

NEBRASKA
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
FUND



SEPTEMBER

1979
annual
report

to the

GOVERNOR and LEGISLATURE

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PREPARED BY THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

NEBRASKA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE

September, 1979

In Nebraska, agriculture is a dynamic industry. Its technology and economics change constantly. Within this framework, the Nebraska Resources Development Fund has grown to a point where it is able to play a dominant role in the management, development, and preservation of the state's land and water resources.

The costs of conserving and developing the state's water and related land resources have continued to rise due to inflation. The costs associated with conquering these problems which have plagued Nebraskans for generations are indicative of that spiraling rise. Presently, and more so in the near future, the federal share of project costs on which the state has depended so heavily has shown definite signs of decreasing. Federal policy tends to favor those projects in which the state and local interests are willing to participate most actively.

If much headway is to be made against soil erosion, for land development for that which it is suited, and toward further expansion of the amenities that constitute the "good life", the base of support for this comprehensive program must expand. More understanding and participation is needed from all people in the state: Farmers, ranchers, landowners, environmentalists, state legislators, rural people, and urban people.

An up-to-date set of guidelines have been developed to aid potential project sponsors in the preparation of project proposal and applications. To more fully utilize the Fund as designed, the first priority assessment has been completed. Funds obligated to those "priority" projects are set forth herein.

The annual status report is arranged by (1) Funded Projects; (2) Non-Funded Projects; and, (3) Completed Projects.

FUNDED PROJECTS:

BUFFALO CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

It is designed as a flood control project and will control runoff from about 75,000 acres in the Central Platte River Basin north by northwest of Lexington. The project consists of a series of thirteen (13) flood control

structures (dams) that will control flood waters and reduce flood damages. The project was authorized grant funds on September 15, 1977; that allocation was for 75% of the local cost of project construction, or more specifically, \$1,509,270. Total cost of the project is \$2,012,360, which means that the local agency's share (25%) is \$503,090. Four structures have been completed. Others are to be constructed this fall. The sponsor has been reimbursed \$98,193.49.

BUFFALO CREEK EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Papio Natural Resources District

The project will assist in controlling accelerated erosion on 16,400 acres in Sarpy County. Watershed problems consist of flooding, erosion of stream banks and crop lands, and sedimentation. The project was a portion of the Southern Sarpy P.L. 566 Project. Project sponsors expected a total cost of \$256,000 and requested 75% of said cost or \$192,000. Latest bid estimates indicate that the cost may be about sixty-five percent higher.

CLATONIA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL & RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District

The Clatonia Creek Project (Structure 3-A) is a flood control and recreation structure in the P.L. 566 Watershed Program. It is one of eight flood water retarding structures and will control runoff and erosion on 2,596 acres of land. The structure will be built on 155 acres of which 44 acres will be in permanent water for recreation. The project was obligated \$152,561.25 for construction and recreation development, which is 75% of the local cost. Total project cost is \$391,750. The project sponsors have been reimbursed \$82,188.52 for land acquisition.

CLEAR CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

A grant of \$274,575 has been awarded to the sponsor agency for the construction of five flood control structures. These structures, by reducing volume and velocity of runoff water, will provide protection to roads, bridges, and crop land. Total project cost is \$366,100. Three of the structures are nearing completion and reimbursement will be forthcoming in the near future.

CRYSTAL LAKE RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Adams County Board of Supervisors

The project, located by Ayr, Nebraska, is almost completed. Remaining work includes final grading and seeding. The project was allocated funds in may of 1977 and consisted of re-development of a recreation lake and construction of a protective levee. The sponsors requested, and were granted, \$80,625 for construction of the project. Project total cost was

set at \$215,000; \$107,500 of this amount is to be contributed by federal agency programs and the remaining \$26,875 from Adams County, the Little Blue NRD, Ayr Bicentennial Committee, and local contributions. Sponsors have been reimbursed \$63,967.21 and have a total of \$16,657.79 remaining.

MC COOK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Middle Republican Natural Resources District

This flood control project consists of two dry dams, constructed on the drainage areas north and northwest of the City of McCook. The project was allocated funds in May of 1977 with construction to begin during the fall of 1978. Total project cost was originally estimated at \$685,730, with the Nebraska Resources Development Fund furnishing \$512,000 as a grant and local interests (NRD, City of McCook, and Red Willow County) supplying \$173,730. Any possible change in project cost will be assumed by local interests. Sponsors have been reimbursed \$257,494.96 for work on two bridges and one of the structures.

