

part P.L. #566 Watershed Work Plan was approved by the appropriate committees of the U.S. Congress during the last session.

The State and the local governing bodies have not stood by with their "hands in their pockets" while waiting for help from the Federal Government. The local people have formed a special governmental entity, the Papio Watershed Board. Funds allocated to this board have been expended to accelerate watershed and flood control planning and to promote this project. County governing boards have appropriated considerable sums of money for emergency channel improvement programs in this project area. The land treatment program has been accelerated by the local soil and water conservation districts.

The municipalities concerned have worked aggressively to develop flood plain use ordinances and such ordinances are already in effect in some portions of the project area. The City of Omaha is working closely with the Papillion Watershed Board, the Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure data on which to base effective land use regulations over the remainder of the area.

The State, as evidence of its effort to accelerate flood control for this area as well as the rest of the state, has enacted stringent land use regulation laws. The use of the state's police power will insure prudent future development of the flood plain areas adjacent to Papillion Creek and its tributaries. In addition, our state agency has been cooperating with the local watershed board and the Corps in providing various services free of charge including: surveying, map making, and so forth.

The proposed plan of improvement by the Corps of Engineers would provide not only flood control but also a significant and desperately needed increase in water based recreational opportunities in eastern Nebraska and particularly to the densely populated Omaha area. The state, through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, has already stated its intent to participate financially in meeting the requirements set out in the Federal Water Project Recreation Act.

This project with its 21 reservoirs would provide average annual benefits which would exceed the annual costs by some 1.3 million dollars. This analysis of costs and benefits does not reflect the loss of life, the misery, and the hardships which would be alleviated by this project.

The project also includes the enhancement of the Papillion Basin streams through low flow augmentation. I must confess that with the rapid development of this area, fragmented growth has resulted in an inadequate system of waste water collection and treatment. The Nebraska Water Pollution Control Council and local governmental officials are not content with this situation and steps are being taken to see that it is corrected through a comprehensive program of waste treatment facilities for Papillion Creek Basin.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, this project is extremely well justified as an investment of funds; it has the strong support of local and state interests; and it has been endorsed as a part of the Nebraska State Water Plan. We urgently request your favorable action. We feel that the local people in the state as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have admirably carried out their part in the program. I hope you will give your early approval to this project.

If I may be of any further service to you in your consideration of this project, please feel free in contacting me. I am attaching to this statement a copy of our State Commission Policy II (Projects) on the Papillion Creek and Tributaries, Nebraska, which has been drafted as the official position of our Commission and which has been reviewed and concurred in by the following state agencies: Nebraska Department of Water Resources, Nebraska Health Department, Nebraska Department of Roads, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska.

POLICY STATEMENT II. PAPILLION CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES, NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Legislature has assigned responsibility for comprehensive water and land resources planning to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

The Commission, in discharging this responsibility is developing a comprehensive State Water Plan based on maximum beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources. The Commission endorses the plans of improvement proposed by the Corps of Engineers for Papillion Creek and its tributaries as a part of that plan. It is noteworthy that this plan has been fully coordinated with the Small Watershed Program (PL566) developed by the Papio Watershed Board with technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.