

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

From: Paul Woodward, Water Resources Engineer

Date: September 8, 2006

Re: Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Stormwater Management Policies

After consideration at the June 2006 Board meeting, the proposed Stormwater Management Policies were tabled for 3 months.

Since June, most of the communities have adopted the proposed Stormwater Policies in their entirety. These communities include Omaha, Papillion, La Vista, Bellevue, and Boys Town along with Sarpy County. However, Douglas County, Elkhorn, Ralston, Bennington, and Gretna are still considering the policies as part of their comprehensive or master plans.

In June, the Board also recommended that additional public input be gathered. A Public Forum was held on Thursday, July 20, 2006, to receive input on the proposed Stormwater Policies. Over 100 people attended the forum which included a presentation and public input period as well as information stations both before and after the meeting. A copy of the attendance list is enclosed for your information. An official meeting transcript of the meeting was recorded and previously distributed.

Public input and concerns raised at the Public Forum and other community and county public meetings, as well as questions posed by other public officials and the Papio NRD Directors are summarized in the enclosed fact sheet. The Fact Sheet describes what the policies “Do” and Don’t Do” and responds to the concerns which were raised.

After considering the actions of the other communities and counties and the concerns expressed, District staff recommends that the Stormwater Management Policies be adopted as an appendix to the District’s Policy Manual. The enclosed District Policy 17.16 includes such amendments for your consideration. In addition, staff has included the following conditions:

- As outlined in Policy Groups 1 and 2, the District intends to implement construction of Regional Detention and Water Quality Basins proposed in the conceptual Watershed Drainage Plan, as deemed necessary by the District and subject to available funding as determined by the District.
- The District will recommend to local zoning jurisdictions that Low Impact/Conservation Development strategies or best management practices be considered on all new development or significant redevelopment.

These conditions clarify that the District will continue to work on implementing Regional Reservoirs and Water Quality Basins provided the Board determines are appropriate and affordable. Furthermore, the District will recommend that all cities and counties require

developers to consider Low Impact Development BMPs that reduce runoff and improve water quality.

Management recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board that the amended District Policy 17.16 - Urban Stormwater Management be adopted to incorporate the proposed Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Stormwater Management Policies.

17.16 District Programs - Urban Stormwater Management Program. The Urban Stormwater Management Program is an authorized program of the District. To promote the health, safety and well-being of the public, it is the present and long range intent of the District to:

A. Serve as a regional coordination and management agency for major urban drainage and flood control systems which are those systems that involve open channels where the drainage area is more than approximately 200 acres. Coordination of actions affecting these systems is necessary to achieve the best possible results in the District.

B. Develop Urban Drainage Master Plans which define policies and outline plans for the development, financing, implementation and continued maintenance of urban drainage and flood control systems in each basin. This will be done with the assistance of and in consultation with other local governmental agencies. The master plan will be presented for adoption to each local governmental agency identified as responsible for implementing all or portions of the plan.

In accordance with this policy, Stormwater Management Policies (hereinafter referred to as the "Policies") were developed through a community-based process known as Watershed By Design involving the development community, Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership members, public agencies, non-profit organizations, other stakeholder groups and the general public. The Policies developed through the WBD process consist of six (6) Policy Groups, headed as follows:

- #1 Stormwater Management Financing
- #2 Peak Flow Reduction
- #3 Pollution Control
- #4 Landscape Preservation, Restoration, and Conservation
- #5 Erosion and Sediment Control and Other BMPs
- #6 Floodplain Management

These Policies are attached hereto as Appendix "S" and incorporated herein by reference, and provide guidance for a comprehensive approach to stormwater quality and quantity, subject to the following:

- As outlined in Policy Groups 1 and 2, the District intends to implement construction of Regional Detention and Water Quality Basins proposed in the conceptual Watershed Drainage Plan, as deemed necessary by the District and subject to available funding as determined by the District.
- The District will recommend to local zoning jurisdictions that all new development or significant redevelopment be required to consider Low Impact/Conservation Development strategies or best management practices.

C. Expect and continue to reply on other local governmental subdivisions (cities, counties and SID's) to continue to develop, finance, implement, operate and maintain urban

drainage and flood control systems that involve enclosed conduits (storm sewers), road crossing and other similar appurtenant systems.

D. Assume responsibility for major urban drainage and flood control systems in the District in accordance with the Urban Drainage Master Plan. For areas where no Urban Drainage Master Plan is currently available, the District will consider the planning, development, improvement, financing, implementation and continued maintenance of existing and proposed improvements to major urban drainage and flood control systems on an individual basis.

E. Expect, concurrent with or prior to assumption of responsibility for an urban drainage and flood control system, that the local subdivision with regulatory responsibility and authority enact for existing and proposed urban development Sediment and Erosion Control ordinances and Stormwater Management ordinances that provide for District review and concurrence of basin development proposals to ensure that they comply with Urban Drainage Master Plans if the District is expected to assume responsibility for any portion of the development plan.

F. Financing of the additional duties and responsibilities envisioned by this policy statement could be through:

1. District general tax levy revenue
2. Stormwater utility fees, and,
3. Federal, state and local funds that may be available to assist the District

(February 7, 1985 resolution, Revised September, 2006).

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #1: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FINANCING

ISSUE: Regulatory requirements for stormwater management and implementation of Stormwater Management Policies intended to accommodate new development and significant redevelopment will impose large financial demands for capital and operation and maintenance beyond existing funding resources.

“ROOT” POLICY: A dedicated, sustainable funding mechanism shall be developed and implemented to meet capital and operation and maintenance obligations as a result of new stormwater management regulations and to implement Stormwater Management Policies to accommodate new development and significant redevelopment.