OLIVER RESERVOIR RECREATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: South Platte Natural Resources District

The sponsor requested and was granted (September 15, 1977) \$808,500 for re-construction of the principal structure on the Oliver Reservoir. Flood control, for the area below the structure, will be supplied by the project as will an outdoor recreation area. Since that time, increased construction cost of the project has elevated the total project. Subsequently, an additional amount was granted, bringing the total grant to \$963,500. Sponsors have thus far been reimbursed a total of \$227,779.68.

PRAIRIE CREEK SNAGGING & CLEARING PROJECT

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

The project combines snagging and clearing operations to provide a clean floodway along a wooded portion of Prairie Creek in central Nebraska. The sponsor has been obligated a grant \$243,975 for project construction. The project is to be completed this coming winter (1979). Sponsors have been reimbursed \$5,561.43.

RAWHIDE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

The project sponsors are assisted by the City of Fremont and Dodge County. Through the use of a flood control structure and channel re-alignment, the sponsors intend to protect the City of Fremont from periodic flooding by Rawhide Creek. Project sponsors have requested \$1,115,275 for the project. The Natural Resources Commission has allocated that amount and has obligated \$940,269.75 toward project components. Local agencies will pay \$371,755 of a total project cost of \$1,487,030. Sponsors have been reimbursed \$45,380.85 for initial design and engineering.

SCHOOL CREEK FLOOD CONTROL, IRRIGATION & GROUNDWATER RECHARGE
PROJECT

Sponsor: Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District

The initial structure, which is located northeast of Sutton, will be monitored to determine feasibility of constructing the remaining portions of the project. A loan (the first through the Development Fund) of \$154,482 and a grant of \$187,143 have been assigned to the project from the Development Fund. Total cost of structure number three is \$406,500 of which the immediate local cost is \$118,878 - repayment of loan will be set up over a 50-year time span or shorter period if agreed upon by both the sponsor and the state.

SILVER CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

The project is to provide adequate dispersal of rainwater from the flat valley lands in the Silver Creek drainage area. The project consists of restructuring the Silver Creek system to allow for proper removal of storm water by construction of a low flow channel. Sponsors requested \$2,178,635 as a grant for the project. The Commission allocated \$1,954,950 as a grant and \$545,598 as a loan. The sponsors have rejected use of the loan at this time. The sponsors are presently obligated \$113,797.12 for the first stages of the project.

SOUTH FORK 2-A FLOOD CONTROL & RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Nemaha Natural Resources District

The Nemaha NRD has requested \$168,525 to assist in construction of structure 2-A of the South Fork Watershed (Nemaha River) P.L. 566 Plan. This structure has been designated as the recreation structure in the watershed plan. The structure will be located about 2½ miles west of DuBois in Pawnee County. The primary purpose is for flood control with the recreation aspects that the structure will support. Total cost is \$665,000 of which \$440,300 will be cost-share funds from the Soil Conservation Service, with the local share being \$56,175. The sponsors were obligated \$168,500 for land acquisition and construction.

SUMMIT LAKE FLOOD CONTROL & RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Middle Missouri Natural Resources District

Summit Lake, otherwise known as structure 5-A of the Tekamah-Mud Creek Watershed Plan is located about three miles west of Tekamah. The project is the recreation structure associated with the P.L. 566 Watershed Program. The structure is one of fifteen proposed for the watershed and will provide flood control on 10,112 acres. The project was allocated funds for construction on April 13, 1978, in the form of a grant for \$410,325. These funds are added to \$136,775 from local interest and \$873,800 of federal funds making a project total of \$1,420,900. Sponsors have been reimbursed \$170,221.43.

WALNUT CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District

Five flood control structures are to be constructed to provide control for the area east, northeast of Crete and within Crete, Nebraska. Sponsored by the Lower Big Blue NRD, this project will provide flood retarding runoff control on 6,700 acres. The project was allocated a \$286,945.50 grant for construction. One structure will be used for primitive recreation. The sponsors (City of Crete and Saline County) will split the remaining twenty-five percent, making a total project cost of \$385,622. The project sites 1, 2, and 5 are under construction, and land rights acquisition is proceeding on the remaining two structures. Sponsors have been reimbursed \$55,925.61.

