attended
 - 4/26- Hearts and Hands (Pre-K) - Pond Demonstration (2 programs)- 18 children/4 adults
 - 4/27- Hearts and Hands (Pre-K) - Pond Demonstration- 18 children/2 adults
 - 4/30- Sandoz Plant Program- 80 students/3 teachers
- **Meetings**

- 4/5- WET meeting- Fontenelle
 - 4/4- NAI subcommittee meeting
 - 4/30- LEP State Coordinators Conference Call
- **Planning**
 - NRD Summer Day Camps, confirmation e-mails, presenters
 - Tree Delivery/Cooler Rental
 - Earth Day Omaha/Bellevue/Week of the Young Child Kick Off
 - Water Works Registration Materials, Teacher Gifts
 - MORE Nature and Go! Play Adventure Calendar, FaceBook Page, website
 - April Nature Nights, promotion, flyers, school coordination



US Army Corps
of Engineers

2011 MISSOURI RIVER LEVEE REHAB UPDATE

Missouri River Levee Unit R-613
South of Bellevue, Nebraska

Readiness Branch

(Updated April 27, 2012)

Omaha District

Schedule

Request for Assistance:	Aug. 15, 2011
Damage Survey Report:	Sep. 6, 2011
Funding Received:	Jan. 23, 2012
Request for Proposal Issued:	Jan. 26, 2012
Contract Award	
(Initial Repairs):	Feb. 14, 2012
(Follow-on Repairs):	Apr. 5, 2012
Construction Start Date	
(Initial Repairs):	Mar. 4, 2012
(Follow-on Repairs):	May 2012*
Construction End Date	
(Initial Repairs):	Mar. 26, 2012
(Follow-on Repairs):	Jun. 15, 2012*

*These dates are estimates and are based on many factors including contract award, real estate, availability of materials, weather, etc.

Progress

Location:	Progress:
Seeding	100%
Drainage structure repairs	0%



Project Overall Map
Missouri River Levee Unit R-613
South of Bellevue, NE

Award

- Contract for initial repairs was awarded February 14, 2012 with a notice to proceed issued February 23, 2012.
- Initial repairs included seeding. These repairs were substantially complete March 26, 2012. Final checklist inspection was held on April 3, 2012.
- Follow-on activities include repairs to drainage structures. These repairs are estimated to be complete by June 15, 2012.

Note: Engineering/design and construction funding received by the Omaha District for Increment I will be used to repair areas identified during the damage survey report. Repairs will return these areas to pre-disaster conditions.

Current Progress

- Contract for follow-on repairs to two drainage structures was awarded April 5, 2012. Notice to proceed was given April 23, 2012.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

2011 MISSOURI RIVER LEVEE REHAB UPDATE

Missouri River Levee Unit R-616
Bellevue, Nebraska

Readiness Branch

(Updated April 27, 2012)

Omaha District

Schedule

Request for Assistance:	Oct. 24, 2011
Damage Survey Reports:	Aug. 20, 2011/Dec. 1, 2011
Funding Received:	Jan. 23, 2012
Contract Award:	Feb. 9, 2012
Notice to Proceed Issued:	Feb. 15, 2012
Construction Start Date	
(Initial Repairs):	Feb. 15, 2012
(Follow-on Repairs):	Jun. 2012*
Construction End Date	
(Initial Repairs):	Mar. 27, 2012
(Follow-on Repairs):	Nov. 30, 2012*

*These dates are estimates and are based on many factors including contract award, real estate, availability of materials, weather, etc.