SUB-POLICIES:

- 1) Adequate funds shall be earmarked by the jurisdictional authority or the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (P-MRNRD) for preparing the Watershed Drainage Plan for siting regional stormwater detention and water quality basin facilities that will enable critical peak flow reduction for flood protection and improved water quality within the Papillion Creek Watershed.
- 2) A Regional Stormwater Detention Fee system shall be established to equitably distribute the capital cost of implementing regional stormwater detention facilities among new development or significant redevelopment within the Papillion Creek Watershed.
- 3) The Regional Stormwater Detention Fee initial framework shall consist of the following provisions:
 - a. Development of a Watershed Drainage Plan for Douglas and Sarpy Counties preliminarily consisting of seven (7) remaining multi-reservoir sites, ten (10) additional regional detention sites, and twelve (12) water quality basins.
 - b. Collection of fees shall be earmarked specifically for construction of regional detention structures and water quality basins.
 - c. Two (2) fee classifications shall be established:
 - 1) “Low-Density Residential Development” (generally consisting of single-family and duplex multi-family dwelling units, or as otherwise determined by the local zoning jurisdiction). Fees shall be assessed on a per dwelling unit or equivalent prorated average area of lot basis.
 - 2) “High-Density Development” (consisting of other multi-family residential dwelling units determined by the local zoning jurisdiction to represent high density development, plus Commercial and Industrial development). Fees shall be assessed on a per developed acre basis and shall be proportionately indexed to “Low-Density Residential Development” in terms of the potential to generate stormwater surface runoff. Unless otherwise determined by the local zoning jurisdiction, “High-Density Development” fees shall be 1.5 times that of “Low-Density Residential Development” when considered on an estimated dwelling unit per developed acre basis.
 - d. Regional Stormwater Detention Fees (private) are intended to account for approximately one-third (1/3) of required capital funds, except as further provided

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

below, and shall be paid to the applicable local zoning jurisdiction with building permit applications.

- e. Regional Stormwater Detention Fee revenues shall be transferred from the applicable local zoning jurisdiction to a special P-MRNRD construction account via inter-local agreements.
- f. The P-MRNRD (public) costs are intended to account for approximately two-thirds (2/3) of required capital funds, including the cost of obtaining necessary land rights, except as further provided below; and the P-MRNRD shall be responsible for constructing regional detention structures and water quality basins using pooled accumulated funds.
- g. The P-MRNRD will seek general obligation bonding authority from the Nebraska Legislature to provide necessary construction scheduling flexibility.
- h. Financing for detention structures and water quality basins may additionally require public-private partnership agreements between the P-MRNRD and developers/S&IDs at the detention structure sites on a case-by-case basis.
- i. On approximately three (3)-year intervals, the Watershed Drainage Plan and Regional Stormwater Detention Fee framework, rates, and construction priority schedule shall be reviewed with respect to availability of needed funds and rate of development within the Papillion Creek Watershed by the parties involved (local zoning jurisdictions, P-MRNRD, and the development community). Subsequent changes thereto shall be formally approved by the respective local zoning jurisdictions and the P-MRNRD.
- j. Additional funding strategies shall be developed and implemented to fund on-going O&M after construction of regional detention and water quality basin facilities.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Stormwater Management Policies. Stormwater management policies developed by the Technical Workgroup and Policy Workgroup that were commissioned by the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership (PCWP) subsequent to the "Green, Clean, and Safe" initiatives developed through the "Watershed by Design" public forums conducted in 2004 and 2005. The following policy groups contain "root" policies and sub-policies for stormwater management that have been developed in addition to the Stormwater Management Financing Policy Group herein:
 - Policy Group #2 – Peak Flow Reduction
 - Policy Group #3 – Pollution Control
 - Policy Group #4 – Landscape Preservation, Restoration, and Conservation
 - Policy Group #5 – Erosion and Sediment
 - Policy Group #6 – Floodplain Management
- 2) Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). A SWMP is a required part of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permits issued to many of the Omaha metropolitan area Papillion

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Creek Watershed Partnership (PCWP) members. Development of Stormwater Management Policies is an integral part of the SWMP, and such policies are to be adopted by respective PCWP partners by the end of year 2 (August 2006) of the permit cycle.

- 3) Comprehensive Development Plans. Existing plans developed by local jurisdictions that serve as the basis for zoning and other land use regulations and ordinances. The Stormwater Management Policies are to be incorporated into the respective Comprehensive Development Plans.
- 4) Policy Implementation. The implementation of the policies will be through the development of ordinances and regulations, in years 3 through 5 of the NPDES permit cycle; that is, by the year 2009. Ordinances and regulations are intended to be consistent for, and adopted by, the respective PCWP members. Such ordinances and regulations shall need to be consistent with the Comprehensive Development Plans of the respective PCWP members.

BASIS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FINANCING ISSUE

- 1) Time is of the essence for policy development and implementation:
 - a) Under the existing Phase II Stormwater Permits issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, permittees must develop strategies, which include a combination of structural and/or non-structural best management practices and incorporate them into existing Comprehensive Development Plans by the end of July 2006.
 - b) The S&ID platting process is typically several years ahead of full occupation of an S&ID. Therefore, careful pre-emptive planning and program implementation is necessary in order to construct regional stormwater detention and water quality basin improvements in a timely manner to meet the purposes intended and to avoid conflicts from land use encroachments from advancing development.
- 2) Financing to meet capital and O&M obligations for stormwater management projects requires a comprehensive, uniformly applied approach and not a project-by-project approach.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #2: PEAK FLOW REDUCTION

ISSUE

Urbanization within the Papillion Creek Watershed has and will continue to increase runoff leading to more flooding problems and diminished water quality.

ROOT POLICY

Maintain or reduce stormwater peak discharge during development and after full build-out land use conditions from that which existed under baseline land use conditions.