WAUNETA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sponsor: Upper Republican Natural Resources District

The project is located west of Wauneta in Chase County and consists of three flood control structures (dams) and a short levee system that will serve to protect the community of Wauneta from flood waters. The sponsors requested \$405,666 for construction of the project over a two-year time period. The total project cost is \$541,000. Sponsors were obligated \$260,685 and have been reimbursed \$42,862.97. Project future may be changed due to increased cost.

WILLOW CREEK RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

Requested funds are for land acquisition, construction, and development of a major recreation structure in northeast Nebraska near Pierce. The structure would provide a recreation lake of 615 acres along with 1,115 acres of associated recreation lands. Sponsors have requested \$4,000,000 and have presently been allocated \$3,016,125 with \$450,000 of that amount obligated for expenditure.

WOOD RIVER SNAGGING & CLEARING PROJECT

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

Sponsored by the Central Platte NRD, the project combines snagging and clearing operations on Wood River to remove trees and debris in order to decrease the flood potential of that river. Project sponsors have requested and were obligated a grant of \$87,150 to perform the snagging and clearing operations. Total cost of the project is \$116,200 and is to be completed this fall and winter (1979).

STATUS OF
FUNDING EXPENDITURES ALLOCATED,
OBLIGATED, EXPENDED, & REQUIRED

| APPROVED PROJECTS | COMMISSION ALLOCATION | AMOUNT OBLIGATED | AMOUNT EXPENDED | PROJECT COMPLETION FUNDS REQUIRED |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Buffalo Creek (CPNRD) | 1,509,270.00 | 869,250.00 | 98,193.48 | 640,020.00 |
| Buffalo Creek (PNRD) | 192,000.00 | 99,183.75 | ----- | 92,816.25 |
| Caltonia Creek | 152,561.25 | 152,561.25 | 82,188.52 | ----- |
| Clear Creek | 274,575.00 | 274,575.00 | ----- | ----- |
| Crystal Lake | 80,625.00 | 80,625.00 | 63,967.21 | ----- |
| McCook | 512,000.00 | 512,000.00 | 257,494.96 | ----- |
| Oliver Reservoir | 963,500.00 | 963,500.00 | 227,779.68 | ----- |
| Prairie Creek | 243,975.00 | 243,975.00 | 5,561.43 | ----- |
| Rawhide Creek | 1,115,275.00 | 940,269.75 | 45,380.85 | 175,005.25 |
| School Creek | 341,625.00 | GRANT 187,143.00 | ----- | ----- |
| | | LOAN 154,482.00 | ----- | ----- |
| Silver Creek | 1,954,950.00 | 113,797.12 | ----- | 2,064,837.88 |
| South Fork 2-A | 168,500.00 | 168,500.00 | ----- | ----- |
| Summit Lake | 410,325.00 | 410,325.00 | 170,221.43 | ----- |
| Walnut Creek | 286,945.50 | 286,945.50 | 55,925.61 | ----- |
| Wauneta | 405,666.00 | 260,625.00 | 42,862.97 | 145,041.00 |
| Willow Creek | 3,016,125.00 | 450,000.00 | ----- | 2,566,125.00 |
| Wood River | 87,000.00 | 87,000.00 | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL | 11,714,917.75 | 6,254,757.37 | 1,049,576.14 | 5,683,845.38 |
| | | | COMPLETED PROJECT TOTAL: | 482,203.98 |
| | | | COMPLETED TOTAL EXPENDED: | 1,531,780.12 |

UNFUNDED PROJECTS:

BIG SANDY SURFACE WATER PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Little Blue Natural Resources District

The project is sponsored by the Little Blue NRD and includes development of the 408,000 acre Big Sandy Watershed. The project will look at the needs for water supply for supplemental irrigation, groundwater recharge, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat development. Big Sandy Creek originates just east of Hastings and flows to the Little Blue River below Alexandria. Sponsors anticipate a total cost of about \$10,700,000 with a request from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund of \$6,487,500 as a grant and \$1,537,500 as a loan with total local costs of \$2,675,000. This project is still in the proposal stage, although the sponsor had indicated that the project application is almost completed.

