

***NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE***  
***ACTIVITY REPORT within the P-MRNRD***  
***DECEMBER 2002***

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CONSERVATION PLANNING AND APPLICATION:

- Mild weather conditions continue to be conducive to earthwork maintenance activities in Burt County. Tekamah FO is currently processing **26** requests for certified wetland determinations regarding drainage maintenance.
- Washington County has received **21** HEL/Wetland determination requests.
- Walthill FO completed **3** wetland determinations and informed a producer of a converted wetland violation in Thurston County.
- South Sioux City FO has received **8** HEL/Wetland determination requests.
- Omaha FO provided soil loss documentation to the NRD pertaining to a Sediment and Erosion complaint.
- Omaha FO wrote one new FSA conservation plan.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

- Blair FO received **46** applications for fall construction. **36** have been completed and **30** have been paid. The mild winter weather has encouraged landowners to complete their conservation practices and construction is ongoing in Washington County.
- Dakota County received **2** applications for fall construction. **2060** feet of terraces, **1470** feet of waterways, **615** feet of underground outlets, and **200** feet of storage diversion have been completed.
- Tekamah FO completed **5** terrace systems in December. Summary of Burt County construction activities for 2002 indicates that approximately **26** miles of storage terraces were installed in the county involving **\$348,000** in landowner cost and NRD cost-share commitments.
- Blair FO has received **5** conservation applications for Spring **2003** construction.
- Tekamah FO has received **14** conservation applications for Spring **2003** construction.
- Blair FO has received **28** orders for **7,000** trees to be planted in Spring **2003**. FO staff are visiting sites, and lending assistance with plans and species selection.
- Burt County FO has completed **4** windbreak tree plans for Spring **2003**.
- Dakota County has received **3** orders for **150** trees to be planted in Spring **2003**.
- Walthill FO completed plans for **4** windbreaks in Thurston County.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

- Burt County FO has received **3** CRP filter strip applications for **41** acres.
- Dakota County FO has **1** completed CRP contract for waterways.
- Omaha FO received **1** application for a grass filter strip. **1** CRP contract for a **4.2** acre grass filter strip was completed.
- Thurston County FO has completed contracts on **3** CRP filter strips and **1** waterway.
- Washington County FO has approved **7** CRP filter and buffer strip applications.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

- Diego Ayala assisted Walthill Field Office staff with two producers that have EQIP contracts. Nutrient management, record keeping and interpreting soil analysis were discussed.

#### SILVER CREEK AND PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSEEDS:

- NRD technicians Dennis Piper and Rod Kinning conducted fall inspections of Silver Creek structures. Maintenance was completed on two miles of the dike on Elk Creek and 12 miles of Pigeon Creek.
- Silver Creek Site 18 has been completed and inspected by NRD/NRCS staff.
- NRCS and NRD staff are working on the easements and bid information for Silver Creek Site **15** to be constructed this year.

#### TRIBAL ASSISTANCE:

- Don Atkinson and Walthill FO staff assisted the Winnebago Tribal Agency staff with the following issues: conservation planning activities, fencing on tribal tracts, authorized signatures for FSA CCC forms, aerial photos for tribal use and establishing boundaries/legal descriptions on a tribal homesite.

#### WATER QUALITY:

- Burt County completed 2 well abandonments.
- Dakota County had **5** wells to be abandoned. **2** wells were completed.
- Douglas/Sarpy had 9 wells to be abandoned. 3 wells were completed
- Washington County had 12 wells to be abandoned; 1 well was completed.

#### INFORMATION/EDUCATION:

- Burt County FO staff is participating in a Wildlife Habitat Enhancement informational meeting that is scheduled for March 5, 2003. The Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring the meeting. Representatives from federal, state, and private habitat organizations will be available to explain enhancement concepts, and also discuss programs to aid in increasing habitat quality and development.
- The South Sioux City FO staff provided news items and photos for the NRD Share Page. The following articles were published in the *South **Sioux** City Star* – The 2002 Census of Agriculture, The Cost Benefits of a Windbreak, The Lewis and Clark Scenic By-way and The 2003 Midstates Community Development Conference to be held in March. Photos with captions that were used: a constructed terrace system, Americorps volunteer Shelly Tislerics receiving the Nebraska Earth Team Volunteer of the Year Award from Steve Chick, and a mature windbreak in Dakota County.

