

NEBRASKA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE

OCTOBER, 1976

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund Act of 1974 created a fund to assist in the wise development of Nebraska's land and water resources. The Act delegates responsibilities to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and to an Advisory Board, composed of state agency representatives from eight state agencies. Those agencies are:

Department of Economic Development
State Office of Planning & Programming
Department of Water Resources
Game & Parks Commission
Conservation and Survey Division, UNL
Department of Agriculture
Department of Environmental Control
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Advisory Board & Commission Activities

The prime function of the Advisory Board is to determine project eligibility for Resource Development Fund assistance. The Board has also been delegated to determine the type of project assistance appropriate for specific projects, grants, loans, or a combination thereof. To aid in accomplishing these tasks, the Advisory Board has adopted Rules and Regulations and project completion guidelines.

Since the initial progress report of August 26, 1974, the Advisory Board has held six public informational meetings throughout the state. In order to arrive at state-wide input to the Rules and Regulations, meetings were held at Ogallala, Bassett, Scottsbluff, Hastings, Norfolk and Lincoln.

On December 17, 1974, the Advisory Board and the Natural Resources Commission held a joint public hearing on the Rules and Regulations of the Development Fund in the Lincoln Center Building, 5th Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska. The hearing was held open, to receive comments from the public, until January 15, 1975. On January 22, 1975, in joint session at North Platte, Nebraska, the Advisory Board and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission adopted the Rules and Regulations of the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The Rules and Regulations were approved by the Attorney General on February 24, 1975 and were filed on February 25, 1975.

In order to make the Rules and Regulations more compatible with the Law, they were revised in July, 1975, and a joint public hearing between the Advisory Board and the Natural Resources Commission was held on August 21, 1975. The changes were adopted and filed with the Attorney General on August 25, 1975.

Since the Development Fund has been operating as a fund, the following project proposals and applications have been received and action taken:

PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND
FOR ASSISTANCE

BUFFALO CREEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project is sponsored by the Central Platte Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on January 26, 1976 and requested 75% of total estimated cost of \$1,370,000 or a request of \$1,027,500. The project, as envisioned, will control runoff from uplands (approximately 75,000 acres) of the watershed by the installation of floodwater retarding structures. The Advisory Board has advised the applicant to proceed with application and feasibility report.

CRYSTAL LAKE PROJECT APPLICATION

Sponsored by Adams County Board of Supervisors. The project application was received on December 9, 1975, and requested \$80,625 of Development Fund assistance. The project involves re-development of a recreation lake and construction of a levee to protect it from flooding. The Advisory Board recommended funding of the project. The Natural Resources Commission accepted that recommendation. In so doing, the Commission allocated seventy-five percent or up to \$80,625 for the construction of the Crystal Lake Project. Total project cost of \$215,000 is to be provided by the Development Fund, \$107,500 from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and \$26,875 from the combined efforts of Adams County, the Little Blue NRD, Ayr Bicentennial Committee and local contributions.

CUB CREEK PROJECT APPLICATION

Sponsored by the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District. Application was received on May 12, 1976 and requested \$67,575 from the Fund. Further finding involves \$147,000 from the State Department of Roads, \$22,525 of NRD and local funds. The project consists of a re-location of Highway 12 and includes a road structure with a permanent recreation pool of about 35 acres. The Advisory Board recommended funding and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission allocated the amount requested for the project.

DAVID CITY PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District. The project proposal was received May 3, 1976, and requests \$982,162. The project principally consists of stormwater drainage for David City and flood control for those areas downstream. At this time the District is re-evaluating the project at the recommendation of the Advisory Board.

MASKENTHINE PROJECT APPLICATION

In the 1975 Report, it was noted that the project had been allocated funds up to \$300,000. The project was completed in September of this year. Grass seedings are complete, the arboretum is established with about thirty-five different species of trees (to be expanded), the lake contains about fifteen feet of water and is stocked with Fingerling Bass, Catfish and Bluegill. Habitat development is outstanding. Final payment will be made in the near future. Funding involved the Development Fund, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Funds, NRD and local contributions.

MC COOK PROJECT APPLICATION

Sponsored by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The Application was received on October 18, 1976 and requests \$489,774 from the Fund. The remainder of the total \$653,032 will be made up by the NRD, Red Willow County and the City of McCook. The project involves construction of two dry structures above the City of McCook, on the drainage from the northeast and northwest, for the purpose of flood control. Action by the Advisory Board is scheduled for November.

MISSOURI RIVER LEVEE - R-616 PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Papio Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on February 18, 1975, and requested \$180,000 in the form of a grant. The project is to construct a levee from Bellevue to the Platte River along the Missouri River on the Nebraska boundary. Because of the land acquisition aspect of the project, the Advisory Board referred the sponsors to the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund. They were also notified that an application could follow after going through that fund. There has been no further action since May, 1975, except that the project was deemed eligible under the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.

OLIVER DAM PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the South Platte Natural Resources District. The project proposal was received on December 15, 1975 and has requested \$275,000 from the Development Fund. The project will reconstruct the structure at Oliver Reservoir and insure recreation in that area. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsor proceed with the application and feasibility report. An engineering firm has been acquired and is presently working on that application.

