



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

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## **Maintaining Existing Protections Key in NRD Budget**

LINCOLN (NE) – August 17, 2011 - The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget shows a commitment to maintaining infrastructure that protects lives and property District wide. The NRD Board approved expenditures and revenues totaling \$30.9 million, slightly more than last year's \$28.9 million, when it met on Wednesday.

While the budget shows significant expenditures for the Antelope Valley Project, the NRD is actually in the process of closing-out the project. NRD General Manager Glenn Johnson explained the NRD's actual expenditures on Antelope Valley "will be very limited during the Fiscal Year, with less than \$250,000 to be spent on construction." Other Antelope Valley funds in the budget will go to other partners in the project, as the NRD, City of Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln balance obligations according to agreements made before the project began. "We're settling-up with the other project partners," said Johnson.

As the NRD moves on from the Antelope Valley Project, some of the nearly 200 watershed dams the District operates are in need of maintenance and upgrading to effectively and sufficiently protect downstream lives and property. In Lincoln, the NRD operates and maintains thirteen miles of levees protecting homes and businesses along Salt Creek. The District plans to inspect the levee drainage structures this fiscal year, then make needed improvements. A sinking fund has been established for future improvements and maintenance of this flood protection infrastructure.

In addition to Wednesday's final Budget consideration, the entire budget process is closely monitored by the NRD's 21-member elected Board of Directors. The Board offered several opportunities for public input during the budget process that began in June, when the first budget draft was introduced, including the Annual Budget Public Hearing, on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

A summary of planned expenditures from the budget follows:

## **Ground Water Management**

**\$1,076,655**

- Develop Integrated Management Plan
- Develop BMP cost-share programs for Hickman, Pleasant Dale, Davey and Union designated ground water management areas
- Administer established Phase II and Phase III programs
- Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment programs
- Quality/Quantity monitoring
- Water well permits, meters, certification of irrigated acres and best management practices

## **Flood Control**

**\$1,820,220**

- Rehabilitate two Upper Salt Watershed structures (dams)
- Construct Piening Flood Control Structure
- Design and right-of-way for Gabel Flood Control Structure
- Surface water monitoring
- Conestoga Lake Watershed water quality program
- Operate and maintain more than 160 dams

## **Soil & Water Conservation**

**\$1,571,010**

- Cost-sharing on conservation practices for erosion control and water quality in partnership with NRCS/USDA
- Cost-sharing on aerial imagery mapping with communities and counties

## **Recreation Trails/Conservation Corridors**

**\$1,364,483**

- Mopac East to Lied Platte River Bridge – alternative alignment study
- Construct Salt Creek Levee Trail, Haymarket Park to N 14<sup>th</sup> & undercrossing of BNSF
- Complete Antelope Creek pedestrian/bike bridge south of Randolph Street
- Develop equestrian trail in Homestead Trail corridor
- Walton restroom and Roca trailhead
- Operate MoPac East, Homestead and Oak Creek trails and conservation corridors

## **Wetlands, Conservation Easements, Forestry, Recreation and Wildlife**

**\$1,784,731**

- Enhancement and maintenance of three wetlands and eight public access lakes
- Obtain conservation easements over native prairies
- Tree planting programs

## **Antelope Valley Project**

**\$5,270,400**

- Seek federal appropriations for flood control reimbursement

- Construct South Street bridge replacement
- Complete Upper Antelope Creek Improvement
- Develop floodplain Management Plan and Operation and Maintenance Manual

**Urban Stormwater/Flood Control**

**\$9,985,571**

- Salt Creek erosion repairs and pipe inspections
- Construct Beal Slough flood control project, South 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- Community Assistance projects –Cedar Creek, Weeping Water, Waverly, Lake Waconda, etc
- Implement Lincoln basin master plans
- Construction site erosion and sediment control
- Flood Warning System and add Antelope Creek gage

**Platte River**

**\$1,396,702**

- Participate in activities of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance
- Invasive species assistance
- Endangered species activities
- Watershed restoration
- Participate in Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Flood Control Project
- Participate in ice jam agreement

**Information & Education**

**\$322,150**

- Assist with all programs and projects by furnishing public information and opportunities for learning
- Utilize newsletter, web site and media for awareness and education
- Promote environmental education with schools
- earth wellness festival

**Operations and Personnel**

**\$3,309,145**

**Project Sinking/Reserve Funds**

**\$1,841,021**

**Cash Reserve**

**\$1,000,000**