SUB-POLICY

- 1) Regional stormwater detention facilities shall be located in general conformance with a Watershed Drainage Plan to be prepared and adopted following appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and shall be coordinated with other related master planning efforts for parks, streets, water, sewer, etc.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Peak Discharge or Peak Flow. The maximum instantaneous surface water discharge rate resulting from a design storm frequency event for a particular hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, as defined in the Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual. The measurement of the peak discharge shall be at the outlet from a downstream regional stormwater detention facility (as defined); or where no downstream regional detention facility exists or is otherwise not proposed to be constructed under a watershed drainage plan, the peak discharge determination shall be relative to the lower-most drainage outlet(s) from a new development or significant redevelopment.
- 2) Regional Stormwater Detention Facilities. Those facilities generally serving a drainage catchment area of 500 acres or more in size.
- 3) Baseline Land Use Conditions. That which existed for Year 2001 for Big and Little Papillion Creeks and its tributaries (excluding West Papillion Creek) and for Year 2004 for West Papillion Creek and its tributaries.
- 4) Full Build-Out Land Use Conditions. Fully platted developable land use conditions for the combined portions of the Papillion Creek Watershed that lie in Douglas and Sarpy Counties that are assumed to occur by the Year 2040, plus the projected 2040 land uses within the Watershed in Washington County; or as may be redefined through periodic updates to the respective County comprehensive plans.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

BASIS FOR INCREASED FLOODING ISSUE

- 1) The levees on the West Papillion Creek System were originally designed for 100-year flood protection under the development conditions that existed at that time. Recent FEMA floodplain remapping efforts indicate that the required 3-foot freeboard for the levees for many segments is being significantly encroached upon under existing development conditions and will be further compromised under full build-out conditions.
- 2) Similar threats most likely exist on the Papillion and Big Papillion Creek Systems; particularly since much of the levee system was originally designed for only 50-year flood protection and for development conditions that existed at that time.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #3: POLLUTION CONTROL

ISSUE: Waters of the Papillion Creek Watershed are impaired.

“ROOT” POLICY: Reduce pollution from contributing sources, including but not limited to, agricultural activities and combined sewer overflows, such that waters of the Papillion Creek Watershed and other local watersheds can meet applicable water quality standards and community-based goals, where feasible.

SUB-POLICIES:

- 1) Protect surface and groundwater resources from soil erosion (sheet and rill, wind erosion, gully and stream bank erosion), sedimentation, nutrient and chemical contamination.
- 2) Preserve, protect, and mitigate wetland areas to improve water quality by minimizing the downstream transport of sediment, nutrients, bacteria, etc. borne by surface water runoff.
- 3) Support NDEQ in an accelerated TMDL development process that addresses potential pollutant sources in a fair and reasonable manner based on sound technical data and scientific approach.
- 4) Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce both urban and rural pollution sources, maintain designated beneficial uses of streams and surface water impoundments, minimize soil loss, and provide sustainable production levels.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS:

- 1) Best Management Practice (BMP). “A technique, measure or structural control that is used for a given set of conditions to manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff in the most cost-effective manner.” *[Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)]*
- 2) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Water quality standards are set by States, Territories, and Tribes. They identify the uses for each waterbody, for example, drinking water supply, contact recreation (swimming), and aquatic life support (fishing), and the scientific criteria to support that use. A TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and non-point sources. The calculation must include a margin of safety to ensure that the waterbody can be used for the purposes the State has designated. The calculation must also account for seasonal variation in water quality. The Clean Water Act, Section 303, establishes the water quality standards and TMDL programs, and for Nebraska such standards and programs are administered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. *[Source: EPA and Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards, Title 117].*

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #4: LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, AND CONSERVATION

ISSUE: Natural areas are diminishing, and there is a need to be proactive and integrate efforts directed toward providing additional landscape and green space areas with enhanced stormwater management through restoration and conservation of stream corridors, wetlands, and other natural vegetation.

“ROOT” POLICY: Utilize landscape preservation, restoration, and conservation techniques to meet the multi-purpose objectives of enhanced aesthetics, quality of life, recreational and educational opportunities, pollutant reduction, and overall stormwater management.

SUB-POLICIES:

- 1) Incorporate stormwater management strategies as a part of landscape preservation, restoration, and conservation efforts where technically feasible.
- 2) Define natural resources for the purpose of preservation, restoration, mitigation, and/or enhancement.
- 3) Encourage the use of low-impact development (LID) strategies to preserve significant natural resources, benefit water quality, and maintain or reduce the volume of surface runoff from baseline land use conditions.
- 4) For new or significant redevelopment, provide a Creek Setback (3:1 plus 50 feet) along watercourses as defined within the Watershed Drainage Plan for the Papillion Creek Watershed.
- 5) Any watercourse associated with new or significant redevelopment shall be placed into an outlot or within public right of way or otherwise approved easement and shall require a minimum Creek Setback width of 3:1 plus 20 feet.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Low-Impact Development (LID). A land development and management approach whereby stormwater runoff is managed using local controls to achieve a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that promote infiltration, filtration, storage, evaporation, and temporary detention close to its source. Management of such stormwater runoff sources may include open space, rooftops, streetscapes, parking lots, sidewalks, medians, etc.
- 2) Baseline Land Use Conditions: That which existed for Year 2001 for Big and Little Papillion Creeks and its tributaries (excluding West Papillion Creek) and for Year 2004 for West Papillion Creek and its tributaries.
- 3) Creek Setback. See Figure 1 below and related definitions in Policy Group #6: Floodplain Management. A setback area equal to three (3) times the channel depth plus fifty (50) feet (3:1 plus 50 feet) from the edge of low water on both sides of channel shall be required for any above or below ground structure exclusive of bank stabilization structures, poles or sign structures adjacent to any watercourse defined within the watershed drainage plan. Grading, stockpiling, and other construction

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

activities are not allowed within the setback area and the setback area must be protected with adequate erosion controls or other Best Management Practices, (BMPs). The outer 30 feet adjacent to the creek setback limits may be credited toward meeting the landscaping buffer and pervious coverage requirements.

A property can be exempt from the creek setback requirement upon a showing by a licensed professional engineer or licensed landscape architect that adequate bank stabilization structures or slope protection will be installed in the construction of said structure, having an estimated useful life equal to that of the structure, which will provide adequate erosion control conditions coupled with adequate lateral support so that no portion of said structure adjacent to the stream will be endangered by erosion or lack of lateral support. In the event that the structure is adjacent to any stream which has been channelized or otherwise improved by any agency of government, then such certificate providing an exception to the creek setback requirement may take the form of a certification as to the adequacy and protection of the improvements installed by such governmental agency. If such exemption is granted, applicable rights-of-way must be provided and a minimum 20 foot corridor adjacent thereto.

