



**Programs, Projects & Operations
Subcommittee Meeting
November 8, 2005
8:00 p.m.
Agenda**

Programs, Projects & Operations:

John Conley, Chairman
Rich Tesar, Vice-Chairman
Fred Conley
Rick Kolowski
Joe Neary

Alternate Members:	Dorothy Lanphier	Staff Liaison:	Gerry Bowen
	Jim Thompson		Martin Cleveland
			Ralph Puls
			Dick Sklenar *
			Paul Woodward

1. Meeting Called to Order – Chairperson John Conley
2. Quorum Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Proof of Publication of Meeting Notice
5. Final Report on Biological Surveys and Site Master Plan for Rumsey Station – Jack Phillips and Jerry Toll, Consulting Arborist Group; and Jim Becic
6. Update on USGS Water Quality Samplings – Virginia McGuire, USGS; and Gerry Bowen
7. Request from Village of Arlington for Water Quality Grant of \$350,000 – Steve Oltmans and Representative from City of Arlington
8. Review and Recommendation on Silver Creek Sites 23, 24 and 25 Bids – Terry Schumacher
9. Review and Recommendation on 2006 Long Range Implementation Plan – Gerry Bowen
10. Review and Recommendation on Flood Mitigation Planning and Mapping Assistance Agreement with Village of Homer (Omaha Creek, Dakota County) – Paul Woodward
11. Review and Recommendation on Elkhorn River Easement – Changes to Allbery Tract Easement – Gerry Bowen
12. Adjourn

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

From: Jim Becic

Date: 8 November, 2005

Re: Rumsey Station Biological Surveys and Master Plan Report.

The NRD has recognized the uniqueness of the 50 plus acre Rumsey Station Wetland for a number of years. The site was acquired by the NRD over a decade ago as a part of the West Branch Papillion Creek Channel Project. It is located approximately ½ mile north of Highway 370 in Sarpy County between ~ 54th street to ~ 60th street. The site – while still rather remote and somewhat hidden - is quickly becoming urbanized and will undoubtedly receive more and more pressure for public access for hunting, hiking, biking, environmental education/ teaching opportunities or even simple nature viewing by the encroaching population base.

If public access is allowed without a comprehensive understanding of the site's ecology, even the best intentioned, yet flawed management decisions could destroy the site's uniqueness in a relatively short time.

In order to better understand and quantify Rumsey Station's existing biological and environmental attributes, a team of consultants was hired in 2004, to conduct a comprehensive, four season survey of the area's flora and fauna and to make management recommendations for future uses.

Agenda Item 6

Memo to the Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: US Geological Survey (USGS) Water Quality Monitoring

Date: October 31, 2005

From: Gerry Bowen

As part of the District's Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP), routine monitoring of wells has occurred since 1992. It was determined at that time that the District did not possess enough data to make decisions regarding groundwater management. It was decided to initiate an irrigation well monitoring effort to build a database to help manage groundwater in the District. In 1999, the District established a series of well nests throughout the District to further define groundwater quality. Both programs are described below.

Irrigation Well Monitoring:

In 1992 and with guidance from USGS, the District identified ninety-four (94) irrigation (primarily) wells in five different groundwater areas for monitoring water quality. The groundwater areas are Missouri River, Platte River, Elkhorn River, Upland, and Dakota. Each well is sampled for nitrates (mainly as an indicator) every four years. In addition, some of the wells are tested for a wide variety of parameters. The data is maintained for each well, used for comparison with other wells, and to determine if a water quality problem exists. If a problem is identified, we follow the procedures outlined in the GWMP. USGS also measures the water level in each well as an indicator to see if recharge is keeping up with usage. The network was established in 1992 and sampling has proceeded annually thereafter.

Well Nest Monitoring:

Again to build a data base of water quality and quantity in the District, we established 9 well nests in the groundwater areas listed above (one nest in the Dakota, and two each in the other areas). Each well nest contains two or three wells screened at different levels (shallow, medium, or deep) so that a complete picture of the aquifer can be drawn. Shallow wells sample the upper five feet, medium measures the middle five feet, and deep wells sample the lowest five of the aquifer. This sampling has been occurring for the past six years. Each sample is analyzed for a wide array of parameters on a semi-monthly pattern between April and November.

The sampling and analysis is done by USGS personnel and the costs are shared equally via a cooperative agreement. The NRD share of the costs comes primarily from the Natural Resources Enhancement Fund, which originally was collected by the state from a fee on fertilizer sales.

Ms. Virginia McGuire with USGS will give a brief presentation at the Subcommittee summarizing the 2005 sampling results, as well as a brief summary of the monitoring effort over the past thirteen years.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Village of Arlington Wastewater Treatment Facilities

DATE: November 1, 2005

FROM: Steve Oltmans, General Manager

Last month the Board of Directors was briefed by me and DEQ officials regarding the significant challenge facing the Village of Arlington, NE, for updating their sewage treatment facilities. The current plant is 35 years old and located in the Bell Creek Watershed floodway. In recent years, the sewage treatment facility has had difficulty meeting water quality discharge standards.

The \$350,000 grant request (see attached letter of September, 2005) from the P-MRNRD would help in off-setting the estimated additional cost to regionalize the system by pumping the Village of Arlington sewage to Fremont for treatment rather than rehabilitating the existing treatment plant.

Pumping the Arlington sewage to Fremont would:

1. Remove the existing plant from the floodway.
2. Remove the sewage out fall line from the Elkhorn River.
3. Eliminate the operation and maintenance cost of a treatment plant.
4. Eliminate the cost of training and keeping a certified plant operator.
5. Eliminate major capital cost in 20 years to replace or rehab plant.
6. Provide regionalization of a utility, providing long-range savings to our constituents.

