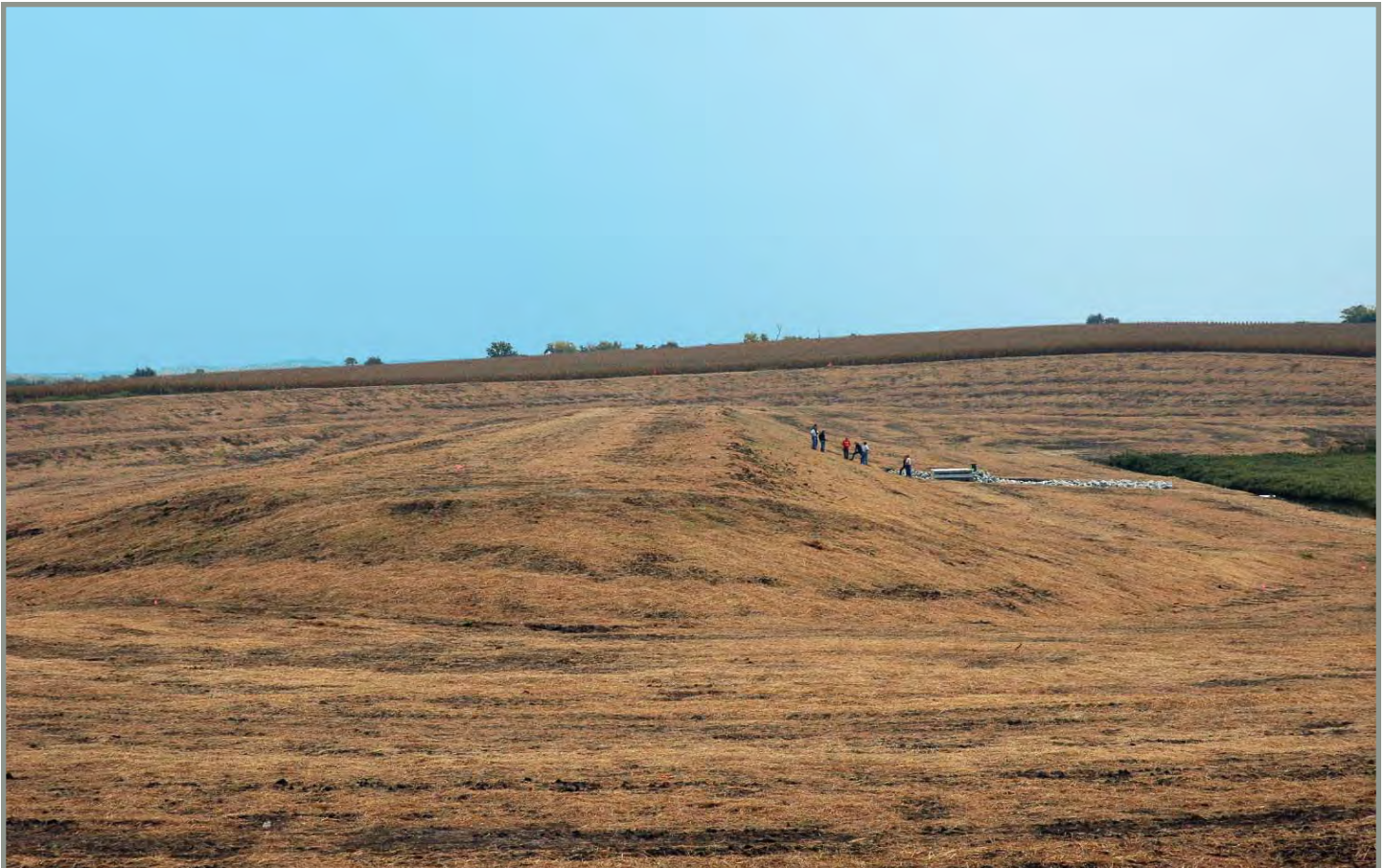




Hedgefield Upgraded



Hedgefield Dam (Upper Salt Watershed Flood Control Structure 10-A), southeast of Hickman, has been upgraded by the NRD, with funding from the USDA, to meet federal high-hazard requirements. Hedgefield is the first of at least three LPSNRD dams to be improved through a federal program to upgrade older dams to better protect roads, homes or businesses downstream. Pictured above, project partners and contractors make a final inspection of the upgrade on September 11. Hedgefield Lake, also a State Wildlife Area, will remain drawn down until completion of a lake renovation project by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Other features in this Stream Lines:

2010 NRD Budget

Platte River Plan Approved



The general purpose of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District shall be to conserve, develop and manage the water and land resources of the District for the common good of all people.

NRD Budget Maintains Natural Resource Protection

by Marsha Babcock, NRD Board Treasurer

The NRD's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget appropriates expenditures over a wide spectrum of NRD activities. The expected completion of the flood control portion of the Antelope Valley Project by the end of this calendar year makes more funding available for other NRD priorities. On September 16, the NRD Board approved expenditures and revenues totaling \$28.7 million. The resulting tax levy rate, \$0.041152/\$100 actual valuation remains essentially the same as last year.

