

## **LONE STAR RECREATION AREA DEDICATED**

Nearly 90 local and state officials and area residents turned out for the formal dedication of Lone Star Recreation Area in Fillmore County.

After many years of planning, construction and delays the 75 acre lake and recreation area was declared officially open on April 16, 2007.

The Recreation Area is located four miles east of Ohioa or six and half miles from Milligan. The drainage area for the reservoir, on a tributary of the Little Sandy Creek, is 5,536 acres.

The Little Blue Natural Resources District owns 160 acres featuring a 75 acre spring-fed lake, thirteen RV camper pads ( seven with electricity, six without), two picnic shelters, water supply and electricity, boat ramp, beach, floating dock, fishing pier with handicapped accessibility, three restrooms, foot bridges and 11,700 feet of trails (1,300 concrete handicapped accessible trails and 2,300 feet of limestone chipped trails).

The 1.9 million dollar project was paid for by a combination of NRD funds, state funding and grants. The following have combined for a total of \$1.45 million in contributions toward Lone Star construction: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Conservation Service. As projected in 2001, the project provides \$152,958 annually in flood control and recreation benefits.

## **RESTROOMS BUILT BY LOCAL SCHOOLS**

Lone Star features three restrooms that area high schools built for the recreation area. Those schools are Exeter/Milligan, Fillmore Central and Meridian.

Contracting with local schools saved the District money for construction.

The District feels by getting our youth involved they will have some local ownership in the facility for years to come.

## **HOW DID LONE STAR GET ITS NAME?**

The project got it's name through a "Name the Lake Contest" offered to the public. Several District residents suggested that the project should be called the Lone Star Recreation Area because a local one room school house was on the southwest corner of the section of land near the facility. The school was called Lone Star District 41 and opened in 1873 with 21 pupils. The next year, attendance was up to 32 students. The first nine month school term didn't happen until 1914. By 1956, only 11 students remained, the school closed in 1964.

## **FISH HAVE BEEN STOCKED**

The Nebraska Game and Parks has stocked fish in Lone Star lake. In September of 2006 they placed 3,700 three inch Largemouth Bass, in October they introduced 37,000 one inch Bluegill. In April of 2007 they placed 16 seventeen inch Largemouth Bass in the lake to provide spawning stock and establishment of varying size classes of fish. A 21" size bass limitation is enforced; therefore, it will be some time before the legal size for taking is reached. You can check on the NGP website (<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/fishguide/FGfindstock.asp>) for future stocking of Lone Star.

## **BID AWARDED FOR SITE 40 CONSTRUCTION**

The Little Blue NRD Board of Directors awarded the construction bid for Site 40 to Prange Construction Inc., of Adams, Nebraska with a bid of \$771,620.04 at their April Board meeting. This structure is the third of five dams being built in the Little Sandy Creek Watershed for flood control. It is located in the four-corner area of Fillmore, Saline, Thayer and Jefferson Counties, approximately 6 and 1/4 miles north of Alexandria, Nebraska.

The NRD received three bids for the project, the lowest bid was that of Prange Construction. The engineers estimate for construction of the dam was \$76,168.36; higher than that of Prange Construction.

Dam Site 40 is the largest of the five dams, controlling a 14,528 acre drainage of primarily upland agriculture lands. The major purpose of Dam Site 40 is flood and sediment control, yielding approximately \$23,420 in annual flood benefits (2001 dollars). A second major benefit of the project is groundwater recharge with annual benefits expected to be approximately \$37,500. Other lesser benefits are expected for wildlife, stream flow augmentation and incidental recreation.

Dam Site 40 is located on a major tributary of the Little Sandy Creek main-stream. It is situated in an area where intensively farmed agricultural land gives way to more rolling and dissected topography which includes diversified crop and pasture land.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer.