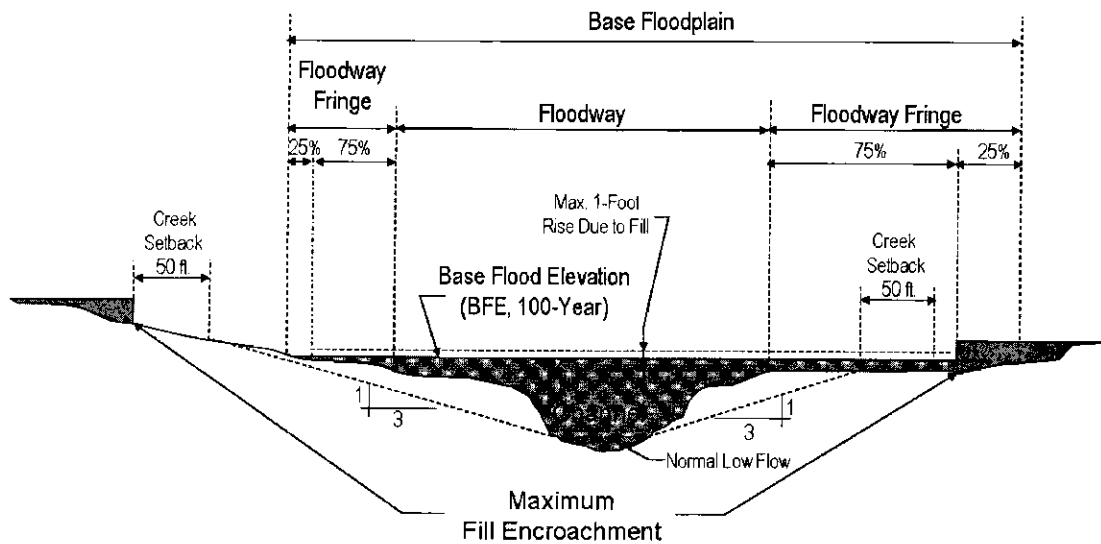


Figure 1 – Floodway Fringe Encroachment and Creek Setback Schematic

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #5: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND OTHER BMPs

ISSUE: Sound erosion and sediment control design and enforcement practices are needed in order to protect valuable land resources, stream and other drainage corridors, and surface water impoundments and for the parallel purpose of meeting applicable Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality regulatory requirements for construction activities that disturb greater than one acre.

“ROOT” POLICY: Promote uniform erosion and sediment control measures, including the adoption of the Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual and by implementing consistent rules for regulatory compliance pursuant to State and Federal requirements.

SUB-POLICIES:

- 1) Construction site stormwater management controls shall include both erosion and sediment control measures.
- 2) The design and implementation of post-construction, permanent erosion and sediment controls shall be considered in conjunction with meeting the intent of other Stormwater Management Policies.
- 3) Sediment storage shall be incorporated with all regional detention facilities where technically feasible.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Erosion Control. Land and stormwater management practices that minimize soil loss caused by surface water movement.
- 2) Sediment Control. Land and stormwater management practices that minimize the transport and deposition of sediment onto adjacent properties and into receiving streams and surface water impoundments.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

POLICY GROUP #6: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: Continued and anticipated development within the Papillion Creek Watershed mandates that holistic floodplain management be implemented and maintained in order to protect its citizens, property, and natural resources.

“ROOT” POLICY: Participate in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, update FEMA floodplain mapping throughout the Papillion Creek Watershed, and enforce floodplain regulations to full build-out, base flood elevations.

SUB-POLICIES:

- 1) Floodplain management coordination among all jurisdictions within the Papillion Creek Watershed and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (P-MRNRD) is required.
- 2) Flood Insurance studies and mapping throughout the Papillion Creek Watershed shall be updated using current and full-build out conditions hydrology.
- 3) Encroachments for new developments or significant redevelopments within floodway fringes shall not cause any increase greater than one (1) foot in the height of the full build-out base flood elevation using best available data.
- 4) Filling of the floodway fringe associated with new development within the Papillion Creek System shall be limited to 25% of the plan area directly adjacent to the full-build out base flood limits, unless approved mitigation measures are implemented to protect upstream, adjacent, and downstream properties. For redevelopment, these provisions may be modified or waived in whole or in part by the local jurisdiction.
- 5) The low chord elevation for bridges crossing all watercourses within FEMA designated floodplains shall be a minimum of one (1) foot above the base flood elevation for full-build out conditions hydrology using best available data.
- 6) The lowest first floor elevation of buildings associated with new development or significant redevelopment that are upstream of and contiguous to regional dams within the Papillion Creek Watershed shall be a minimum of one (1) foot above the 500-year flood pool elevation.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS (See Figure 1 below and related definitions in Policy Group #4: Landscape Preservation, Restoration, and Conservation).

- 1) Base Flood. The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in magnitude in any given year (commonly called a 100-year flood). *[Adapted from Chapter 31 of Nebraska Statutes]*
- 2) Floodway. The channel of a watercourse and the adjacent land areas that are necessary to be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot. *[Adapted from Chapter 31 of Nebraska Statutes]*. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides further clarification that a floodway is the central portion of a riverine floodplain needed to carry the deeper, faster moving water.

- 3) Floodway Fringe. That portion of the floodplain of the base flood, which is outside of the floodway. *[Adapted from Chapter 31 of Nebraska Statutes]*
- 4) Floodplain. The area adjoining a watercourse, which has been or may be covered by flood waters. *[Adapted from Chapter 31 of Nebraska Statutes]*
- 5) Watercourse. Any depression two feet or more below the surrounding land which serves to give direction to a current of water at least nine months of the year and which has a bed and well-defined banks. *[Adapted from Chapter 31 of Nebraska Statutes]*
- 6) Low Chord Elevation. The bottom-most face elevation of horizontal support girders or similar superstructure that supports a bridge deck.
- 7) Updated Flood Hazard Maps. The remapping of flooding sources within the Papillion Creek Watershed where Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) are based on 2004 or more recent conditions hydrology and full-build out conditions hydrology. West Papillion Creek and its tributaries are currently under remapping and will become regulatory in 2006. Updating flood hazard maps for Big Papillion Creek and Little Papillion Creek are planned to be completed in the future.
- 8) New Development. New development shall be defined as that which is undertaken to any undeveloped parcel that existed at the time of implementation of this policy.

