

**Programs, Projects & Operations
Subcommittee Meeting
October 6, 2009
6:35 p.m.
(or immediately following the Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting)**

Agenda

Programs, Projects & Operations:

John Conley, Chairman
Rich Tesar, Vice-Chairman
David Klug
Rick Kolowski
John Schwope

Alternate Members: Fred Conley
Tim Fowler

Staff Liaison: Gerry Bowen *
Martin Cleveland
Amanda Grint
Ralph Puls
Dick Sklenar

1. Meeting Called to Order – Vice-Chairperson Tesar
2. Notification of Open Meetings Act Posting and Announcement of Meeting Procedure – Vice-Chairperson Tesar
3. Quorum Call
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Proof of Publication of Meeting Notice
6. Review and Recommendation on UNO's Davis Prairie Data Shack Project – Director Klug, Brian Henkel and Dr. Alan Kolok, Director, Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory, UNO
7. Update on Design of the Washington County Service Center – Dick Sklenar and Michael Alley, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture
8. Review and Recommendation on Whitted Creek Professional Services Contract Addendum with CH2MHill – Martin Cleveland and Emily Holtzclaw, CH2MHill
9. Review and Recommendation on Western Sarpy Clear Creek Levee Project – Segment #3 Construction (Fairview Road to Lincoln Road) Irrigation Pivot Relocation – Martin Cleveland

10. Review and Recommendation on Papio Watershed Structure W-3 Construction Bids – Martin Cleveland
11. Review and Recommendation on 2010 Long Range Implementation Plan – Gerry Bowen
12. Review and Recommendation on Bids for District Vehicles – Jean Tait
13. Review and Recommendation on Bids for Silver Creek Site 9 – Terry Schumacher
14. Discussion of Changes to District Programs and Policies – Director Japp
15. Adjourn

MEMORANDUM

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee
From: Brian L. Henkel, Groundwater Management Engineer
Date: September 30, 2009 **Updated: October 6, 2009**
Re: Davis Prairie Data Shack

Dr. Alan Kolok, Director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's (University) Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory requests funding for the construction of an environmental science laboratory on the Elkhorn River. The Davis Prairie Data Shack (DPDS) would be located at the T. L. Davis Prairie on The University of Nebraska Foundation property on 240th Street, South of Q Street (Figure 1). The DPDS would serve as a three season laboratory for real time data collection and distance education.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (District) participates in water quality monitoring of both surface and groundwater as part of District programs. The DPDS would supplement our current programs and give the District an opportunity to assist with the development of a laboratory to research emerging contaminants through state of the art techniques.

The University has indicated that a permanent easement at the DPDS location may be possible for construction of a canoe access point on the Elkhorn River. The District would need to complete further assessment of the location to determine the feasibility and work with the University on the easement prior to proceeding with design of the access point.

- **Staff recommends that the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to enter into an agreement with the University of Nebraska at Omaha to provide 50% cost share on the Davis Prairie Data Shack Project, up to a maximum District contribution of \$60,000, and also work with the University on providing river access to the public at this location, if feasible, all subject to approval as to form by District legal counsel.**

Agenda Item 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Planning & Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Update on Design of New Washington County Service Center

DATE: September 30, 2009

FROM: Ralph Puls & Dick Sklenar

Attached is the finalized floor plan that all parties using the facility agree should be adequate. Meetings were held over the last 2 months with employees from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and District staff members along with the architect (Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture) to address the needs of all parties for this facility. Numerous revisions to the floor plan were made to address most concerns.

The overall floor plan, and the size of the building in general, has been increased to accommodate the tentative move of the NRCS wetland team (currently stationed at Plattsmouth), which consists of 4 additional personnel.

Also included with this memorandum, is draft of what the exterior design of building would look like. Although not all 'green' ideas for the building are as yet defined, some aspects seriously considered are a green roof (consisting of low maintenance plants) which would reduce runoff and provide a serious energy reduction for the facility. Another goal is to capture most, if not all, of the runoff from the entire site and have it transferred and filtered through a rain garden.

The architects will be making a presentation of the work accomplished thus far for comment by Board members before proceeding with further design and mechanical engineering work.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Whitted Creek Stream Restoration Project
Professional Services Contract with CH2MHILL
Scope Changes

DATE: September 30, 2009 **Update: October 6, 2009**

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland, P.E.