RAWHIDE CREEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on July 8, 1976 and has requested \$584,500. The project presently includes a flood water structure and channelization for diversion of flood waters from the City of Fremont. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsor proceed with application and feasibility report. An engineering firm is presently working on the application.

SARGENT IRRIGATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Sargent Irrigation District. The proposal was received on October 13, 1976, and requests \$77,775 from the Development Fund. The project consists of construction of a holding pond designed to furnish water to downstream users by storage and release. The Advisory Board has not taken action other than to distribute the proposal to the committee for review.

SILVER CREEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Central Platte Natural Resources District. The proposal was received January 26, 1976 and requests an estimated \$1,987,500. The project is for flood control in a multi-purpose project to develop water conservation, pollution and siltation control, drainage, and wildlife habitat enhancement. The Advisory Board has advised the applicant to proceed with application and feasibility report.

SUMMIT LAKE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Middle Missouri Tribes Natural Resources District. The proposal was received April 23, 1976 and requests \$331,687. Summit Lake (Tekamah-Mud Creek Watershed Structure 5-A) is a portion of the watershed project; it will create flood control, erosion and sediment control and will provide recreation facilities. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsor proceed with application and feasibility report.

WALNUT CREEK PROJECT APPLICATION

Sponsored by the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District. The application was received on January 7, 1976 and requests \$230,817. The project consists of five watershed structures designed for flood control and provide limited recreation. The sponsor is presently updating the project.

WATER SUPPLY PROJECT PROPOSAL (DOUGLAS & WASHINGTON CO.)

Sponsored by the Papio Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on February 18, 1975 and requested \$647,350 in the form of a loan and/or a grant. The project is to provide a drinking water supply system to areas just north of Omaha and possibly to the Village of Fort Calhoun. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsors obtain full F.H.A. funding prior to submitting a final application. The Board has also determined that the project is eligible for a loan, but not a grant. There has been no further action since May 16, 1975.

WILLOW CREEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on July 15, 1975, and actual amount of funds have not been requested. The project proposal is for the construction of a flood control and recreation structure and area on Willow Creek in Pierce County. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsor proceed with Phase II of project proposal steps. At completion of Phase II, the Board will receive a report of project progress.

PROJECTS NOT FUNDED BY THE
NEBRASKA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND

CENTRAL PLATTE GROUND WATER/NITRATE PROJECT PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION

Sponsored by the Central Platte Natural Resources District. The project proposal was received April 3, 1975 and requested \$96,350 in the form of a grant. The project proposal is to provide funds to advance a study of the high nitrate problems along the Platte Valley. Application of the study and its findings are assumed to be state-wide in scope, especially with the new emphasis on ground water drinking supplies. Funding for the project will be via the Section 208 (P.L. 92-500) Non-Point Source Planning for Water Quality Control Program. Project was withdrawn from the Development Fund by the sponsor.

HANSON'S LAKE INQUIRY

Submitted by Sarpy County Board of Commissioners. The inquiry was requesting funds to strengthen a dike adjacent to the Platte River; no funds actually requested; the Advisory Board recommended that the sponsor submit a proposal. The sponsor was cautioned that no funds could be allocated or committed unless the project was in conformance with L.B. 108, the Flood Plain Law of 1967 and the Corps of Engineers dredging and filling permit qualifications. No further action has been directed to the Development Fund.

WATER SUPPLY PROJECT APPLICATION (THAYER & JEFFERSON CO.)

Sponsored by the Little Blue Natural Resources District. The project application was received on April 4, 1975 and requested \$137,000 in the form of a grant. The project is to supply a rural water system for 130 benefit users. The Advisory Board recommended to the Commission that the project was eligible for a loan and not a grant. The Commission voted to uphold that recommendation and the applicant sponsor was so informed. The sponsor re-applied to FmJ.A. and received the necessary funding in the form of a grant and has withdrawn the application.

WHITNEY WATER IRRIGATION SUPPLY LINE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Sponsored by the Whitney Irrigation District. The project proposal was received on April 7, 1975 and requested \$19,500 in the form of a grant. The project is to fund a feasibility study for future application to the Bureau of Reclamation to refurbish the Whitney Irrigation Project. The Advisory Board advised the Commission that a feasibility study of this nature is ineligible for funding under the Rules and Regulations of the Development Fund. However, after the total project is funded, those costs not federally supported may be eligible for Development Fund assistance. The Commission voted to disapprove eligibility at that time, and the sponsors were so notified. No further action through the Development Fund has occurred on this project to date.


WINTERS CREEK PROJECT APPLICATION

Sponsored by the North Platte Natural Resources District and Scotts Bluff County. The proposal was received on October 31, 1975, and requested \$375,000 in the form of a grant. The project was for construction of a dry dam on Winters Creek for flood control and for construction of a drainage bypass ditch around the north fringe of Scottsbluff. Due to lack of public support for the project, the sponsors have withdrawn the project from the Development Fund.


FUNDING EXPENDITURES

Three Projects:	Maskenthine	-	\$300,000
	Cub Creek	-	67,575
	Crystal Lake	-	80,625

have been allocated funds. Disbursement of funds will follow completion of work elements as performed.



Dayle E. Williamson
Executive Secretary
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission



Donis Petersan
Chairman
Development Fund Advisory Board