The annual budget is a perfect tool for assessing the many benefits received by the public through the NRD. The planned activities listed below clearly illustrate the many ways the NRD enhances our lives, property and our future by protecting our natural resources. Each year the NRD cost-shares with approximately 250 rural landowners on various projects designed to reduce soil erosion and, as a result, improve water quality in our streams and lakes. The completed Antelope Valley Project will remove 800 dwellings and businesses, right through the heart of Lincoln, from the 100-year flood plain. The NRD's environmental education programs reach thousands of school students each year and ground water monitoring programs continue to expand. These and the many other NRD programs are designed to meet this District's natural resource needs by a Board and staff of people who live here and work hard to know exactly what those



Marsha Babcock,
NRD Board Treasurer

needs are. It is this local control that makes Nebraska's NRDs and their accomplishments the envy of states nationwide.

Following is a summary of anticipated activity contained in the budget:

Ground Water Management \$1,098,417 / 3.8%

- Implement LB 483 rules and regulations
- Lower Salt Creek aquifer modeling study
- Complete Phase II & III verification studies for water quality of several communities
- Quality/Quantity monitoring
- Certification of irrigated acres

Flood Control \$1,742,650 / 6.0%

- Rehabilitate two Upper Salt Watershed structures (dams)
- Construct Piening Flood Control Structure
- Construct Seward County Road Structure (dam)
- Operate and maintain more than 160 dams

Soil & Water Conservation \$1,140,540 / 3.9%

- Cost-sharing on conservation practices and aerial imagery mapping

Trails \$1,489,150 / 5.1%

- Wabash to South Bend connector study
- Eagle & Roca trailheads
- Walton restroom
- Salt Creek Levee Trail, Haymarket Park to N 14th
- Ashland trail project
- Start construction on Abbott motocross track
- MoPac East, Homestead and Oak Creek trail operation

Wetlands, Conservation Easements, Forestry, Recreation and Wildlife \$979,830 / 3.4%

- Enhancement and maintenance of three wetlands and eight public access lakes
- Rural and urban forestry

Antelope Valley Project \$8,016,700 / 27.9%

- Seek federal flood control reimbursement
- Complete channel and trails
- Remap floodplain
- Upstream CLOMR and South Street bridge replacement

Urban Stormwater/Flood Control \$9,106,924 / 31.8%

- Stream channel improvements - Antelope Creek, 40th to Cotner
- Beal Slough flood control project, South 14th Street
- Community Assistance projects - Lake Waconda, Cedar Creek, Weeping Water, Ceresco and Waverly Watershed Master Plan

Platte River \$715,917 / 2.4%

- Participate in activities of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance
- Continued Environmental Suitability Assessment
- Cooperate on invasive species control projects
- Participate in Western Sarpy/Clear Creek project

Information & Education \$331,750 / 1.1%

- Assist with all programs and projects by furnishing public information and opportunities for learning

Operations and Personnel \$2,989,896 / 10.4%

Cash Reserve \$784,009 / 2.7%

Ehrman Joins Ground Water Staff

Dick Ehrman became the NRD's Water Resources Specialist in February, after 15- years with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).



Dick Ehrman

Most recently with DEQ he was NRD/DEQ Liaison for seven years. Ehrman holds a BA from

Chadron State College and a Masters Degree in Geology from UNL. He, his wife and two sons live in Lincoln. His duties with the NRD include developing and administering surface and ground water monitoring activities, assisting with administration of the NRD's Ground Water Management Plan and assisting with other ground water programs. Welcome Dick Ehrman!



Butterfly Wannabes!