In November 2008, the referenced project contract with CH2MHILL was signed. The professional services contract provided for project design, contract administration and construction observation. The project design was completed in May 2009, construction bidding in May-June 2009 and construction started in August 2009.

As a result of actions by other parties (Corps of Engineers), the scope of professional services has changed, as outlined in the attached CH2MHILL letter of September 21, 2009. The out of scope items are: HEC-HMS (Hydrologic) modeling, HEC-RAS (Hydraulic) model delivery delay, preparation of a Flood Risk Reduction Project Report and additional project grant administration and coordination. The cost of this out of scope work is \$20,337.07.

CH2MHILL attempted to absorb the out of scope items into the contract budget, but these items caused the overall professional services contract maximum amount of \$298,560.00 to be exceeded. This item was brought to Board in March 2009 as an informational item (see enclosure).

It is the Management's recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Amendment No. 1 to the professional services contract with CH2MHill for the Whitted Creek Stream Restoration Project, increasing the maximum not to exceed amount of the contract to \$318,897.07.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Project, Programs and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Western Sarpy Clear Creek Levee Project
Segment #3 Construction (Fairview Road to Lincoln Road)
Irrigation Pivots Relocation

DATE: September 30, 2009

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland

The Corps of Engineers design staff have determined that five irrigation (center pivots) units on Glasshoff and Horn properties will be impacted by levee construction on the referenced reach of the project. Enclosed is a location map. Segment #3 levee construction will be bid by the Corps in early October and construction will start as early as November 2009.

The District is responsible, as the local sponsor for all right-of-way acquisitions and relocations. This expense will count toward the District 35% cost share. Federal (Corps) will pay 65% of total project costs.

Enclosed is a proposal from Mid-Continent Irrigation (who installed and maintains the before mentioned pivot systems) for modifying the irrigation systems, so they can operate and not conflict (e.g. run over or sprinkle) with the new broadened levee cross-section for an estimated cost of \$183,135.00. The affected landowners provided “no cost” levee improvement easements over their properties (as much as 200 ft. wide) several years ago. Funding for this relocation work will come from Account No. 03 104430 (West Sarpy Land Rights, of which there is \$1,000,000 remaining as of September 4, 2009.

- **It is the Management’s recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute a contract with Mid-Continent Irrigation for the modification/relocation of five irrigation systems on Glasshoff and Horn properties for the Western Sarpy Clear Creek flood Relocation Project.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Papillion Creek Watershed Structure W-3 Rehabilitation Project Bids

DATE: September 30, 2009

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland

Attached is a location map for the referenced earthen dam rehabilitation project. This project will upgrade a 1983 vintage dam to high hazard classification to reflect development (houses and roads), that are located downstream of the dam.

The bid summary for the rehabilitation project is as follows:

	Total Base Bid	Alternate A	Total Bid
Engineer's Estimate	\$634,093.75	\$47,450	\$681,543.75
Pruss Excavating	\$579,377.90	\$25,550.00	\$604,927.90
Camden Excavating	\$697,334.85	\$52,925.00	\$750,259.85
Thompson Construction	\$688,808.55	\$65,700.00	\$754,508.55
Commercial Contractors	\$734,892.10	\$37,960.00	\$772,852.10
Valley Corp.	\$737,925.94	\$54,750.00	\$792,675.94
Judds Bros.	\$817,211.80	\$54,750.00	\$871,961.80

See attached detailed bid summaries and email from Jason Sall, NRCS, about the Pruss Excavating bid.

Bids were received and the apparent low bidder is Pruss Excavating Company with a total base bid of \$579,377.90, alternate A bid of \$25,550.00 and a total bid of \$604,927.90. The Engineer's Estimate of total is \$681,543.75. Alternate A consists of providing and placing rock riprap on edge of pool (water) along toe of dam slope to protect against wave erosion.

This work will be funded via funds included in (account 03 12 4479). The proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget includes \$3,170,000 in this account. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will reimburse the District for approximately 65% of the total project costs (right of way and construction).