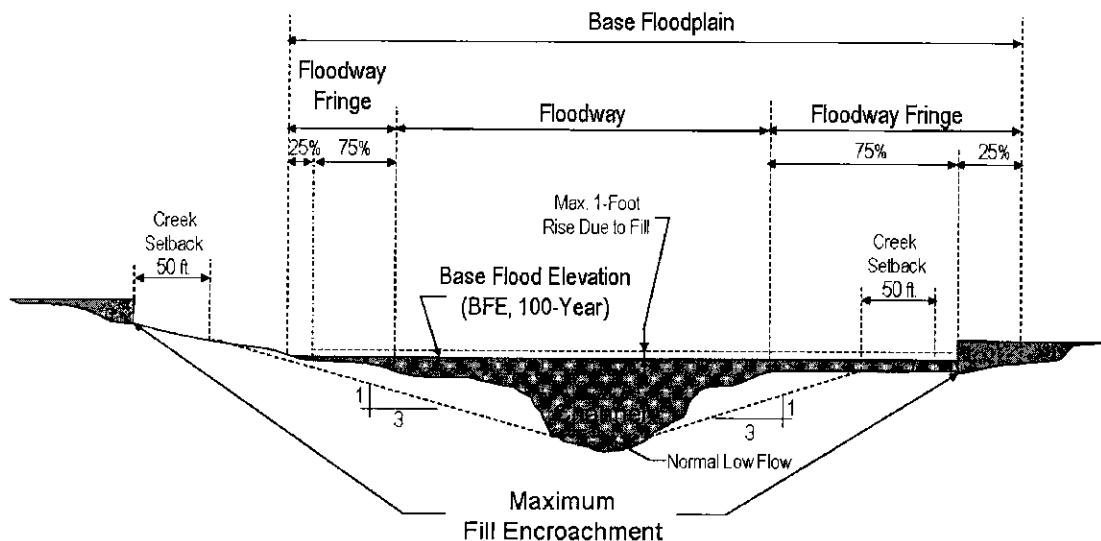


Figure 1 – Floodway Fringe Encroachment and Creek Setback Schematic

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

BASIC FEMA REQUIREMENTS

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In order for a community to participate in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, it must first define base flood elevations and adopt a floodway for all its major streams and tributaries. Once a community adopts its floodway, the requirements of *44 CFR 60.3(d)* must be fulfilled. The key concern is that each project in the floodway must receive an encroachment review; i.e., an analysis to determine if the project will increase flood heights or cause increased flooding downstream. Note that the FEMA regulations call for preventing any increase in flood heights. Projects, such as filling, grading or construction of a new building, must be reviewed to determine whether they will obstruct flood flows and cause an increase in flood heights upstream or adjacent to the project site. Further, projects, such as grading, large excavations, channel improvements, and bridge and culvert replacements should also be reviewed to determine whether they will remove an existing obstruction, resulting in increases in flood flows downstream. *[adapted from Federal Emergency Management Agency guidance]*

UPDATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY FACT SHEET



This Fact Sheet is intended to supplement information found in the previous fact sheet and policies and to respond to concerns raised by the general public, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources (P-MRNRD) Directors, and other elected officials. A majority of the concerns recently expressed related to the proposed plan for Regional Stormwater Detention Basins as a means to reduce peak discharges (runoff) within the Papillion Creek Watershed (Watershed).

What the Policies Do:

- Acknowledge continued growth and development within the Watershed. It is estimated that the Watershed in Douglas and Sarpy Counties will be fully developed by the year 2040. With new development, stormwater runoff and downstream flooding will increase unless flood control strategies are implemented.
- Provide a consistent and comprehensive approach to stormwater management throughout the Omaha Metropolitan Area by addressing both surface water quality and stormwater quantity issues.
- Satisfy requirements of local cities' and counties' NPDES Stormwater Permits.
- Reflect input gathered from 6 public meetings and a cooperative effort from a broad cross section of diverse technical and policy stakeholders through 14 meetings over a period of 15 months.
- Direct local stormwater managers to guide new development or significant redevelopment based upon recommended policies and the Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual.
- Include a conceptual plan for Regional Stormwater Detention and Water Quality Basins to detain sediment and control both small and large storm events. Additional public input and technical information is necessary prior to completing a final plan.
- Provide a framework for a conceptual financing strategy involving building permit fees and NRD taxes.
- Will require additional study and local government approvals prior to implementing the fee system.

What the Policies Don't Do:

- Commit any Papio Partnership entity to collect fees or construct any specific regional reservoir or water quality basin. Future ordinances and interlocal agreements must be approved by each governmental entity prior to the implementation of a fee system.
- Provide general obligation bonding authority to the P-MRNRD. P-MRNRD has and continues to seek Nebraska legislature approval on bonding authority. Bonding would provide the necessary financing for timely construction of Regional Stormwater Detention and Water Quality Basins.
- Increase eminent domain authority. The P-MRNRD currently has the ability to use eminent domain.
- Allow land to be condemned and then transferred to a developer. In most cases, land will be purchased as development occurs, typically by a developer, much as the case with new suburban parks and roads.
- Rely on stormwater detention as the only stormwater strategy to maintain or reduce water quantity. An effective stormwater program uses a variety of "tools" to manage stormwater. Tools include conveyance (channel or pipe), storage (reservoirs), runoff controls (conservation measures, low impact development, wetlands) and nonstructural measures (floodplain regulations and property buyouts).

PARTNERS

Bellevue
Papillion

Bennington
Ralston

Boys Town
Douglas County

Elkhorn
Sarpy County

Gretna

La Vista
Papio-Missouri River NRD

Omaha

Summary of Questions and Responses

1. What is required by the NPDES permit (Federal Mandate)?

- The NPDES Permit's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) requires the development of policies which include best management practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for the watershed
- Proposed policies need to be incorporated into each zoning jurisdiction's comprehensive or master plan by August 1, 2006
- If this August 2006 deadline is not met, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality would determine if an individual municipality or county is non-compliant and may assess daily fines.