It is the recommendation of the GM that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that a grant of \$350,000 (FY 07 monies) be awarded to the Village of Arlington for construction of a regional sewage line to the City of Fremont and that the GM and Legal Counsel be directed to develop an Interlocal Agreement for said grant.

Agenda Item 8

MEMORANDUM TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Silver Creek Watershed Dam Sites 23, 24 & 25 Construction Bids

DATE: October 31, 2005

BY: Terry Schumacher, Field Representative, Blair FO

On October 26, 2005, District staff opened bids that were submitted for a contract to construct Silver Creek Watershed Dam Sites 23, 24 & 25; the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth of the twenty-four planned erosion control dams in this watershed.

Attached for the Sub-Committee's review is a summary of bids received. Also attached is a map of the watershed showing these 3 dam sites as well as others already built and those to be built in subsequent years.

Specifications for the construction of these three dams require approximately 40,000 cubic yards of earthen fill. The contractor will have until June 30, 2006 to substantially complete the contract.

Based on bids received, Taylor Excavating's bid of \$283,879.26 is the apparent low bid. District staff and Olsson Associates have reviewed the bids submitted and believe that Taylor Excavating is the lowest and best bidder. The engineer's estimate for this project is \$292,299.34. The engineer's estimate does not include items that have been in past bids of these structures, i.e. mobilization, sediment and erosion control. These items are not included in the county cost share docket for EQIP cost share.

These dams are being built with federal funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the P-MRNRD Special Watershed section of the Conservation Assistance Program budget. The original plan called for P-MRNRD to pay 100% of the project. The EQIP cost-share funding for these projects is \$106,919.73. The P-MRNRD will contribute \$176,959.53.

It is the staff's recommendation that the Sub-Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that Taylor Excavating's bid of \$283,879.26 be accepted and that the General Manager is authorized to execute the necessary contract documents.

Agenda Item 9

Memo to the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fiscal Year 2006 Long Range Implementation Plan

Date: October 27, 2005

From: Gerry Bowen

State statutes (see below) require NRDs to prepare and submit a “Long Range Implementation Plan” (LRIP) each year.

“2-3277 - Districts; long-range implementation plans; prepare and adopt; contents; review; filing; department; develop guidelines. Each district shall also prepare and adopt a long-range implementation plan which shall summarize planned district activities and include projections of financial, personnel, and land rights needs of the district for at least the next five years and specific needs assessment upon which the current budget is based. Such long-range implementation plan shall be reviewed and updated annually. A copy of the long-range implementation plan and all revisions and updates thereto as adopted shall be filed with the department, the Governor’s Policy Research Office, and the Game and Parks Commission on or before October 1 of each year. The department shall develop and make available to the districts suggested guidelines regarding the general content of such long-range implementation plans.

Source: Laws 1978, LB 783, §3; Laws 1979, LB 412, §3; Laws 2000, LB 900 §61. Operative date July 1, 2000.”

The LRIP (see attached) is intended to summarize the current year’s budget (revenues and expenditures) in terms of the various programs and projects and the intended accomplishments during the fiscal year. It also projects the financial and personnel needs for these projects and programs for the next five fiscal years. The tables in the back of the document (pages 38-57) summarize these projections.

Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Fiscal Year 2006 Long Range Implementation Plan be approved.

Memorandum

To: PPO Subcommittee
From: Paul Woodward, Water Resources Engineer
Date: October 31, 2005
Re: Flood Mitigation Planning and Mapping Assistance for the Village of Homer

The District received the enclosed request from the City of Homer dated October 3, 2005 for financial assistance from the District to revise their existing floodplain map. An agreement between Homer and the NRD has been drafted and is enclosed for your consideration. Major provisions of this agreement are as follows:

- Homer would contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to perform the study and prepare the revised floodplain mapping per the attached proposal from USGS. Per this proposal, USGS would cost-share \$9,000 on the total cost of the required services of \$25,700.
- The District will cost-share 50/50 with Homer on the remaining project costs not covered by federal or state funding up to a maximum of \$8,500.

In summary, the District would provide financial assistance for 50% of the non-federal and non-state (local) cost up to a maximum of \$8,500 to prepare revised floodplain maps on Omaha Creek within the Village of Homer.

Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the Agreement with the Village of Homer for Flood Mitigation and Mapping Assistance not to exceed \$8,500.

Agenda Item 11

Memo to: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee
Subject: Elkhorn River Project – Changes to Allbery Easement
Date: November 2, 2005
From: Gerry Bowen

In April, 2005, the Board approved a resolution to modify an easement agreement with Lyle Allbery (currently owned by Aaron Graham) for an emergency streambank stabilization project on the Elkhorn River. The action changed the access provisions of the agreement, reducing the access from a blanket easement to three corridors.

The new owners also wish to modify additional portions of the easement agreement as follows:

1. Limit the easement corridor to 250 feet from the bank of the Elkhorn River on the south portion of the property;
2. Limit the easement corridor to 200 feet from the bank of the river on the northern portion of the property;
3. Allow an exception for an existing house in the easement area, and limiting the easement area to 75 feet from the bank of the river;
4. Relieve the NRD from responsibility for damages should the Elkhorn River move outside of the easement area;
5. Prohibits any new structures to be placed in the modified easement area; and
6. Prohibits no increase in the “footprint” of any existing structures in the modified easement area.

Management has determined that the District’s operation and maintenance responsibilities can be adequately performed if these modifications are approved...

It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the modified easement agreement on the Alberry Parcel, subject to minor changes deemed necessary by the General Manager, and accepted as to form by District Legal Counsel.