- **It is Management's recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute a contract with Pruss Excavating Company, for a total bid of \$604,927.90 for construction of the Papio Creek Watershed Structure W-3 Rehabilitation Project, contingent on obtaining necessary right-of-way (easements) for the project.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fiscal Year 2010 Long Range Implementation Plan

Date: September 30, 2009

From: Gerry Bowen

State statutes (see below) require NRDs to prepare and submit a “Long Range Implementation Plan” (LRIP) each year. A current LRIP needs to be on file with the state to make the District eligible for certain state cost share programs.

“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 draft LRIP (see attached in redline format) is intended to summarize the current year’s budgeted revenues (Table 7) and expenditures (Table 3) 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.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Fiscal Year 2010 Long Range Implementation Plan be approved.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Purchase of 2010 District Vehicles

DATE: October 1, 2009

FROM: Jean Friends Tait, Purchasing Agent

In conjunction of the approval of the FY 2010 budget, request for bids for the purchase of the following was received and opened on October 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the District's Office. The bid summary sheets are attached for your review. All submitted bids met required specifications.

Staff recommendation is as follows:

Bid Item A – 2010, 7-Passenger Van, Extended Length: The staff recommends that the low and best bid of \$19,770 from Woodhouse Auto Family be accepted with trade-in of the District's 1999, Ford Windstar, serial number 2FMZA5144XBA73833.

Bid Item B – 2010, Mid-Size, AWD, Sport Utility Vehicle, Hybrid: The staff recommends that the low and best bid of \$ \$23,241 from Woodhouse Auto Family be accepted with trade-in of the District's 2003, Ford Explorer, serial number 1FMZU72KX3ZA23445.

Bid Item C – 2010, Compact, Extended Cab, 4WD, Pickup Truck: The staff recommends that the low and best bid of \$17,700 from Woodhouse Auto Family be accepted with trade-in of the District's 1997, Chevrolet S-10, serial number 1GCDT14XXV8147618.

Bid Item D – 2010, ¾ Ton, 4WD, Extended Cab, Pickup Truck w/Tow Package: The staff recommends that the low and best bid of \$14,570.71 from Performance Ford be accepted with trade-in of the District's 2000, Ford F-250, 4WD, Extended Cab, Pickup Truck, serial number 1FTNX21F2YEB79768.

Bid Item E – 2010, 1 Ton, Extended Chassis-Cab, Diesel, Truck: The staff recommends that the low and best bid of \$25,514 from Eck Ford be accepted with trade-in of the District's 2001, Ford F-350, Chassis-Cab Truck with Service Box, serial number 1FDWF37S01EB26067.

The 2010 vehicles come to an expensed total of \$100,795.71 which is within the budgeted amount of \$126,500.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Silver Creek Watershed Dam Site 9 Construction Bids

DATE: September 24, 2009

BY: Terry Schumacher, Field Representative, Blair FO

On September 23, 2009, District staff opened bids that were submitted for a contract to construct Silver Creek Watershed Dam Site 9; the twenty-second dam of the twenty-three 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 the site as well as others already built and those to be built in the future.

Specifications for the construction of this dam requires 17,706 cubic yards of earthen fill. The contractor will have sixty calendar days to complete the contract.

Based on bids received, Jensen Construction D.T. Inc.'s bid of \$53,635.64 is the apparent low bid. District staff and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have reviewed the bids submitted and believe that Jensen Construction D.T. Inc.'s is the lowest and best bidder. The engineer's estimate for this project is \$63,548.72.

Dam Site 9 is 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 this site is \$27,651.00. The P-MRNRD will contribute \$25,984.64.

- **It is the staff's recommendation that the Sub-Committee recommend to the Board of Directors that Jensen Construction D.T. Inc.'s bid of \$53,635.64 be accepted and that the General Manager is authorized to execute the necessary contract documents.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Projects, Programs and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Changes to District Programs and Policies (Director Japp)

DATE: August 3, 2009 Updated: August 14, 2009 and September 15, 2009

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager

At the August 13, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, Director Japp determined that the items crossed off in his memo could be eliminated from further discussion.

Comments in red are those of Director Japp sent in his September 15, 2009 e-mail.

Per an e-mail request from Director Japp on May 28, 2009 the following policy revisions/changes were researched by District staff to determine their impact on the District programs, policies and budget. Each of the District Program Managers, Field Representatives and Program Assistants were asked for their input based upon their direct working relationships with the landowners, conservation contractors and with the NRCS personnel in their respective offices.