2. How was public input gathered and used during the Policy Development Process?

- A series of "Watershed by Design" public forums were held with "Green, Clean, and Safe" initiatives as the underlying theme. A number of stormwater management concepts were introduced based on research of various watershed management efforts across the nation, and the public responded with comments, questions, and a ranking of priorities within each initiative.
- Input from the public was subsequently used to provide direction to both the Technical Workgroup and the Policy Workgroup, who then "packaged" the various concepts into 6 broad groups of policies, along with implementation priorities.
- Upon the completion of the Workgroup efforts, the draft policies were again presented to the public during 2 public forums (March 2, 2006 and July 20, 2006) to receive additional comments. These public comments are posted out on the Partnership's website, www.papiopartnership.org.
- According to Donna Garden, NDEQ NPDES Permit Supervisor, the Partnership has met its requirements under their NPDES Permit and NDEQ's regulations. In addition, she noted that 40 CFR 122.34 part (2) ii is only guidance from EPA encouraging public and volunteer participation.

3. Where do the policies apply?

- Most stormwater policies apply within the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of each municipality as well as Douglas and Sarpy County's ETJ.
- A proposed Drainage Plan for Regional Detention Basins has only been prepared for the Papillion Creek Watershed in Douglas and Sarpy County. Adjacent watersheds would need to meet a "no-net" increase in runoff from each individual development under Policy Group No. 2.
- Regional Stormwater Detention Fees would only be collected within the Papillion Creek Watershed.

4. What are benefits of regional vs. local detention?

- Regional detention sites are designed for managing both water quantity and quality. They can provide a "no net increase in runoff," and can effectively control flooding downstream by detaining much of the 100-year flood volume. The Technical Workgroup realized that Regional Detention also provides control over the timing of peak flows within the receiving drainage system, such that coinciding peak flows from other sub-basins are largely avoided.
- Local detention sites, on the other hand, may provide water quality benefits, but at best are only designed to maintain the existing 100-year peak flow rate to pre-development conditions. Local Detention is not able to actually reduce flooding downstream. This is because local detention sites generally lack the ability to sufficiently detain the large flood volumes for sufficient lengths of time, and depending on their location, resultant peak flows from other sub-basins may coincide and exacerbate the flooding situation. Please see the attached diagrams showing the difference in Regional vs. Local Detention.
- Water quality benefits are realized in regional detention and water quality basins as the sediment laden pollutants are trapped within the pool areas. Such structures have appropriate sediment storage volumes allocated in addition to flood storage volumes.

- The proposed Drainage Plan for regional stormwater detention basins is intended to conceptually control 30,000 acres of drainage with 17 sites. Assuming each local detention basin would only control 40 acres of drainage, it would take over 700 local detention basins within the same 30,000 acres. The use of local detention sites as an alternative to a regional system would likely consume more land and result in higher capital costs.
- The Policy Workgroup realized that operation and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities for local detention are typically borne by the development (SID) until they are annexed by the local city, and then they become a tax burden. Regional detention facilities would also be operated and maintained by local government, but because there are 29 basins instead of 700 or more, O&M efforts and costs are more centralized and the burden on local taxes should be less.
- The City of Lincoln has required local detention in the past only to maintain pre-development runoff rates. They have required that local homeowner's associations maintain the basins, but are now finding out that these associations rarely have the resources to do so. This usually forces the City of Lincoln to inspect and maintain the basins.
- Based on information provided by HDR Engineering to the workgroups, the City of Des Moines has experienced problems with local detention similar to Lincoln. As a result, they have completed a watershed plan which calls for constructing 10 regional stormwater detention structures for both flood protection and water quality enhancement.

5. How will Low Impact (Conservation) Development be used in conjunction with Regional Detention?

- Many Low Impact Development techniques are outlined and encouraged in Policy Group # 4. These techniques will work in conjunction with Regional Detention to improve water quality and reduce the total volume of runoff from development sites.
- For instance, creek setbacks provide relatively flat, undisturbed areas where BMPs such as wetlands, bio-retention swales, buffer strips, etc. can be used to trap pollutants and promote infiltration before runoff reaches creeks and streams.
- In addition, the Partnership has been involved in Low Impact Development education for homeowners as well as developers. This education promotes the use of simple activities such as using rain barrels to hold roof runoff or landscaping beds in parking lots to promote infiltration.
- However, the workgroups concluded that even if Low Impact Development techniques could maintain the existing runoff rates and volumes, there would still be a need for regional detention basins to control downstream flooding.

6. Aren't Dams and Reservoirs "Old Technology"?

- Dams and Reservoirs similar to those proposed in the Regional Stormwater Drainage Plan have been used for decades to control upstream runoff from flooding downstream areas. This "Old Technology" has been proven effective is the only alternative that will reduce 100-year flood flows by 90% at the outlet of each structure.
- All other alternatives previously discussed are only designed to control flood events up to the 10-year storm. However, most of them are primarily focused on even smaller, more frequent storm events.
- Comprehensive stormwater management combines "New Technology" such as Low Impact Development techniques with "Old Technology" like flood control reservoirs in order to manage all types of potential storms.

7. Why weren't dry Regional Detention or Water Quality Basins considered?

- Dry Regional Detention and Water Quality Basins were considered by the Workgroups. However, based on the fact that wet basins (lakes) provide better sediment and associated pollutant detention, Regional Detention and Water Quality Basins were recommended to be wet.
- The land needs and costs are not significantly different for dry basins vs. wet basins.
- Wet Basins (lakes) also provide additional public green space and recreational opportunities that add to the "quality of life".

