

WSF 2022 ANNUAL REPORT #5187

(Nebraska Bostwick Storage Enhancement and Retiming Project)

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

This project has encountered several major problems since its inception. 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. However, getting all the gates under Total Canal Control (TCC) did not occur again in 2021. This involves the computer being able to control all gates and several of the sites that were utilizing under-shot gates instead of flume gates would not allow the TCC to operate correctly. In 2020, after many days, and nights, the Rubicon team and Bostwick agreed that to get the system to operate correctly, the under-shot gates would need to be replaced with flume gates. Rubicon agreed to do this at their expense. We finished out the water season manually and the Bostwick employees began preparing the structures to fit the new flume gates. However, due to the Covid pandemic and all the major shipping problems, only about one-half of the gates were in place at the start of the 2021 water season. After water season, the rest of the gates have been installed and will be programmed and calibrated at the start of the 2022 season. Hopefully, the system can be brought under TCC control and the project finalized. The Board of Directors of the District decided to withhold the final payment due until the project is finished. Rubicon was notified and understood the Board's position. The Corona virus has again affected this project as well, due to the fact that their employees were not allowed to travel. Once the ban was lifted, however, shipping delays once again caused the project to be fully completed.

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 including the new 100' tower in Franklin, to relay information to and from each gate site.

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. In 2021, even operating the system manually, there was a noticeable drop in the amount of water the canal was losing and wasting out the end of the canal. It will be exciting to see the outcomes of all the hard work and effort.

Tracy Smith, Manager NBID

March 25, 2022