Below is a copy of the e-mail from Director Japp and the corresponding response to the inquiry is in bold type right below the question.

John Winkler and Directors

I want on the agenda for next month to debate the following policy revisions.

1. ~~To start the Thursday monthly board meeting at 7 pm.~~
 - ~~A. We start all other meeting at 6.30 pm. There is no need that we cannot start the meeting earlier.~~
 - ~~B. We do not have a board director that needs to travel a long distance to attend this meeting.~~
 - ~~C. All participants would return home at a better time so they can prepare for their daily work.~~
 - ~~D. After 10 pm I lose my ability to make a rational decision.~~

~~This item was addressed at the July Board of Directors meeting when the Board voted to begin Thursday Board of Director's meetings at 7:00 p.m.~~

2. ~~Projects or programs values more than \$200,000 I would like at least a month or more notice before we vote to approve financial funds.~~
 - ~~A. When making a large financial decision I want adequate time to make a decision. Our staff knows weeks if not months in advance of up-coming projects and~~

programs so I want to know as soon as they are notified so we can prepare for upcoming projects.

~~Currently, staff attempts to keep the Board of Directors informed of all projects and programs as soon as possible. If the Board of Directors is ever uncomfortable with a project and/or program or needs more information before approving a project or program the Board, at its discretion, can lay over the agenda item until it is satisfied that all information has been provided and adequately debated. In addition, the Board of Directors approves a yearly budget in which these larger programs and projects would need to be adequately planned and budgeted for during the budget process.~~

3. We need to add to our policy manual to lay out the director's rules and regulations for policy violations.

A. We have not set rules for employees that violation our rules.

B. I want to implement a 3 strikes and you are out rule.

The District currently has a disciplinary procedure policy for all employees that are employed by the District.

Some of the present rules are vague and need improved.

4. A monthly balance sheet to be provided with the monthly financial statement.

A. As running business I need to know where we are at financially. Have a balance statement we can tract were that money is at all time and how much each program doing.

B. It will not take any more time since I am sure our account software should already provide this information.

We are technically able to produce a balance sheet every month. However, we do not close the books every month the same way that we do at the end of the year. Therefore, there is little information on the balance sheet that changes every month – most accounts remain static until the end of the year. The cash accounts are reconciled every month, and we could provide that balance if the board would like.

It is the board's responsibility for the financial operation of the district. Providing monthly bank accounts would be a step.

5. Conservation Assistance Program (17.3)

A. Change 75% cost share to 85% cost share of State average.

Do to the changes in NRCS payment schedule last year the NRD is now funding a less proportion of funding than previous years. This is to do NRCS payment based on a State average and not a local average. This would just put us in par with previous years. Our cost of building structure in our district is much higher than the State.

Increasing the cost sharing rate from 75% to 85% is unnecessary as evidenced by the fact that this fiscal year the District has expended its Conservation Assistance Program budget of \$500,000 and has additional applications for funds that totals more than \$200,000. Over the past ten years, the P-MRNRD has spent \$9.28 million in conservation cost sharing dollars to landowners. Any increase in the cost sharing percentage will result in less conservation work being completed for the same amount

of money expended. An increase in the cost sharing percentage would most like result in a decrease in the amount of USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds that are allocated and spent in the District.

Increasing the cost share rate increases the total conservation work that is completed in a give year. Then pay at the previous rate of county average. It was adequate for the past 8 year why change it now. The NRD can have its own pay schedule. We do not have to have the same as the NRCS.

- ~~—B. Change to cost share limit from \$20,000 per year to \$30,000 per year.~~
- ~~———1. Do to increasing cost and larger farm projects this may hinder future developments. ————— Farmer today wants to improve entire tracts of land.~~
- ~~——— This would accomplish a better overall conservation plan.~~

~~The P-MRNRD has the ability to increase the \$20,000 maximum on an as needed basis if sufficient dollars are available to fund larger projects in order to implement a complete conservation plan on an individual farm.~~

- C. Cost share 50% on DEQ approved livestock waste facilities up to \$1 million.
 - 1. As larger and more CFO are built in our district it would be prudent to provide more assistance in assuring we help this COF meet the DEQ obligations.
By providing a financial incentive we can promote a better environment to the surrounding communities.