- Upon future study and consideration, dry detention may be considered for proposed Regional Detention or Water Quality Basins.
8. What are the impacts of Operation and Maintenance?
- The proposed Regional Stormwater Detention Sites will require on-going operation and maintenance similar to the existing flood control reservoirs around the Omaha Metropolitan Area.
 - Typical maintenance at these sites for the dam itself only requires minimal mowing, woody vegetation removal, and annual inspection for needed repairs. This typical maintenance is usually less than \$5,000 per year for each site.
 - The Natural Resource Development Guidelines suggest an annual maintenance cost of 0.75% of the estimated construction cost. For most of the proposed sites, this would amount to an average annual O&M cost of \$15,000 for a \$2,000,000 structure. The difference in these estimates is likely due to larger repairs needed during the life of the structure, such as future concrete repairs and sediment removal.
 - Sediment removal, similar to that of Cunningham Lake, is typical for recreational reservoirs and can be better managed today by small upstream sediment detention structures. The periodic sediment removal from such small sites would be less costly in the long run. Also, neither of the annual costs cited above include maintenance of recreational facilities surrounding the lake.
9. How was the lot fee and cost-share determined?
- The \$500 residential lot fee and the 1/3 private cost share were based on a comparison of the total project costs, the “ability to pay”, the amount of undeveloped land in the Papillion Creek Watershed in Douglas and Sarpy county, and the average number of homes built each year.
 - Implementation of the fee will require each city or county to pass an enabling ordinance, as well as to agree through Interlocal Agreements to transfer that fee to the NRD for use in implementing the Watershed Drainage Plan.
 - The Fee and Watershed Drainage Plan will be reviewed and possibly amended on 3-year intervals.
10. Why weren’t individual landowners impacted by the proposed Regional Detention or Water Quality Basins informed?
- The conceptual Drainage Plan map was prepared at the request of the Workgroups as a very preliminary means to quantify the potential number of basins needed and estimate the capital funds required in order to arrive at a proposed Regional Stormwater Detention fee system.
 - The number of landowners that could be potentially affected is still uncertain until further technical analysis for the hydrology and hydraulics of the various sub-basins is conducted and other options are fully evaluated.
 - The workgroups assumed that much of the land needed for these conceptual Regional Detention Basins will be obtained by the NRD from developers and that development would acquire these parcels of land regardless of whether basins are built. This procedure provides several benefits to the NRD and the local landowner. It allows the local landowner to receive development prices for their ground while potentially reducing the amount of land and funds needed for the reservoir once grading for both the development and the dam are completed.
11. How, when, and for how much will land be acquired?
- It is anticipated that land for regional detention and water quality basins will be acquired when urban development creates a need for the project.
 - Land will be purchased by the developer before public right-of-way is acquired for a regional detention or water quality basin. The value of the land paid by the NRD will be the current fair market value.
 - In those rare instances where development has not already acquired land necessary for detention in a developing drainage basin, the NRD will work with the landowner to negotiate a fair price.

Condemnation will only be used as a last resort and can only be used for land needed directly for a specified public use.

12. Is general obligation bonding required?

- The need for general obligation (G.O.) bonding authority is dictated by the amount of time it will take to generate the required revenue to pay for the capital costs of the Regional Detention and Water Quality structures that were conceptually identified in the Watershed Drainage Plan.
- These policies only recommend that the NRD seek G.O. bonding authority to provide flexibility in the timing of construction for detention structures. The workgroups felt that G.O. bonding was the most viable means to allow orderly development and Regional Detention or Water Quality basin construction to proceed simultaneously.
- For instance, structures will likely need to be constructed within the next 20 years, whereas the proposed Regional Detention Fees and public funding are currently planned over the next 40 years.
- Other funding alternatives would likely be considered if this authority is not granted by the Nebraska State Legislature.

13. How do other policies address water quality and local BMPs?

- Almost all the policies address water quality in some fashion. For instance, providing for creek setbacks will allow for additional green space and areas to install best management practices, such as wetlands or buffer strips. “Low impact” development concepts will also be recommended within each development. The updated Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual provides details of numerous water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be utilized, including undisturbed infiltration areas, grassed buffers, and wetlands.

14. Why are Dam Sites 1 and 3C not part of the Watershed Drainage Plan?

- The development of Dam Sites 1 and 3C located in northern Douglas County and in Washington County are not included in the draft Watershed Drainage Plan, but are being studied by the P-MRNRD as a separate project.

Next Steps

- Jurisdictions need to adopt and incorporate stormwater policies, ordinance/regulations and the Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual with the understanding that there will need to be:
 - Additional public involvement and additional approvals by elected officials.
 - Additional technical data on some of the potential detention sites and water quality basins.
 - An appropriate implementation strategy determined
 - Coordination with development and the logical extension of infrastructure

UPDATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY FACT SHEET



This Fact Sheet is intended to supplement information found in the previous fact sheet and policies and to respond to concerns raised by the general public, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources (P-MRNRD) Directors, and other elected officials. A majority of the concerns recently expressed related to the proposed plan for Regional Stormwater Detention Basins as a means to reduce peak discharges (runoff) within the Papillion Creek Watershed (Watershed).

What the Policies Do:

- Acknowledge continued growth and development within the Watershed. It is estimated that the Watershed in Douglas and Sarpy Counties will be fully developed by the year 2040. With new development, stormwater runoff and downstream flooding will increase unless flood control strategies are implemented.
- Provide a consistent and comprehensive approach to stormwater management throughout the Omaha Metropolitan Area by addressing both surface water quality and stormwater quantity issues.
- Satisfy requirements of local cities' and counties' NPDES Stormwater Permits.
- Reflect input gathered from 6 public meetings and a cooperative effort from a broad cross section of diverse technical and policy stakeholders through 14 meetings over a period of 15 months.
- Direct local stormwater managers to guide new development or significant redevelopment based upon recommended policies and the Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual.
- Include a conceptual plan for Regional Stormwater Detention and Water Quality Basins to detain sediment and control both small and large storm events. Additional public input and technical information is necessary prior to completing a final plan.
- Provide a framework for a conceptual financing strategy involving building permit fees and NRD taxes.
- Will require additional study and local government approvals prior to implementing the fee system.