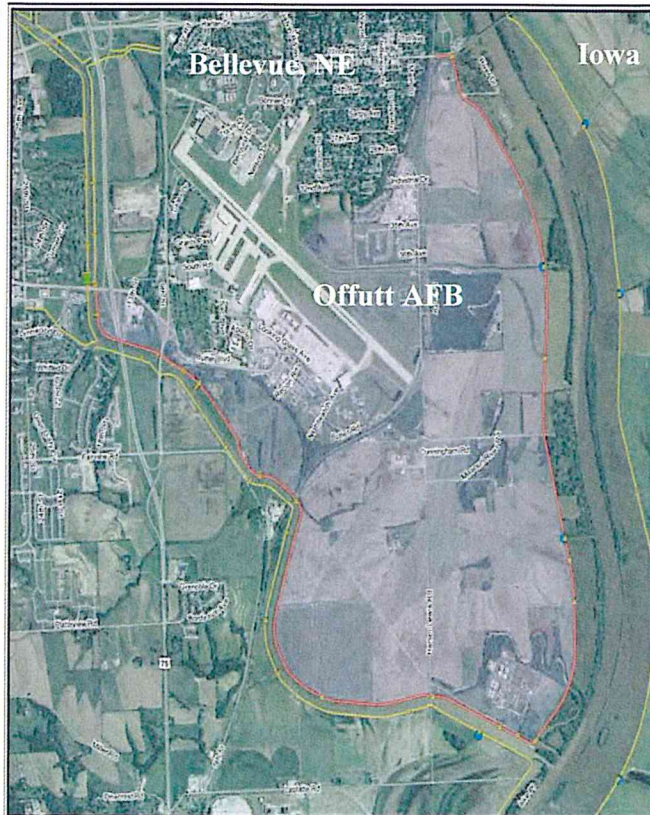
Award

- Notice to proceed (NTP) on initial repairs was issued on February 15, 2012. A scope of work is currently being prepared for follow-on repairs.
- Initial repairs included riverside slope restoration, levee crest repair, drainage structure outlet restoration, landside slope restoration and erosion control on the riverside levee face. These repairs were substantially completed on March 27, 2012.
- Final inspection was held on April 3, 2012.
- Follow-on activities and repairs include geotechnical investigations, riverside scour repair, repair of damaged drainage structures and construction of additional seepage berms based on the geotechnical investigations. These repairs are estimated to be complete by November 30, 2012.

Note: Engineering/design and construction funding received by the Omaha District will be used to repair areas identified during the damage survey report. Repairs will return these areas to pre-disaster conditions.

Current Progress

- Real estate permanent easements will be needed in order to complete follow-on seepage berm construction.



Project Overall Map
Missouri River Levee Unit R-616
Bellevue, NE



US Army Corps
of Engineers

2011 MISSOURI RIVER LEVEE REHAB UPDATE

Missouri River Levee Unit R-616
Bellevue, Nebraska

Readiness Branch

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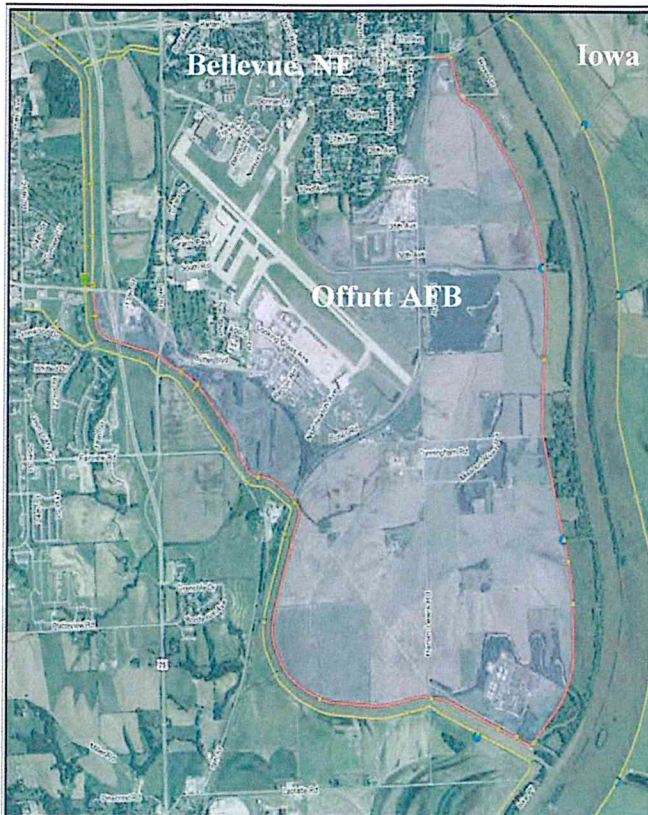
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Note: Engineering/design and construction funding received by the Omaha District will be used to repair areas identified during the damage survey report. Repairs will return these areas to pre-disaster conditions.

Current Progress

- Real estate permanent easements will be needed in order to complete follow-on seepage berm construction.



Project Overall Map
Missouri River Levee Unit R-616
Bellevue, NE



US Army Corps
of Engineers

2011 MISSOURI RIVER LEVEE REHAB UPDATE

Missouri River Levee Unit R-613
South of Bellevue, Nebraska

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Progress

Location: _____ Progress: _____



Project Overall Map
Missouri River Levee Unit R-613
South of Bellevue, NE

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Current Progress

- Contract for follow-on repairs to two drainage structures was awarded April 5, 2012.