The P-MRNRD policy is to cost share only on livestock facilities that existed prior to January 1, 1979, the date that the Department of Environmental Quality made livestock waste control facilities mandatory. The District's rationale for not funding facilities built since then is that the cooperators know of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements and that the waste facilities should be part of the cost of building a livestock feeding facility. There are USDA dollars available to livestock producers through EQIP. The proposal to spend up to \$1 million for a facility would use all of the CAP cost sharing funds at the current funding level.

The NRCS which we participles in their programs are responsible in livestock wastes controls.

As evident to the NRCS reports monthly. We are also interested in water quality. Evident of this is Seldon's letter in the Papio Creek Watershed Management Plan.

- D. Increase the summer conservation payment from \$50 per acres to \$150 per acre.
 - 1. This program is to encourage conservation practice to be implemented in the summer time. At the present time most of the conservation practices are constructed in the fall and consequently not all practices can be completed in the allotted time.

This program was established to enable the NRCS to spread out their work load by being able to design and layout conservation work for construction during the summer months when little conservation work is done. Currently the NRCS and P-MRNRD have sufficient technical assistance personnel available to design and layout conservation work in the fall, winter and spring. However, this program does provide another option or opportunity for landowners to do conservation work during what is a nontraditional time of the year to do construction, and as such should be retained, but at the current payment level of \$50 per acre. As noted earlier, the District has spent an average of \$928,000 per year in cost sharing funds over the past ten years, not

including a substantial amount of Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) cost sharing funds in recent years.

It is nice to know that we have sufficient staff personal. Disbursing the work load only encourages additional conservation to be competed. There are numerous projects that are not complete in a give year because the work season freezes up. How come other NRD have duplicated or summer programs and are paying \$120 per acres. We spent less than 1/50 of our budget on 70% of the total land involved in the district.

2. This amount of \$50 per acre was approved in the 70's. We need to update the amount to reflect the changing times. Other NRD's have increased their amounts to \$120 per acre.

With the success the soil and water conservation cost sharing programs have in getting conservation on the land at the current cost share levels, it is unnecessary to add additional incentives. Should this change, it may be advisable to reconsider the per acre incentive levels.

What is the amount of lands that need conservation practices? Spend dollars of conservation practices is a much more beneficial use of tax payers money than the cost of building large dams on a per acres bases.

E. Increase to payment on buffers strips to \$150 per acre.

1. This may encourage farmer to install and maintain buffer strips.
We are competing with increasing value for the land.

Programs to install buffer strips are available to landowners through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture or through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. Cooperators can receive \$150 per acre or more thorough these programs. Efforts by the District to encourage landowners to install and maintain buffer strips by offering financial incentives have been largely unsuccessful.

The program is base on a 20% increase in the sol type. There is no one in my district receiving a NRCS payment of \$150. How many acres of buffer strips are in the NRD district? What would it cost to increase this payment? Should we do thing to encourage cleaner water?

6. Dike Protection (17.11)

A. ~~We need to assist in all levees and dikes in the entire district. Not just along the Elkhorn, Missouri and Platte River.~~

~~This policy has been utilized very few times over the past 20 years, which indicates that there is apparently not a great demand for such assistance. The policy was geared towards rivers, because a majority of private dikes/levees are located along these rivers. There may be some private levees along streams in the NRD, but a high percentage of them are a spoil bank type levees that is not designed and merely pushed up with equipment or built with spoil from a stream dredging activity. Consequently, the District could be in a position of repairing a non-engineered levee structure. Even though the policy does not include small stream like dikes, the landowner can still approach the NRD Board for consideration and the Board has been receptive to assist in repair projects (i.e. Forest Run Ditch project) that benefit more than one landowner.~~

7. We have an urban stream bank stabilization program (17.17) However we need to encompass the entire district with a similar program. Stream banks in Omaha are no more or less important than any other place in the district.

The Urban Drainage way Program was established to cost share specifically with municipalities to help solve URBAN stream bank erosion. It was a means of funneling tax dollars back to urban areas, the source of the majority of our property tax funds. At the time the District was being criticized for not providing enough funding to the urban areas of the District. The program already applies to the entire District. The District has cooperated with Omaha, Bellevue, Papillion, Ralston, LaVista, Blair, Tekamah, Macy and South Sioux City on projects to solve stream bank erosion and storm water management problems. These projects are quite expensive and can run nearly 2 million dollars per mile. One stream bank erosion project in a rural area was the Elkhorn River IPA (King Lake to Hwy 36). The District received 75% cost sharing from the Resource Development Fund; the District contributed 15% with the remaining 10% paid by the landowners. However, the Resource Development Funds rules have changed thus making these projects uneconomical in the states eyes. This means the NRD would have to foot the entire bill or a great percentage of it to match previous efforts.