What the Policies Don't Do:

- Commit any Papio Partnership entity to collect fees or construct any specific regional reservoir or water quality basin. Future ordinances and interlocal agreements must be approved by each governmental entity prior to the implementation of a fee system.
- Provide general obligation bonding authority to the P-MRNRD. P-MRNRD has and continues to seek Nebraska legislature approval on bonding authority. Bonding would provide the necessary financing for timely construction of Regional Stormwater Detention and Water Quality Basins.
- Increase eminent domain authority. The P-MRNRD currently has the ability to use eminent domain.
- Allow land to be condemned and then transferred to a developer. In most cases, land will be purchased as development occurs, typically by a developer, much as the case with new suburban parks and roads.
- Rely on stormwater detention as the only stormwater strategy to maintain or reduce water quantity. An effective stormwater program uses a variety of "tools" to manage stormwater. Tools include conveyance (channel or pipe), storage (reservoirs), runoff controls (conservation measures, low impact development, wetlands) and nonstructural measures (floodplain regulations and property buyouts).

Summary of Questions and Responses

1. What is required by the NPDES permit (Federal Mandate)?

- The NPDES Permit's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) requires the development of policies which include best management practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for the watershed
- Proposed policies need to be incorporated into each zoning jurisdiction's comprehensive or master plan by August 1, 2006
- If this August 2006 deadline is not met, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality would determine if an individual municipality or county is non-compliant and may assess daily fines.

2. How was public input gathered and used during the Policy Development Process?

- A series of "Watershed by Design" public forums were held with "Green, Clean, and Safe" initiatives as the underlying theme. A number of stormwater management concepts were introduced based on research of various watershed management efforts across the nation, and the public responded with comments, questions, and a ranking of priorities within each initiative.
- Input from the public was subsequently used to provide direction to both the Technical Workgroup and the Policy Workgroup, who then "packaged" the various concepts into 6 broad groups of policies, along with implementation priorities.
- Upon the completion of the Workgroup efforts, the draft policies were again presented to the public during 2 public forums (March 2, 2006 and July 20, 2006) to receive additional comments. These public comments are posted out on the Partnership's website, www.papiopartnership.org.
- According to Donna Garden, NDEQ NPDES Permit Supervisor, the Partnership has met its requirements under their NPDES Permit and NDEQ's regulations. In addition, she noted that 40 CFR 122.34 part (2) ii is only guidance from EPA encouraging public and volunteer participation.

3. Where do the policies apply?

- Most stormwater policies apply within the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of each municipality as well as Douglas and Sarpy County's ETJ.
- A proposed Drainage Plan for Regional Detention Basins has only been prepared for the Papillion Creek Watershed in Douglas and Sarpy County. Adjacent watersheds would need to meet a "no-net" increase in runoff from each individual development under Policy Group No. 2.
- Regional Stormwater Detention Fees would only be collected within the Papillion Creek Watershed.

4. What are benefits of regional vs. local detention?

- Regional detention sites are designed for managing both water quantity and quality. They can provide a "no net increase in runoff," and can effectively control flooding downstream by detaining much of the 100-year flood volume. The Technical Workgroup realized that Regional Detention also provides control over the timing of peak flows within the receiving drainage system, such that coinciding peak flows from other sub-basins are largely avoided.
- Local detention sites, on the other hand, may provide water quality benefits, but at best are only designed to maintain the existing 100-year peak flow rate to pre-development conditions. Local Detention is not able to actually reduce flooding downstream. This is because local detention sites generally lack the ability to sufficiently detain the large flood volumes for sufficient lengths of time, and depending on their location, resultant peak flows from other sub-basins may coincide and exacerbate the flooding situation. Please see the attached diagrams showing the difference in Regional vs. Local Detention.
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PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Stormwater Management Policies

Stormwater management policies for the Papillion Creek Watershed and other local watersheds have been developed by the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership and its members. These management policies are intended to meet stormwater management regulatory requirements called for by the federally-mandated Clean Water Act and, very importantly, to also address the “**Green, Clean, and Safe**” initiatives under the “Watershed by Design” theme - developed in coordination with and support by the Omaha By Design citizens advisory group.

Policies have already been adopted by six government subdivisions following a great deal of citizen involvement. The policies are being considered by three cities, Douglas County and the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District.

These policies address the issues of maintaining clean water, protecting life and property from flood damage, providing public recreation areas in eastern Nebraska, and it does all of this in a cost-efficient way with reduced cost to current property taxpayers.

Reducing Pollution in Storm Water Run-off: The proposed policies promote varied and effective low-impact development measures such as buffer strips, wetlands, bioswales and runoff infiltration areas that would reduce sediments and other pollutants entering local streams and lakes. The policies also include additional measures, such as stormwater detention projects, that will help control and trap sediment pollution in our stormwater while offering increased flood protection within the watershed. The proposed policies will extend the life and effectiveness of current water detention facilities, providing even more value for the taxpayer's dollar.

Protecting Lives and Property from Flood Damage: As governmental units, our first priority must be protecting the safety of human life and property. Rapid development in eastern Nebraska has already put the Papillion Creek Watershed at increased risk of flooding. These policies will mitigate those issues, as well as address storm water run-off from future development. These policies put in place the necessary stormwater detention and floodplain management practices to protect an urban area with a projected 750,000 people and billions in residential and commercial property value from flooding and flood damage repair in the future.

Providing Public Recreation Areas and Green Space: The demand for additional water recreation areas is evident from the high usage of our current facilities (more than a million visits per year). The stormwater detention projects proposed in this policy – similar to Walnut Creek, Wehrspann or Zorinsky lakes – will provide the public with several new facilities as development occurs, population rises and the demand for these types of resources increases.

Reducing Costs to Property Owners and Taxpayers: The new policies would provide a cost-savings for property owners and taxpayers through reduced damage from flooding and fewer dollars required for disaster assistance. The policies also include a funding formula for the new projects where private partners will assume a significant portion of the cost of these new facilities. This will reduce the amount of government dollars necessary to pay for these projects and lessen the burden on current property taxpayers.

Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Members:

Cities of Bellevue, Bennington, Boys Town, Elkhorn, Gretna, LaVista, Omaha, Papillion and Ralston
Douglas and Sarpy Counties, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District