Your Safety.



Our Priority.

April 10, 2012

Nebraska

Heather Guthridge
Safety Director
Papio-Missouri River NRD
8901 S 154 Street
Omaha NE 68138



Dear Heather,

Congratulations! Your company is one of "Nebraska's Safest Companies!" Your award category is Honor with Distinction 4 Years. This is based on your application and the comprehensive review completed by our "Nebraska's Safest Companies Awards Committee."

Your company will be recognized May 17, 2012 at the Annual Awards Luncheon, during the Safety and Health Summit at the Embassy Suites, LaVista Conference Center.

We invite your representative to be our guest at the luncheon and be seated with the other award winners. Frequently friends and safety teams who have shared in the success also want to attend. The attached invitation provides a great opportunity for reservations. Thirty-five dollars (\$35) of each ticket is tax deductible as we are a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

During the Awards Luncheon, a video tribute will feature award winners. Nebraska's Safe Community Champions will also be honored. Our focus at the luncheon this year is Seeking Solutions, Sharing Strengths. Garrison Wynn's presentation is "Making the Most of Difficult Situations: Communicating Safety".

You will have a fun and enjoyable experience at the luncheon. Almost a thousand people usually attend this event.

Please make a calendar note for your representative to arrive no later than 11:30 a.m. Members of the awards committee will assist in finding your place.

11620 M Circle • Omaha, NE 68137-2231 • (402) 896-0454 • (855) NSC-NSC1
Fax (402) 896-6331 • www.SafeNebraska.org

A private, not for profit 501(c) (3), nongovernmental, community-based service organization

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ROBERT LIKES

Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP

PETER H. NEDDO, MS, CUSA

Metropolitan Utilities District

KEVIN M. ORDWAY

Nebraska Health Imaging

It is especially urgent that you complete the enclosed form and return it with requested information and attachments by April 20.

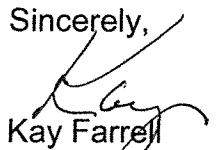
In addition to Awards Luncheon recognition, you will be recognized in the Midlands Business Journal and at www.SafeNebraska.org. You will also receive a media template by e-mail that you can use for an announcement in your community and/or your in-house publication. An awards icon will also be available for use on your printed materials and your website.

Nebraska's Safest Company clings will be mailed to you later.

More information about Nebraska's largest and best Safety and Health Learning/Networking Conference and Exhibition can be found at www.safetyandhealthsummit.com.

Thank you for responding to your nomination, and for your dedication and commitment to safety within your organization. We are enthusiastically looking forward to your participation on May 17, 2012. Please contact Donna Crouse at the Council (402-898-7350) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Kay Farrell
President/CEO


Crystal Anderson, Chairman
Nebraska's Safest Companies
Awards Committee

Enc. Awards form, brochure

cc: John Winkler, GM



Longfellow Elementary
2011 So. 10th St
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

April 23, 2012

Natural Resources District
8901 So. 154th St.
Omaha, NE 68138

Dear Christine,

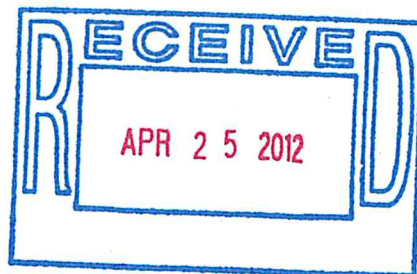
The children, staff, and myself would like to sincerely thank More Nature, the Natural Resources District and its affiliates which presented a successful family night at our school on April 19th. Many Longfellow families, 175 attended, told me how much they enjoyed the informative booths, fun crafts, and delicious Whole Foods sandwiches and fruit! The various levels of information available provided appropriate activities for the preschoolers and their older siblings, too.

The professionalism and nature expertise offered by the many workers that evening was obvious to all of us. The children explored space, animals and their habits, but the "hit" of the evening were the live snakes, rabbits, ducks, and chickens. Many of our students have never had the opportunity to visit farms, therefore this educational opportunity was very beneficial to our student body. This two hour science packed occasion was a unique investment in our youth. Thank you so much for organizing this memorial event in such an efficient, professional, and orderly way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peg Shea".

Peg Shea,
Principal



...Where Dreams Begin!

