

NEBRASKA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE

August, 1975

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.

Projects Submitted to the Development
Fund for Assistance

Winters Creek Project Proposal

Sponsored by the North Platte Natural Resources District and Scotts Bluff County. The proposal was received on January 16, 1975 and requested \$652,900 in the form of a grant. The project is 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. The Advisory Board referred the proposal to the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund because of the land acquisition aspect of the project. Sponsors are to follow with an application at a later date. Several meetings have since been held with the sponsors of 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 communication with the sponsors since May 16, 1975.

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 communication since May, 1975, except that the project was deemed eligible under the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.

Maskenthine Multi-Purpose Project Application

Sponsored by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. The application was received on March 6, 1975 and requested \$303,000 in the form of a grant. The application is to provide funds for the construction of the structure for the Maskenthine flood control and recreation project. The application was revised and resubmitted on May 14, 1975. The Advisory Board has studied the application in depth and is assured that the findings of fact have been satisfied. The Board recommended to the Commission the following action:

1. Recommend approval of the Maskenthine Flood Control and Recreation Project for funding eligibility.
2. Recommend that the funding take the form of a grant.

3. Recommend that the degree of assistance for a grant be 75% of the construction costs not to exceed \$300,000. (Based on a letter from the Soil Conservation Service dated May 12, 1975 stating that construction costs would total \$400,000).

The Natural Resources Commission at the August 21, 1975 meeting, voted to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Board. In so doing, the Commission allocated seventy-five (75) percent or up to \$300,000 for the construction of the Maskenthine Multi-Purpose structure. These are the first funds to be allocated by the 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. The Advisory Board requested that the sponsor submit an application and assess the costs and other avenues of funding before that submission. The full application and feasibility report was received on July 24, 1975 and revised to request \$86,250 in the form of a grant. At this time, the Advisory Board has not taken formal action on the project application.

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. To date, no request for a loan has been received of the Fund.

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 has been taken on this project to date.

Walnut Creek Project Proposal

Sponsored by the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District. The project proposal was received on April 7, 1975 and requested \$240,000 in the form of a grant. The project is designed to provide five flood control structures on the Walnut Creek Watershed situated just above the town of Crete. The Advisory Board has recommended that the sponsor submit an application and feasibility report. At this time, no further action has been directed to the Fund.

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.

Willow Creek Project Proposal

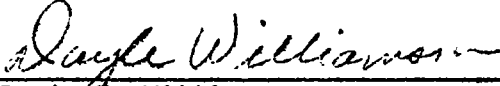
Sponsored by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. The proposal was received on July 15, 1975, an actual amount of funds have not been requested. The project proposal is for the construction of a flood control and recreation structure and area on Willow Creek in Pierce County. The proposal is referred to the Advisory Board Committee for review. No other action has been taken by the Advisory Board.

McCook Flood Control Project Proposal


Sponsored by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The proposal was received August 18, 1975 and requests \$346,150 in the form of a grant. The project is for construction of two flood control structures above the City of McCook to provide flood and sediment damage reduction to public and private facilities. The proposal is referred to the Advisory Board Committees for review. No other action has been taken by the Advisory Board.

Funding Expenditures

As stated under the Maskenthine Multi-Purpose Project Application Section, \$300,000 has been allocated for that project. Disbursement of funds will follow completion of work elements as performed.



Dayle E. Williamson
Executive Secretary
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission



Vincent H. Dreeszen
Chairman
Development Fund Advisory Board