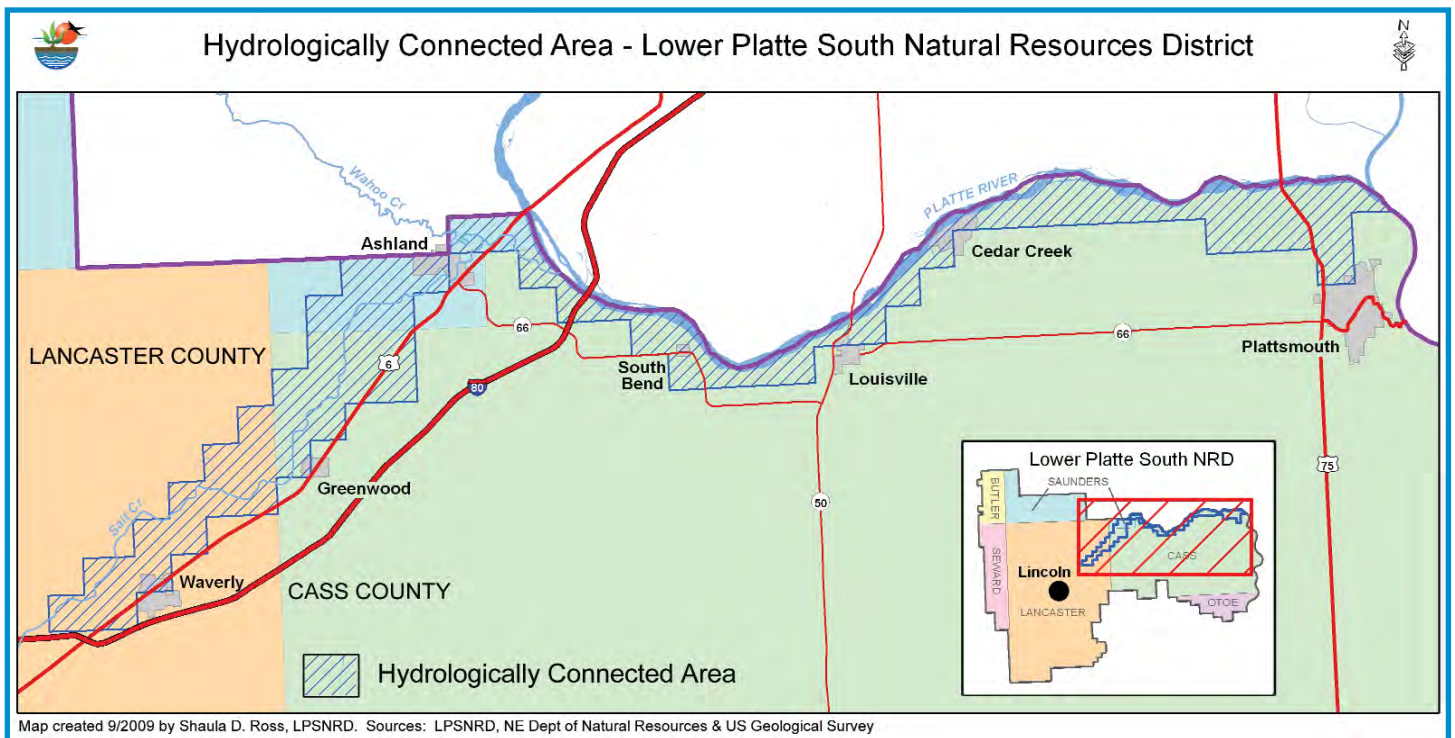
In more than 80 classrooms throughout the District, 2nd graders are watching caterpillars like these morph into Painted Lady butterflies. The kits are provided free by the NRD.

LPSNRD Platte River Plan Approved

The NRD Board adopted rules and regulations in June to prevent the lower Platte River from becoming fully appropriated. Those same rules and regulations have also been approved by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The rules set a limit on irrigation development for the next four years within a hydrologically connected area of the

District along Salt Creek and the Platte River (see map) that impacts flows in the Platte River. The rules and regulations are in response to the passage of LB 483 by the Legislature earlier this year. A complete copy of the new rules is available at www.lpsnrd.org, (see "Certification of Irrigated Acres")

The review by DNR also included similar new rules and regulations from other NRDs in the Lower Platte River Basin to see if, together, they would truly result in sufficient protection against the Platte River becoming fully appropriated. DNR concluded the rules and regulations, collectively, satisfy the new state statute.





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Bolte is New NRD Director

Richard Bolte, a retired community loan and grant officer with the USDA, was appointed September 16th by the NRD Board to represent Subdistrict 7. Bolte spent

much of his career in Iowa, before coming to Lincoln in 1984 and retiring in 1994. Subdistrict 7 includes an area from "O" Street to Adams Street, between 27th and 84th streets in Lincoln. The Board

seat was resigned earlier this year by Dan Steinkruger. The appointment is for the remainder of Steinkruger's four-year term, which extends to the end of 2010.

NRD Project Update

MoPac East Trail Extension - NRD and Cass County Board continue to work to find a route extending the trail from Wabash to the Lied Platte River Bridge near South Bend.

MoPac East Bridge Repair - Construction contract awarded. Work to begin soon on trail west of Elmwood to prevent erosion of the trail surface.

Antelope Creek - Channel liner installation Cotner to 40th Street to help maintain gabion baskets. Construction contract awarded. Work to begin soon.

Dam Rehabilitations - Upgrade of watershed dams to better protect roads, homes and businesses downstream:

Upper Salt 10-A (Hedgefield - 96th & Stagecoach Rd.) - Completed. See page 1.

Upper Salt 19-B (98th & Saltillo) - Design phase.

Upper Salt 35-A (Hickman) - Landrights phase. Construction this fall.

Upper Salt 3-A (Sprague) - Application made to USDA/NRCS.

Stevens Creek Channel Stabilization Project - Seeking bids until October 8th on channel restoration work near 98th & Van Dorn. See www.lpsnrd.org, click on Contractors. Dirt work this fall.

Plantings in spring.