#### MEETINGS:

- P-MRNRD NRCS and NRD Field Office staff attended the 3-day NRCS State All-Employees Meeting at Kearney.
- P-MRNRD NRCS AND NRD Field Office staff attended the Team Meeting at Tekamah. Workload and PRMS reporting were the main topics of discussion.

# **P-MRNRD Directors' Field Retreat**

**Saturday, February 8, 2003**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**All Directors are encouraged to attend!!**

We will be leaving from the Natural Resources Center promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Please RSVP to Pat Teer by Monday, February 3, 2003, so travel and meal arrangements can be made.

Updated: January 9,2003

**P-MRNRD EVENTS  
JANUARY, 2003**

| DATE                | TIME       | EVENT  |
|---------------------|------------|--|
| January 7, 2003     | 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Directors Workshop - P-MRNRD Paperless Project Demo – All Directors are encouraged to attend!!!</b>   |
|                     | 7:30 p.m.  | <b><u>Programs, Projects &amp; Operations Subcommittee:</u></b><br>John Conley, Chairperson<br>Rich Jansen, Vice-Chairperson<br>Tim Fowler<br>Joe Neary<br>Rich Tesar<br>lt. Members: Dick Connealy & Pete Rubin |
| January 9, 2003     | 8:00 p.m.  | <b>P-MRNRD Board Meeting</b>   |
| January 13, 2003    | 4:30 p.m.  | Lower Platte River Basin Caucus (Directors Tesar and Jansen), Lower Platte North NRD, Wahoo, NE  |
| January 16, 2003    | 8:00 a.m.  | Leaving NRC for Lewis and Clark NRD Offices  |
|                     | 11:30 a.m. | <b>Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Caucus and Missouri Tributaries Basin Meeting,</b><br>Lewis and Clark NRD, Hartington, NE   |
| January 20, 2003    |            | <b>Martin Luther King Day – P-MRNRD Offices Closed</b>   |
| January 28-29, 2003 |            | Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE  |

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- February 8,2003      **Directors Field Retreat, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Leaving NRC promptly at 8:00 a.m. **RSVP** to Pat Teer by February 3,2003.
- February 9-13,2003      National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
- February 11,2003      P-MRNRD Subcommittee Meetings
- February 13,2003      P-MRNRD Board Meeting
- March 11,2003      P-MRNRD Subcommittee Meetings
- March 13,2003      P-MRNRD Board Meeting
- March 14,2003      US Fish and Wildlife Service 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Refuge System, Boyer Chute Headquarters at 1:00 p.m.
- March 17-19,2003      Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Washington D.C. Trip, Capitol Holiday Inn

OMAHA DAILY HERALD FOUNDED 1865  
 OMAHA DAILY WORLD FOUNDED BY GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK 1885  
 OMAHA WORLD-HERALD FIRST PUBLISHED JULY 15, 1889

# Omaha World-Herald

JOHN GOTTSCHALK, *Publisher*  
 LARRY KING, *Executive Editor*      CHARLES REINKEN, *Editorial Page Editor*  
 DEANNA J. SANDS, *Managing Editor*

## A healthy Missouri River

1-1-03

**T**his new year could be crucial for the health and use of the Missouri River.

Among other important challenges, the Army Corps of Engineers could act on a new master manual plan for management of the waterway. That and other decisions being made at the federal, state and local levels will resound well into the future.

The corps will decide — or, by delaying action, make a passive decision — whether it is vital to the health of the river ecosystem, wildlife habitat and endangered species to create a rise in the spring water flow, followed by a summer low period. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that is a vital component of river management. Others, including the barge and agricultural industries and the states of Iowa and Missouri, oppose the plan because of potential flooding and disruption of barge traffic.