We should encourage local land owner to stabilize our stream bank. This would help in not adding additional silt and pollutants into our metropolitan area. The does not require a multi million dollars approach as the Omaha area does. This can be accomplished by building a terrace type structure along the creek. However the NRCS and the NRD does not assist in this type of practice.

8. Well abandonment program.

- A. Increase the cost share rate back up to 75% where it was previously.
- B. Increase the maximum cost share rate to \$750 for domestic drilled wells, —\$1000 for dug wells and \$1,500 for irrigation wells. This reflects current costs.

~~This is a program that helps insure that wells are properly decommissioned to meet State guidelines; landowners are required to do so. The cost sharing rate of 75% was initially used, but the 60% rate was adopted because it provided ample incentive, especially when the proper abandonment of wells is required by law.~~

~~The maximum cost share dollars suggested are higher than the current cost information we have available to us indicates.~~

9. We need have a program similar to Silver Creek project to build small dams within the the entire district.

Cost sharing for small dams is available throughout the District through the Conservation Assistance Program; the cost-share percentage is 75%, the same rate as that provided for other conservation measures. Special Watershed Projects such as the Silver Creek Watershed have been designated as high priority multi -purpose projects (the Pigeon/Jones project is another example of a high priority multi- purpose project) Erosion control dams in Special Watershed areas are built at no cost to the landowner, however, the landowner must provide the land rights needed to build the dam at no cost to the District.

Silver Creek type project are wonderful projects. However it only builds 1 dam in approximately 2 years. There are other watersheds in the district that need the NRD's

attention. If land owners are willing to donate their land for a project then the NRD should go forward in building these structures.

- . 10. The (WHIP) program is schedule to expire this year. We need to reinstate this program. However I propose some changes to make it more acceptable to the public.
 - A. Habitat plan provide to our field office.
 - B. Noxious weeds must be controlled
 - C. No haying or grazing, however they can maintain the site.
 - D. Total acres round to the nearest acre.
 - E. Minimum acres 1, maximum acres 20, per parcel.
 - F. Grass planting must be approved native mix.
 - G. Cost share rate of 75% of seeding of native grass mix. (County or NRD average)
 - H. Failure to comply requires owner to repay or forfeit payment.
 - I. Term of contract a minimum of 10 years, with an option to renew.
 - J. Term of payment of \$50 per acre per year.

Many of the suggestions shown above were the same or similar to those contained in the Game and Parks/P-MRNRD programs, and should be considered if the Wildlife Habitat Program is continued. The Game and Parks Commission and the P-MRNRD shared the costs associated with WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) and its successor, Wild Nebraska. There has been very little interest in this program since the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission eliminated for the most part making annual rental payments to landowners. The current program, The Wild Nebraska Habitat Program, assists landowners with developing habitat but does not pay them an annual rental payment for the acres enrolled in the program. There are other sources of funds available for landowners to establish wildlife habitat such as USDA Conservation Reserve Program practices including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the Wild Life Habitat Improvement Program and the Quail Initiative. The P-MRNRD has programs that will provide cost sharing funds to cooperators for the establishment of permanent vegetation including trees and native grasses. The District has a wildlife habitat practice that was designed specifically for acreage owners. It reimburses landowners for the cost of establishing wildlife habitat on their land and pays the owner \$25 per acre per year for the ten year contract. The District could develop a program of its own if the Board of Directors chose to do so. A number of the suggestions made by Director Japp could be used in the development of a program.

The WHIP program is going to expire in to years. We should cover this program to encourage wild life habit. The CRP programs only cover agriculture land. The program I am wanting this for is for residual acres.

Since we are the administrator for the PCWP want is our system to account for the personal time that they account for toward the PCWP? What is the hourly rate we charge the PCWP?

The District does track the hours of personnel time utilized for the administration of the PCWP. However, the District does not bill the PCWP on an hourly basis.

Why don't we bill out our monthly services to the PCWP as does other agencies?