

The need for immediate action to control floods in this basin was amply demonstrated by the flood of 1964 in which seven persons lost their lives and \$5,000,000 damage occurred. The rapid expansion of metropolitan Omaha into the Papillion Basin has further increased the danger to both life and property since that time. The city of Omaha, whose zoning authority covers much of the project area, is working closely with the Papio Watershed Board, the Commission and the Corps of Engineers to secure data on which to base effective land use regulations. Flood plain zoning ordinances are already in effect in some portions of the project area.

The proposed multiple purpose plan of improvement would provide a much needed increase in the water based recreational opportunities available in eastern Nebraska and particularly to the densely populated Omaha area. In addition, implementation of the proposed plan of 2 reservoirs would make possible the development of significant fisheries in the streams and management of wildlife areas on the associated lands.

This project has the strong support of the large majority of residents in the Papillion Basin. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has stated its intent to participate in meeting the requirements set out in the Federal Water Project Recreation Act. The Papillion Creek Watershed Advisory Board has considered the local obligations and approved the proposed plan of improvement. The county boards in Sarpy and Douglas counties have gone on record in support of this project and will serve as local sponsors. The City Council of Omaha and the Board of Directors for the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency have also adopted resolutions of support and approval.

This project is well justified with a benefit-cost ratio of 2.0:1 and the value of average annual benefits in excess of costs will exceed 1.3 million dollars.

The accelerated population growth and development in the Papillion Basin has resulted in a fragmented system of waste water collection and treatment. The Nebraska Water Pollution Control Council, working with state and local health officials, have begun consideration of a long range unified approach to the problem of pollution, but improvement of the water quality of streams is urgently needed at the present time. Benefits from low flow augmentation will improve the stream quality in the Papillion Basin.

In view of the strong needs which this project serves, its excellent financial justification and the strong support given by both local and state interests, the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission endorses this plan of improvement as a part of Nebraska's State Water Plan and urges that the Congress of the United States take early action to authorize this project. With the rapid expansion of residential and commercial development in the Papillion Basin, the Commission also urges the acquisition of the needed lands at the earliest possible time.

Approved by Unanimous Action of the Commission Members on Nov. 2, 1967.

DEMPSEY MCNEIL,

*Chairman, Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission.*

Attest:

WARREN FAIRCHILD,

*Executive Secretary, Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission.*

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STATEMENT BY MILTON H. FRICKE, CHAIRMAN, AND JOHN W. NEUBERGER, GENERAL MANAGER, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF PAPIILLION CREEK WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL, RECREATION, AND WATER QUALITY PROJECT, JUNE 18, 1968

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the House Subcommittee on Public Works:

#### INTRODUCTION

The Papio Watershed Board was established in 1963 under Nebraska law by the County Governing Boards of Washington, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties for the expressed purpose of giving administrative leadership and guidance to land and water resource development needs within the 402 square-mile watershed. Accountable for such local leadership and administration, the Papio Watershed Board has helped coordinate and finance a comprehensive watershed flood control program as planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We would like to take this opportunity to appeal to this Committee for early authorization during 1968 of the recommended reservoir flood control plan in the Papillion Creek Basin.