May 4, 2012

John Winkler
General Manager
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

RE: WP-RB5 Flood Control Facility
HDR Project No. 98326
Request to Carry Additional Design Services to Construction Phase Contract

Dear Mr. Winkler:

HDR Engineering, Inc. is in the process of completing the final bid documents of WP-5 and its associated improvements for the regional detention basin to be located on an unnamed tributary to West Papillion Creek located in Sarpy County and are located near 126th and Cornhusker Road in Papillion, Nebraska. The purpose of this letter is to request acknowledgment of additional design services and approval to include the cost of such additional services into the Phase III construction services contract. It is currently anticipated that the Phase III contract will be brought before the Board for approval in June 2012, with services to begin in July 2012.

During the final design of the dam, reservoir, and associated infrastructure of the WP-5 project, several unforeseen tasks not included in the original scope of work and Amendment 2, or changes to identified tasks, have been identified and are summarized below by task.

Task Series 100 – Project Management

- **Task 110 Project Management.** The professional services for Phase II was to be conducted over an anticipated nine (9) - month project period or until the end of November 2010. Amendment No. 2 extended the contract seven (7) month or June 2011. Changes in schedule due to Section 404 permitting coordination and design have resulted in a 12-month extension of the project. This task is estimated at 3 hrs/month and a not to exceed amount of \$3,000.
- **Task 130 Technical Coordination.** Additional project coordination and production activities to assist P-MRNRD staff with land right/easement negotiations and right-of-way. This task is estimated at 30 hours and a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,000.

Task Series 400 – Interim Contract Document Preparation

- **Task 410 Water Quality Basin Design.** Following review of the supporting documentation for the Application for Plan Review and evaluation of the water quality basins' design and integrated operation with the main dam and reservoir, NDNR has requested that additional capacity to the principal/auxiliary spillway be provided for the North Water Quality basin. To accomplish this, the hydraulics of the North Water Quality basin will be re-evaluated, the principal/auxiliary spillway grading modified, and plan sheets revised accordingly for

submittal as an addendum to NDNR. This task is estimated at 50 hours for a total not to exceed amount of \$7,500.

- **Task 415 Dam Design.** HDR evaluated and presented an alternative drawdown configuration to the NDNR that integrated the drawdown for the main dam into the principal spillway, allowing the separate drawdown structure to be eliminated from the project for a net savings of approximately \$300,000. The increase in drawdown pool elevation impacts on the dam were evaluated and documented to support this alternative and design plans revised. This task is estimated at 80 hours and a not-to-exceed-amount of \$12,000.
- **Task 420 Trail System and Basic Park Features.** The removable boat ramp for the WP-5 reservoir was anticipated to be a manufacturer-supplied removable ramp with standard plan details and specifications that could be incorporated into the final bid package. The current removable boat ramp design calls for a fabricated structure mounted on guide rails. Plans and specifications are necessary to instruct contractor on ramp fabrication and installation. This task is estimated at 30 hours for and a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,500.

Please advise if carrying these additional services forward to the Phase III contract is acceptable to P-MRNRD, or if a separate contract amendment is preferred. We look forward to continue working with you on this very important project and continuing our working relationship with the P-MRNRD. If you have any questions, please contact me at 926-7110 at your convenience.

Very truly yours,
HDR ENGINEERING, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Engel" clearly distinguishable.

John Engel, P.E.
Project Manager



Alfred Benesch & Company
14748 W. Center Road, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68144-2029
www.benesch.com
P 402-333-5792
F 402-333-2248

May 4, 2012

\Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Attn: Ms. Amanda Grint, P.E.
8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

RE: Glacier Creek Wetland/Stream Bank Project

Dear Ms. Grint:

Based on our previous discussion on April 23, 2012 regarding additional services related to structural design analysis of baffle structures at the end of each stream channel, design-build components of the project, construction observation services and out of scope work, Benesch is requesting a supplement to the original contract. Additional detail along with the associated estimate of hour and fee about services not covered in the original agreement is provided below.

Item 1- Construction Observation Services-

Benesch will provide periodic, but not full time, construction observations services during the construction phase of the project to ensure the project get built to plan specifications. The total scope of services is limited those services requested that may be performed within the budget estimated below unless additional fee is authorized. Construction services shall consist of onsite inspection for major activities, periodic onsite inspections during the remainder of the project, construction administration services (progress reports, pay estimates, etc.), SWPPP monitoring and construction materials testing.