CENTRAL BUTLER WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (APPLICATION)

Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District
Butler County
David City

Project purposes are to divert storm water away from and out of David City to eliminate standing water from ditches and to better utilize the runoff water. The application request is for a \$565,620 grant from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The remaining \$188,540 would be divided by local groups commensurate to the amount the project affects their entities. The project has just been approved by the Advisory Board and will be forwarded to the Natural Resources Commission at the next monthly meeting.

HOLT CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District

The project is located in Holt County and is to be constructed to reduce flood damages on the flat pasture and hay lands, roads and bridges, and farm buildings and equipment on the lower reaches of Holt Creek. The sponsors at this time are asking for \$43,125 from the Development Fund for project construction. Sponsors have been advised to proceed with the application and feasibility report.

LOST CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (APPLICATION)

Sponsor: City of Columbus

The project envisions that a diversion channel would be built which would intercept and divert flood flows from Lost Creek to the Loup Power Canal. A training levee installed at the upstream end of the diversion channel would direct flows into the diversion channel. The channel would be designed to accommodate the 100-year flood. The highest level of flood protection would be provided to the area north of Columbus with the degree of protection decreasing in areas to the east and southeast. Sponsors have requested \$946,375 for assistance in the construction of the project and the associated recreation development. The project is under review by the Advisory Board.

MINNECHADUZA CREEK SEDIMENT & EROSION PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

The project, located north and west of Valentine in Cherry County, would be designed to control urban and rural storm water runoff to provide protection for a portion of Minnechaduza Creek stream bank and to rehabilitate Minnechaduza Lake. Project sponsors estimate that the total cost will be about \$1,880,000 and are presently re-evaluating the project.

OGALLALA WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Twin Platte Natural Resources District

The Twin Platte NRD has requested \$33,825 for construction of a flood water structure just north of the City of Ogallala. The project may change scope and be expanded to include two additional storm water contributing areas. Project sponsors are not rapidly developing the plan. An early estimate of total project cost was \$64,050 - this is expected to be somewhat higher when final plans are developed. Remaining local cost would be \$30,225.

WEST SAND DRAW EROSION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

The project consists of a structure across West Sand Draw northwest of Ainsworth. The structure is to control erosion and sediment along with reducing the flooding of downstream areas. Sponsors have anticipated costs of \$104,348 of which \$78,261 are requested from the Development Fund. Sponsors have been advised to proceed with Application and Feasibility Report.

SPRING CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (PROPOSAL)

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District

The project purposes are flood control, bank and streambed stabilization. Flooding occurs in the City of Lexington, and the project will be designed to reduce or halt these problems. Sponsors anticipate total costs to be about \$4,450,000 and tentatively request \$3,375,000 from the Development Fund.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

AOWA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL & RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District

This project, also called structure number 6-7A of the Aowa Creek Watershed Plan is sponsored by the Lewis & Clark NRD. It is one of 65 structures in the P.L. 566 project and is designed for flood control and grade stabilization. This site was planned as a multi-purpose structure and includes provisions for fish and wildlife. Location of the structure is about 9 miles west of Ponca State Park and about 2½ miles southwest of Newcastle. The project has utilized all obligated NRDF funds (\$144,650) for land acquisition. Construction will be completed this fall (1979).

CUB CREEK RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

The Middle Niobrara NRD, as sponsor of the project, requested and utilized \$67,575 for construction of a road structure with recreation benefits. Fish have been stocked, and Highway 12 is finished.


MASKENTHINE FLOOD CONTROL & RECREATION PROJECT

Sponsor: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District


The project used \$269,978.98 of Development Fund monies.. It has developed into a prime recreation area in northeast Nebraska.

The projects, listed under the title "Funded Projects", completely utilized the available funds as proposed by the Legislature over the next three years. The remainder of the projects which total about 15 million dollars of Nebraska Resources Development Fund requests must set on the shelf. The projects needed in Nebraska versus those able to be funded by present means do not accomplish the mission of the Development Fund, which is to manage, develop, and preserve the State's land and water resources.

More up-to-date methods of funding these projects must be devised to keep abreast of changing topographic, hydrologic and economic aspects of Nebraska and the nation.



Gale Hutton
Chairman
Nebraska Resources Development Fund
Advisory Board



Dayle E. Williamson
Executive Secretary
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

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