



ANNUAL REPORT

2010

www.lpnrd.org

Lake Wanahoo Dam Completed

The Lake Wanahoo dam one mile north of Wahoo is now officially complete, meeting the August 31 deadline set two years ago when construction began.

Even before the official completion date, the dam was helping to protect lives and property. Despite heavy rains and severe flooding throughout Nebraska in May and June, roads into Wahoo remained open and an estimated \$500,000 in downstream damage was prevented thanks to Lake Wanahoo.

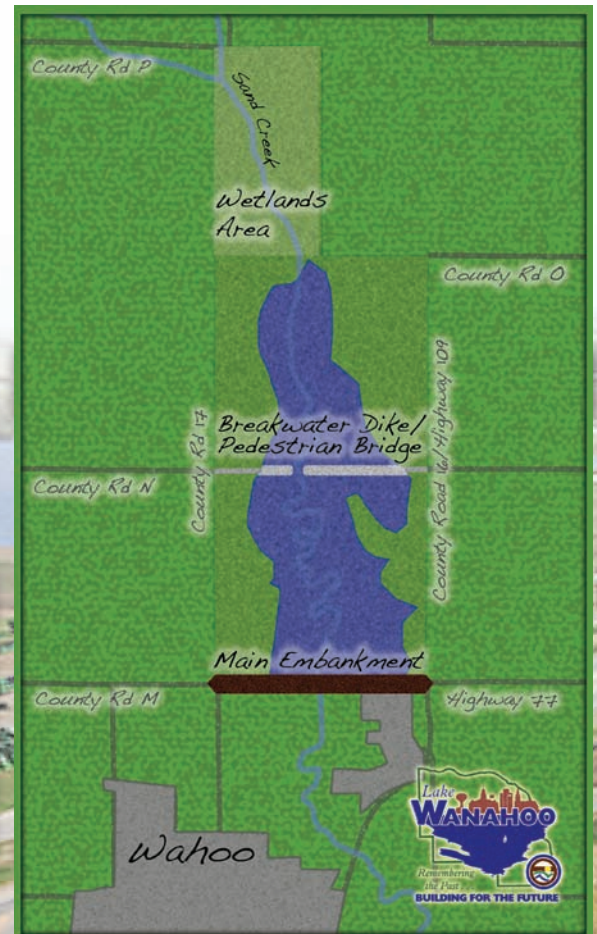
While the dam was officially completed at the end of August, the lake was held below its "permanent pool" level until construction of a boat ramp was completed in December. The dam's drawdown gates were closed after the boat ramp was done to allow the lake to fill to its normal level. When full, the two-mile-long lake will cover approximately 637 acres and reach a maximum depth of approximately 40 feet.

Construction of other recreational facilities will continue through 2011, managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Recreation facilities at the site will include fishing access, no-wake boating, day use areas, tent and RV camping areas, hiking/biking trails, and more. The recreation area is scheduled to open to the public in 2012; private access is currently available for mentored youth hunting through the Nebraska Game and Parks PATH program.

Project sponsors were hoping that the Highway 77 Expressway that will run across the top of the

dam would also be completed in the near future, but that project has been delayed until 2017 by the Nebraska Department of Roads. To provide temporary access, Saunders County installed a gravel road on top of the dam in fall 2010. That road will remain in service until the Expressway project can move forward.

Lake Wanahoo is the keystone of the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project, which also includes seven smaller upstream dams that will help trap sediment and create wetlands. Bids have been let for five of those dams, with major construction scheduled to start in summer 2011. The other two sites will be put out for bid when federal funding is available.



Lake Wanahoo includes a number of conservation features like the basins shown here that will help prevent silting and prolong the life of the lake.

IN BRIEF . . .

Soil & Water Conservation

In partnership with the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service, the NRD's Soil & Water Conservation Program provided more than \$115,000 in state cost-share funds and \$33,000 in local funds to land-owners in 2010 to construct terraces, waterways, and other conservation measures.

Tree Planting

The NRD sold approximately 18,350 trees to cooperators across the district in 2010. Of those, approximately 4,800 were planted by district staff at 12 sites. The district also donated tree seedlings to students at the NRD's Spring Conservation Sensation and to area schools and Boy Scout groups for Arbor Day. Since 1972, more than 850,000 NRD trees have been planted in the district.

Rural Water Systems

The NRD's rural water systems - one connecting Bruno and David City and the other connecting Colon and Wahoo - finished their fifth year of operation in 2010, providing Bruno and Colon residents with safe, clean drinking water. The NRD is studying several possibilities for extending the systems to other nearby communities, and new systems for other areas are also under consideration.