A qualified individual will observe and document the wetland and stream construction conforms to the requirements of the contract documents. We anticipate this task will include field sheets, photographs, elevation spot checks, and seed and plant stock inspections completed during construction. Furthermore, at least three site visits by project engineer and/or scientist will be conducted to verify construction activities.

Estimated hours-212
Estimated fee-\$24,280.00

Item 2- Enhancement of Sloped Wetlands-

During the February 10, 2012 30% plan review the group decided to enhance existing sloped wetlands and prairie on the site. These areas are identified on Figure 3 of the Site Development Plan (attached). These areas are degraded from farming activities and if restored would add wetland credits to the bank. Benesch proposes a design-build approach to restore these areas. The potential plan would be to assess areas in the field, develop a preliminary restoration plan and carry out construction with contractor. This approach will also be utilized to incorporate natural features in the newly created wetlands and streams. These items consist of rock piles, dead trees, vegetation incorporation of organic materials, scallops, etc.

Estimated hours-40
Estimated fee-\$4,000

Item 3-Structural Analysis of Baffle Structures-

During the project conceptual phase restoration of Glacier Creek and Unnamed Tributary to that similar of a prairie stream, which required elevating the stream bed elevation near the floodplain for as much of the channel

as possible would require a large structure at the downstream end of Glacier Creek and the unnamed tributary. A structural analysis of these structures was not originally scoped but is recommended due to the size and proposed stresses from upgradient and downgradient forces. Benesch proposes to conduct a structural analysis by a structural engineer and present results in a Technical Memorandum.

Estimated hours- 40
Estimated fee- \$5,000

Item 4- Additional Services-

Out of scope work was identified after the 30% design review meeting with the NRD and UNO regarding the re-design of Glacier Creek at the low-water crossing. The original design reduced the vertical elevation difference between Glacier Creek at Allwine and the proposed bank site from 14 feet to 4-5 feet. The 4-5 foot elevation was based on the structure elevation at the Big Papio and a stable stream slope of 0.5-2%. UNO indicated a contiguous channel from Allwine Prairie with no drops via a structure was absolutely necessary. Benesch evaluated several alternatives balancing stream gradients and stream modifications to the original segment on the Allwine site before selecting a design that is suitable. Additional grading and hydraulic analysis was required to come up with current design which has a contiguous channel. Due to the steep gradient through this segment (10%) additional time is still necessary to identify stream bed protection measures and bank stability countermeasures to withstand high velocities. Additional effort was also associated with reinforced berm designs to protect structures at the Big Papio. Finally, these changes plus unforeseen communication, meetings and verification of stream assessment values with the Corps caused additional input and revisions to the Site Development Plan. Furthermore, an additional meeting is also anticipated.

Estimated hours-100
Estimated fee-\$10,000

Based on the changes to the scope of services, the total amount of additional fee required to complete these changes is approximately 320 hours at a cost of \$43,280.

Please acknowledge your acceptance of the Amendment Scope and Fee By signing in the signature block provided below and returning one copy to this office for our records
If you have any questions, please contact me at 402-333-5792.

Sincerely,



Andrew Miller
Project Manager



Jeffery A. Sockel, P.E.
Vice President – Omaha Division Manager

Accepted By Papio-Missouri River NRD

Signature

Date

Printed Name & Title

April, 2012

[illegible]

MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2012



A Partnership meeting was held on April 26, 2012 at 10am at the NRC Building. Minutes are updated regularly on the Partnership's website:

www.papiopartnership.org.

Water Quality Elements of Watershed Master Plans

Jon Trombino, PE and Jonathan Mohr, AICP, from EA Engineering, Science and Technology gave a presentation to the Partnership members regarding incorporation of water quality in watershed management planning. They discussed the EPA's nine step process to watershed planning and shared their experience in developing these plans. If watershed master plans are completed in the format requested by EPA and the EPA approves the plan then funding is available for implementation through the 319 funding process. The Partnership's Watershed Management Plan that has been adopted by the communities in the Partnership has many of the elements required by EPA but was completed prior to the nine steps and therefore would need some format changes and additional elements to be eligible for 319 funding.

Jon and Jonathan discussed the process followed during planning for the Antelope Creek Watershed Basin Management Plan in Lincoln, Nebraska. Antelope Creek is on the state's impaired lakes and streams list for E coli, as are many of the streams in the Papio Watershed. The plan looked at what Best Management Practices (BMPs) would work to address that specific contaminant. The final plan called for phased implementation of structural BMPs involving infiltration and many nonstructural elements as well such as education and outreach.