Of course, the corps' decision (or non-decision) isn't likely to be the last word; lawsuits lurk. For instance, American Rivers, The Izaak Walton League and the national and several state Wildlife Federations, including those in Iowa and Nebraska, have given notice that they will take legal action. They say the corps is violating laws in its management of the river.

The Endangered Species Act and the Flood Control Act of 1942, among others, underlie the possible suit, which cites damage to species such as the pallid sturgeon. American Rivers has contended that the water-release schedule now in place illegally maximizes commercial

**Threatened lawsuits could cause delays that harm the river's ecosystem.**

shipping, worth at most \$7 million a year to local economies along the lower third of the river, while ignoring the potential for \$90 million annually in economic activity

associated with the recreation industry.

The other side of the issue is represented on the lawsuit front, too. Just last month, a consortium of agricultural and barge interests and others who earn their living via the Missouri River indicated it would sue because river levels fell last July, disrupting barge traffic. The corps allowed the decline because Fish and Wildlife stopped water releases so that the nests of two species of endangered shorebirds would remain undisturbed.

The Coalition to Protect the Missouri River contends that navigation was halted and its members suffered \$7 million in economic losses. Director Randy Asbury called it "an economic catastrophe," and said that uncertainty about future water levels is causing continuing problems.

The corps has said it will not engineer a spring rise this year because of drought conditions upstream. Since a rise is required, researchers have said, only once every three years, that appears to be an appropriate decision. Science is the key to this water-level dilemma. Decisions based on science, rather than on political expediency or pressure tactics, will likely hold up in court.

Potentially lengthy court action seems practically inevitable. If so, that's too bad. The river's habitat, species and ecosystem need protection sooner rather than later.

Memo to Board of Directors  
 Subject: Web Site Visitation Summary ( 2-02 thru 11-02)  
 Date: 1-6-03  
 By Emmett Egr

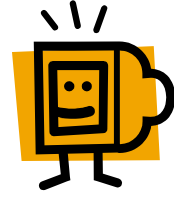
**www.papionrd.org**

Average visitors per day ----- 60  
 Average time spent on site per visit ----- 6 minutes  
 Average pages visited per day ----- 474  
 Total unique visitors ----- 5,250  
     Visitors who visited once ----- 3,914  
     Visitors who visited multiple times --- 1,335

**MOST VIEWED PAGES**

|    |  |       |        |       |
|----|--|-------|--------|-------|
| 1  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/">http://www.papionrd.org/</a>   | 5,507 | 18.48% | 4,755 |
| 2  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - YOUR NRD<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/yournrd.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/yournrd.htm</a>                                  | 1,178 | 3.95%  | 1,124 |
| 3  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - PAPIO TRAILS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/trails/trails.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/trails/trails.htm</a>                                  | 1,038 | 3.48%  | 961   |
| 4  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - REPLY<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/contact/reply.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/contact/reply.htm</a>                         | 1,011 | 3.39%  | 995   |
| 5  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/damsit21.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/damsit21.htm</a> | 981   | 3.29%  | 883   |
| 6  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - SITE OUTLINE<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/site/site.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/site/site.htm</a>  | 972   | 3.26%  | 901   |
| 7  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - SPECTRUM NEWSLETTER<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/spectrum.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/spectrum.htm</a>                           | 969   | 3.25%  | 953   |
| 8  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - RECREATION&WILDLIFE<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/recreate.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/recreate.htm</a>                   | 955   | 3.2%   | 890   |
| 9  | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/programs/progranis.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/programs/progranis.htm</a>               | 824   | 2.76%  | 783   |
| 10 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - CHALCO HILLS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/chalco.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/chalco.htm</a>                              | 710   | 2.38%  | 664   |
| 11 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - BACK TO THE RIVER<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/backriv.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/backriv.htm</a>                       | 650   | 2.18%  | 624   |
| 12 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - BOARD OF DIRECTORS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/board.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/board.htm</a>                            | 630   | 2.11%  | 608   |
| 13 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - WHAT'S NEWS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/news.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/news.htm</a>   | 626   | 2.1%   | 602   |
| 14 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - PAPIO DAM SITE 6<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/programs/damsit6.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/programs/damsit6.htm</a>                        | 617   | 2.07%  | 594   |
| 15 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - STAFF<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/staff.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/staff.htm</a>   | 588   | 1.97%  | 567   |
| 16 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/educate/educate.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/educate/educate.htm</a>                   | 573   | 1.92%  | 552   |
| 17 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - JUST FOR FUN<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/just4fun/just4fun.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/just4fun/just4fun.htm</a>                          | 571   | 1.91%  | 546   |
| 18 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - WALNUT CREEK LAKE AND RECREATION AREA<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/walnmap.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/walnmap.htm</a>   | 538   | 1.8%   | 513   |
| 19 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - WATER QUALITY<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/water/water.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/water/water.htm</a>                                     | 519   | 1.74%  | 501   |
| 20 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - PLATTE & ELKHORN RIVER ACCESS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/platte.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/platte.htm</a>             | 435   | 1.46%  | 410   |

