

WSF 2020 ANNUAL REPORT #5187

(Nebraska Bostwick Storage Enhancement and Retiming Project)

This report is the third annual report since the application for this project was awarded funding.

Rubicon crews finished installing all gate structures from the Harlan County Reservoir down to the end of the Franklin Canal before the 2019 water season. The weather was detrimental all summer to allow completion of the entire project, mainly getting all the gates under Total Canal Control (TCC). This involves the computer being able to control all gates and we needed customers to turn on and off to allow this to happen. With the extremely wet conditions, we were not delivering any water. All the gates were finished to the point that the NBID employees were able to operate the gates manually during the 2019 water season as well as getting a few gates under computer control.

The Rubicon computer server and technical equipment are in place in the Red Cloud office. Radio antennas and radios are all installed at the Red Cloud and Franklin offices to relay information to and from each gate site. One problem they ran into was being able to communicate with the gates closest to the Reservoir. This was due to the topography of the land. Rubicon will be installing, at their own expense, a 100' tower at the Franklin office to overcome this problem.

The Coronavirus has affected this project as well, due to the fact that their employees are not allowed to travel. Once the ban is lifted, they will be here to finish up their work. Currently, the plan calls for all of the \$3.2 million to be used in 2020.

Once the Franklin Canal is diverting water, the TCC tuning will occur and Rubicon will work with NBID for as long as it takes for our employees to operate and fine-tune the system.

Tracy Smith, Manager NBID

April 9, 2020