They also discussed their experience in drafting a watershed management plan for Easter Lake near Des Moines, Iowa. This plan is phased to address stream stabilization and protection of the upstream tributaries and then finally clean-up of the lake to remove sediment.

Runoff Control Plans – Training Session

The templates developed by the City of Omaha for runoff control plans for their municipal facilities have been distributed to all Partnership members. These are facilities that are not required to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan under NPDES regulations, but still have the potential to release pollutants in the event of a stormwater discharge from the site.

A training session for the communities is planned to be held in the next month.

EPA Small Urban Waters Grant

The Partnership was unsuccessful in obtaining an EPA Small Urban Waters Grant to help with funding for our Natural Resources Inventory. The PCWP will continue to look for grant opportunities to help with the costs of this project however, coordination with the Environment Omaha group and with MAPA has provided an opportunity to potentially collaborate on the Natural Resources Inventory. Updates will follow as more is learned of MAPA's potential involvement.

Other Items of Interest

- Next month the PCWP members will vote on the CBI Systems software annual maintenance fee.
- The City of Omaha noted that on May 2nd and 3rd individuals from EPA Region 7, Office of Research and Development, will be in Omaha to work with them on green solutions for the CSO project, specifically the Minne Lusa basin. They will update the PCWP next month on the outcome.

Next Meeting:

The next Partnership meeting will be **May 31, 2012 at 10 am** at the NRC building. **Please note that the meeting is one week later than usual.**



Updated: April 16, 2012

Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel

★ = Top Priority

F = Future Work – No Assignment

N = New Assignment

O = Others Handling

W = Work in Progress

P = PFP's Portion Completed

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ★ Gabion Repair Project Easement Consents (W)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (W)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland)
 - Saunders County side ROW agreement and easements (F)
 - ★ NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal for Camp Ashland Property (P)
 - ★ NE-ARNG Fairview Road Access License (P)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster)
- **Trail Projects:** (Bowen)
 - ★ MoPac Trail (Hwy 50 to Lied Bridge) BELF Settlement and New Dowd Easement (N)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland)
 - ★ Pigeon/Jones Site 15 Purchase Agreements and closing documents (W)
 - Papio W-3 Eminent Domain (Camden) (F)
 - ★ Papio W-3 Access-Quiet Title Action (W)
 - ★ Pigeon/Jones Sites 1, 9, & 23 Easements (W)

- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Petermann)
 - Interlocal agreement with Douglas County for DS 15A (W)
 - Interlocal agreement with City of Omaha for DS 15A (F)
 - ✦ Zorinsky Basin #1 – purchase agreements, deeds and easement (W)
 - ✦ 3 Purchase Agreements for additional WP5 ROW (W)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Sklenar)
- **Other:**
 - ✦ MOU with UNO for Lied Platte River Bride Research Station (Henkel) (W)
 - ✦ Tetra Tech Contract modification for Missouri River Levee Accreditation (Henkel) (W)

Flood-fighting berms may earn riverfront stay

B Y NANCY GAARDER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Spooked by last year's historic flooding along the Missouri River, cities in the Omaha area have plenty of reason to like the emergency fortifications made to their levees.

More than \$9 million in hastily placed seepage berms helped repulse water that tried to force the river through weak spots in metropolitan-area levees.

Now the question is what to do with the berms.

Typically such emergency measures must be torn out after disasters, but local and federal officials are working to keep the berms in place, said Kim Thomas, chief of emergency management for the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She said the berms proved their worth during the flood.

But the solution isn't as simple as it sounds.

First the corps must analyze each berm to figure out if it has enough structural integrity to remain in place, Thomas said. The corps is doing that now in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties at a cost of \$510,000. Results are expected this summer.

"More than likely all those seepage berms will need to be left in," Thomas said.

The corps has a vested interest in keeping the seepage berms in place because successive years of flooding make clear that they are needed, said Jud Kneuvean, chief of emergency management for the corps in the Kansas City, Mo., area. In years past, the corps simply repaired levees to pre-flood condition. Now officials are moving toward making the levees more robust.

Most of the seepage berm work was concentrated in the Omaha area and northwest Missouri.

In the Omaha and Kansas City corps districts combined, about \$12 million was spent last summer on the berms. Of that, \$8.7 million was spent by the corps in the Omaha metro area, \$3.2 million by the corps in northwest Missouri and about \$560,000 by the City of Omaha.

But there's a financial twist in Omaha.

