

2006 Review of NRD Programs and Activities

The Lewis and Clark NRD is actively providing services for the residents of the district. The district collected around \$344,000 in local property tax dollars in 2006 with a total budget of over \$2.4 million. Put another way, for every 23 cents invested, the NRD provides over \$1.00 in service benefits.

These benefits include:

1. Almost \$200,000 was approved for conservation practices in 2006. Approved were 19 dams and terrace installations along with 80 grass seedings, planned grazing systems, and tree planting contracts.

2. The NRD Directors monitor Missouri River activities including; the National Park Service Recreation River Plan, Corps of Engineers Master Manual, changes in flow from Gavins Point Dam, and Lewis and Clark Lake sedimentation issues. The Missouri River “Futures” group includes NRD representation for locally coordinated management.



3. Water quality monitoring continues with a total of 160 irrigation wells across the district sampled on an annual or bi-annual rotation. Sixty seven percent of these irrigation wells along with 21 monitoring wells are located in the Bazile Triangle Groundwater Management Area, which was designated in 2004, and includes all of Creighton Township; Cleveland Township except for sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36; and includes sections 6, 7, 18, and 19 of Columbia Township in Knox County. The NRD continues developing and improving programs to better utilize nitrogen in the area. Siphoning Nitrates with Irrigated Pasture or Irrigated Hay (SNIP)(SNIH) and chemigation cost-share are just some of the programs developed to reduce the nitrates leaching to the groundwater. Note: SNIP and SNIH are limited to the six sections of the Creighton Municipal Well recharge area.



4. Work continues on land treatment in the Powder Creek Watershed. Construction was completed on the Powder Creek Flood Control and Recreation Project (31-20A) in October 2003. The dam provides 21% of the Aowa Creek watershed flood reduction, which significantly reduces flooding in Ponca and the downstream farmland. This project provides 273 acres of grassland, 17 acres of trees and a 110-acre lake for fishing and hunting. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided the majority of the funds for the project. Other participating agencies are the Dept. of Natural Resources, NE Game and Parks, Department of Environmental Quality, and Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (lottery). The district continues with the operation and maintenance of the remaining 49 Aowa Creek watershed



dams.

5. The Rural Water Project’s number of customers served increased again this year, with the continuing development along the lake and river. Now over 753 homes and 4 communities are served with approximately 106,000,000 gallons of high quality water annually. Construction to upgrade the plant’s treatment process with

activated carbon treatment was completed last year along with the installation of new remote read meters.

The Rural Water Project celebrated 25 years of service to the area in 2006. A customer appreciation banquet was held in Crofton on October 1st with an estimated 400 attending. All revenue to finance the water project comes from its users.

6. The district acted as the grant sponsor for the Corps of Discovery Welcome Center constructed along Highway 81 south of Yankton. The tourism facility provides economic promotion to Northeast Nebraska. People from all 50 states and 56 foreign countries have stopped at the Center. The facility also hosts educational programs and exhibits.

7. Twelve Wildlife Habitats areas were added in 2006 to bring the enrolled total acres to 1832 at a yearly cost of nearly \$40,000.



8. The Tree Program saw 36,000 trees sold in 2006. The tree crew planted 21,230 trees and an additional 11,400 were hand planted. The remaining trees were donated to schools and communities for educational and promotional purposes. The NRD also sold 216,000 feet of conservation mulch (almost 41 miles).

the possibility of our groundwater becoming contaminated.

10. There were 215 chemigation permits issued across the district and 78 were inspected to insure the equipment required for chemigation was present and working properly.

11. 30 irrigation wells are measured twice a year by the NRD staff to monitor groundwater fluctuations. Groundwater levels remained steady on an average, in 2006.

12. The NRD administers state contracts for the Buffer Strip Program. There are 39 contracts on 208 acres with a yearly cost of \$12,493. The Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture provides the funds for this program.

13. The 2006 Area Five Range Judging Contest was hosted by the Lewis & Clark NRD. The site chosen this year was Lawrence and Mary Ann Zavadil native pasture located in northwest Cedar County. The participating schools were Ainsworth, Bloomfield, Elgin, Pender, Stuart, West Boyd and West Holt. The individual grand champion ribbon this year went to Ben Beckman; Elgin, grand champion team ribbon went to Ryan Frickel, Brian Flannery, Talia Norton and Matthew Frickel of Atkinson, West Holt.



The NRD staff includes: Tom Moser, General Manager; Marilyn Schumacher, Administrative Secretary; Terry Julesgard, Resource Technician; Diane Wieseler, NRCS Clerk Hartington; Jeanne Koenig, NRCS Clerk Bloomfield; Barb Meyers NRCS Clerk Ponca. The Rural Water staff includes: Gene Schroeder, Project Manager; Galen Jueden, Field Technician; Gary Eckmann, Plant Operator; and Marla Wortmann, Bookkeeper. Thanks to the dedication of these people for another year well done.