|    |   |     |       |     |
|----|---|-----|-------|-----|
| 21 | Untitled Document<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/trails/Liedbridge.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/trails/Liedbridge.htm</a>                                    | 402 | 1.34% | 385 |
| 22 | Rules and Regulations<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/rules.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/walntcrk/rules.htm</a>                                      | 399 | 1.33% | 391 |
| 23 | <a href="http://172.24.17/">http://172.24.17/</a>   | 372 | 1.24% | 260 |
| 24 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/habitat.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/habitat.htm</a> | 349 | 1.17% | 341 |
| 25 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - RURAL WATER SUPPLY<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/water/ruralh20.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/water/ruralh20.htm</a>               | 342 | 1.14% | 334 |
| 26 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - FLOOD CONTROL<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/programs/floodctrl.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/programs/floodctrl.htm</a>            | 341 | 1.14% | 331 |
| 27 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - CHALCO HILLS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/chalcm.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/recreate/chalcm.htm</a>                   | 305 | 1.02% | 297 |
| 28 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - YOUR NRD<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/gm.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/gm.htm</a>                                 | 300 | 1%    | 296 |
| 29 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - NEWS RELEASES<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/release.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/release.htm</a>                        | 273 | 0.91% | 269 |
| 30 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - PROJECT UPDATES<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/projup.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/projup.htm</a>                        | 261 | 0.87% | 256 |
| 31 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - SPECIAL WATERSHED PROJECTS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/water/special.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/water/special.htm</a>         | 256 | 0.85% | 248 |
| 32 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - LINKS TO OUR FRIENDS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/links.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/yournrd/links.htm</a>               | 248 | 0.83% | 232 |
| 33 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - GROUND WATER<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/water/grndh20.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/water/grndh20.htm</a>                       | 236 | 0.79% | 232 |
| 34 | award<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/award.html">http://www.papionrd.org/award.html</a>  | 221 | 0.74% | 210 |
| 35 | <a href="http://www.papionrd.org/programs/Prairie+view.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/programs/Prairie+view.htm</a>   | 217 | 0.72% | 211 |
| 36 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - CALENDAR OF EVENTS<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/calendar.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/calendar.htm</a>                 | 216 | 0.72% | 211 |
| 37 | PAPIO-MISSOURIRIVER NRD - SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION<br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/programs/soilh20.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/programs/soilh20.htm</a>    | 203 | 0.68% | 201 |
| 38 | <b>Board Agenda &amp; minutes</b><br><a href="http://www.papionrd.org/news/agenda1.htm">http://www.papionrd.org/news/agenda1.htm</a>                              | 203 | 0.68% | 200 |



## **Directors' Workshop**

### **“P-MRNRD Paperless Project - Demo”**

**January 7, 2003  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**(prior to the 7:30 p.m. PPO Subcommittee Meeting)**

**All Directors are encouraged to attend!!**

We will be demonstrating how to use lap tops to access the P-MRNRD Directors Policy Manual. We will also preview how future Board and Subcommittee meeting information will be set up and how to access.

If you have been issued a lap top, please bring along to the Workshop. If you have not yet received your lap top, one will be provided for “hands on” training.