The city will get reimbursed by the federal government only if the berms it built are torn out.

Local governments are eligible for state and Federal Emergency Management Agency dollars for temporary protections erected in the middle of a disaster. Under federal rules, neither FEMA nor the corps reimburses cities for city-funded improvements made permanent, said Thomas and regional FEMA spokeswoman Amanda Bicknell.

So if the Omaha-funded berms are robust enough to remain in place, as the city and corps want, Omaha will pick up the full cost of its sand berms. It also might end up absorbing the \$500,000 it spent to surface the top of its northern levee with chipped asphalt.

Omaha officials say they understand FEMA's limitations.

"During the flood fight, we needed them," said Gordon Andersen, chief of operations for Omaha's flood fight. "These were put in under the assumption they would be temporary. We realized up front if we didn't remove them, we wouldn't be reimbursed.

"As we continue to evaluate the levees, it may be better to leave them in."

Aida Amoura, spokeswoman for Mayor Jim Suttle's office, said the city wouldn't dare pull out the berms to get a FEMA subsidy.

"The long-term savings and the long-term protections will be a much bigger win" for the city than what Omaha would get from federal aid, Amoura said.

Large lake planned for Northeast Nebraska

By ALGIS J. LAUKAITIS / [Lincoln Journal Star](#)JournalStar.com | Posted: Sunday, April 22, 2012 10:00 am



After a decade of planning, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is about to pull the trigger on a \$15 million dam and recreation area near the town of Hubbard.

"It's going to be the gem of northeast Nebraska," district Assistant General Manager Marlin Petermann said.

The Pigeon/Jones Flood Control Site No. 15 project will create a 595-acre recreation area and a 228-acre lake off Nebraska 35 southeast of Hubbard in Dakota County.

The master plan calls for RV and primitive camping space, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, recreational and equestrian trails, fishing jetties, wetland and prairie study areas and possibly no-wake boating.

Contractors toured the site Wednesday in advance of submitting bids, which will be opened by the district's board of directors May 10.

"Hopefully, we can begin construction in June," Petermann said.

The Omaha-based district anticipates a one-year construction period with opening in 2014.

Petermann said the lake will be the largest in the county and will provide much-needed recreational opportunities for the area. The nearby Missouri River serves that purpose now.

The project grew out of a management plan for the Pigeon Creek Watershed developed by the NRD in cooperation with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and local landowners.

"We had great local support," Petermann said, adding that the district worked with a citizen advisory board, obtaining right-of-way easements on about 40 tracts of land with no condemnation proceedings necessary.

One farmstead had to be relocated, along with a trailer on another tract, and the project will require moving a county road about half a mile south.

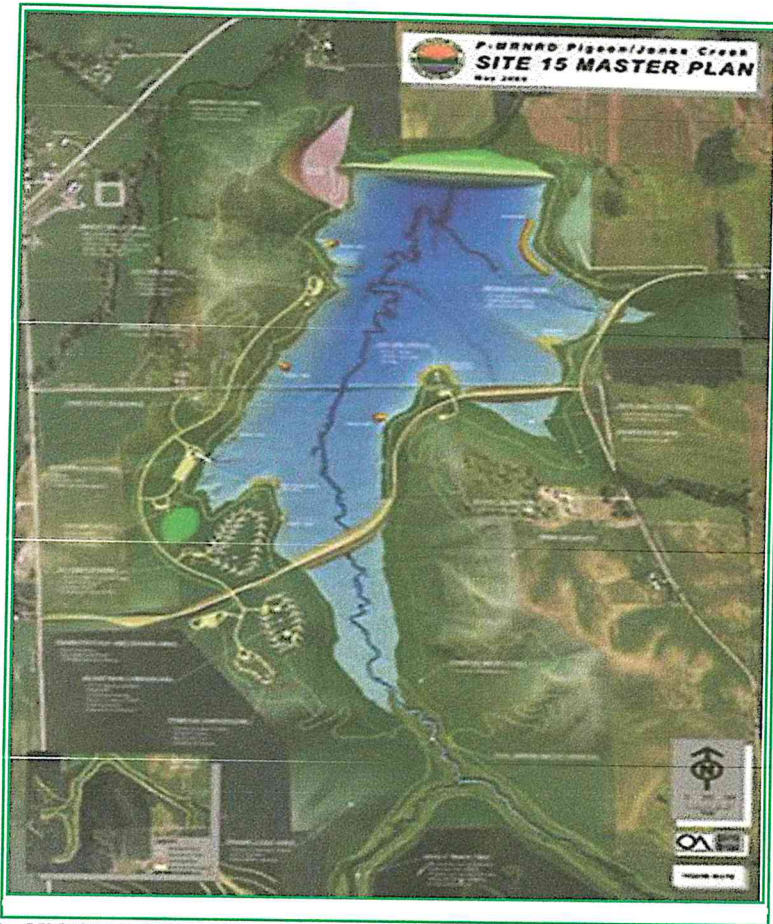
In addition to the lake, the project includes about 20 ponds or smaller grade structures to help control soil erosion and flooding problems in the area.

The state Natural Resources Commission will contribute about \$6.5 million of the \$15 million price tag, the Nebraska Environmental Trust about \$2.5 million, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission \$825,000, Dakota County \$300,000, state Department of Environmental Quality \$112,500 and the NRD \$4.7 million.

No decision has been made on who will operate the recreation area.

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

Ground on new rec area to be broken this summer



By **MICHAEL CARNES**
Of The Herald

Published:

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 5:34 PM CDT

A three-year recreation project will eventually bring another opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the great outdoors in Northeast Nebraska.

The Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District is making final preparations to begin work on a new 20,000-acre recreation area located just southeast of Hubbard in Dakota County. When completed, the Pigeon/Jones Watershed will feature boating, fishing, camping and equestrian and hiking trails as part of a dam construction project that is almost a decade in the making.

Marlin Petermann, assistant manager for the Papio Missouri River NRD, said land acquisition has been completed and the final paperwork is being finished so that construction on the project can begin this summer.

"We have been working for close to 10 years in putting this together," he said. "It's been a long process, but we're now in the process of acquiring construction bids for the flood control portion of the project and for road improvements that have to be made."

The lake will take up about 225 acres of the 800-acre facility and will have an average depth of 20 feet, with close to 50 feet depth near the dam. Petermann said that, depending on the weather, it will take a couple of years for the lake to reach its full capacity as it is fed from Jones Creek, a tributary to the main Pigeon Creek that runs parallel with Highway 35 in the western part of Dakota County.

Published Wednesday April 25, 2012

\$15 dam-lake project planned

HUBBARD — Bids are expected to be opened next month on plans to build a \$15 million dam and recreation area near Hubbard in northeast Nebraska.

The project just off Nebraska Highway 35 southeast of Hubbard will include a 595-acre recreation area and a nearly 230-acre lake.

It's being undertaken by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

Plans include RV and primitive camping space, picnic areas, hiking and horse trails, fishing jetties and prairie study areas.

Officials hope to begin construction in June and be finished in a year. It would open in 2014. — AP

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New lake and recreational area in the works in Dakota County

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Posted: Apr 25, 2012 6:40 PM CDT

By Ross Caniglia, Multimedia Journalist/ Weekend Meteorologist - [bio](#) | [email](#)



NEAR HUBBARD, NE (KTIV) - Work will soon begin on a new \$14.8 million recreational park near Hubbard, Nebraska.

And, organizers hope it'll be good, not only for recreation, but the local economy, too.

Come 2014, this narrow creek will turn into a 200 acre lake, which officials say means good news for one group of people.

"Walleyes, large mouth, small mouth, bass. It's going to be a great fishery for the sportsman and sportswoman," said Fravel.

And officials say it'll please more than fishermen. The lake will be surrounded by 600 acres of recreational space, fit for camping, horseback riding, hiking trails, and other outdoor activities.

But recreation isn't the only plus.

"It'll be the crown jewel of Dakota County," said Fravel.

"It's going to benefit the area by people coming to visit the lake. Economic-wise, it's going to be great for the area," said Fravel.

And when it comes to an improved economy, there's hope for job creation in surrounding communities.

"I would think there is opportunity there for that to happen," said Fravel.

All reasons that project organizers say they're happy to get the project underway.

"Oh this is a big thing. Well, it's been 12 years in the making. So, we've always held out hope that it was going to happen, and now it is. So this is an exciting time for us up here," said Kelly Fravel.

A representative from Nebraska Game and Parks tells us that while the creation of a lake will change habitats, the impact of the project will be positive.



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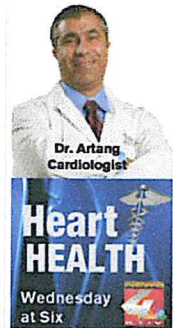
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