600+ Students Participate in NRD Educational Activities

More than 500 students from area schools participated in NRD educational activities in 2010. In May, 360 elementary students attended the Spring Conservation Sensation at Czechland Lake to participate in a variety of hands-on activities relating to water, wildlife, forestry, and more. In October, 179 area high school students competed in the East Central Land Judging Contest sponsored by the NRD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The NRD also conducted GPS sessions and other activities with students in 2010, and free Soil & Water Stewardship Week materials were provided to area schools and churches.

stay in touch

Visit www.lpnnrd.org and get:

- News & updates on NRD programs
- Downloads of permits, forms, and other documents
- Online tree ordering & bill pay
- and more!

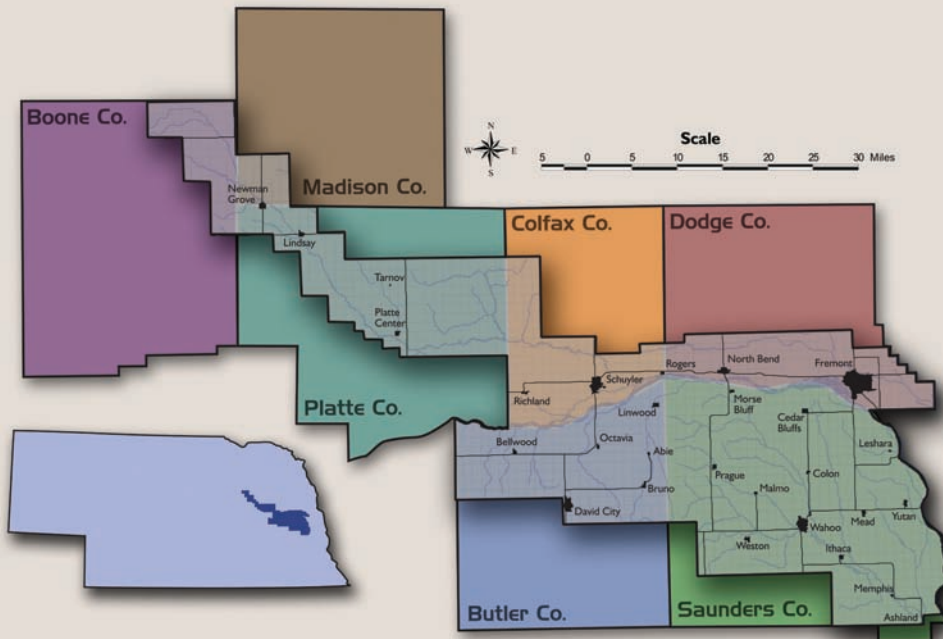
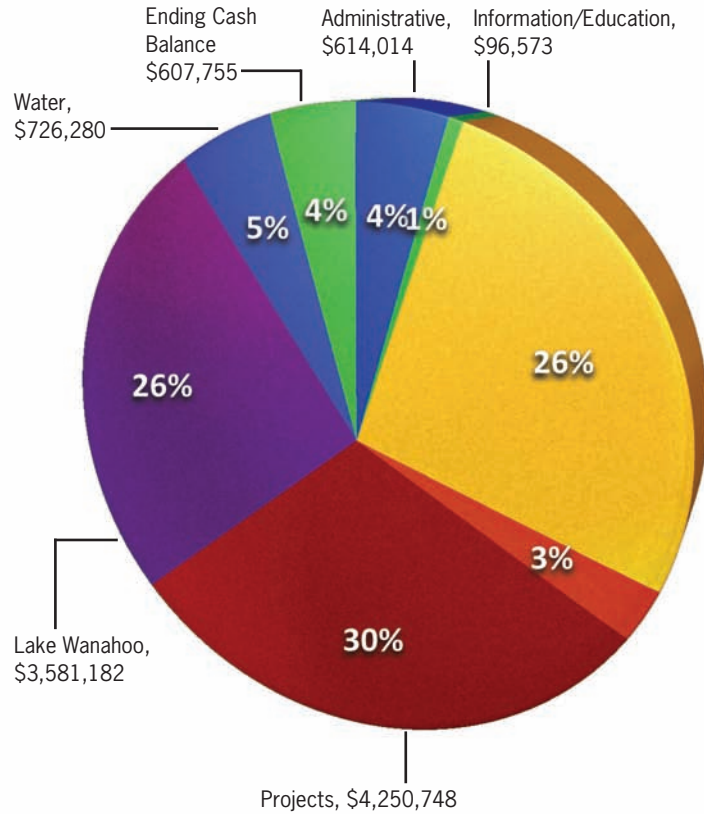
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Lower Platte North NRD Budget, Fiscal Year 2010

Lower Platte North NRD Total Expenses, Fiscal Year 2010 - \$13,945,742



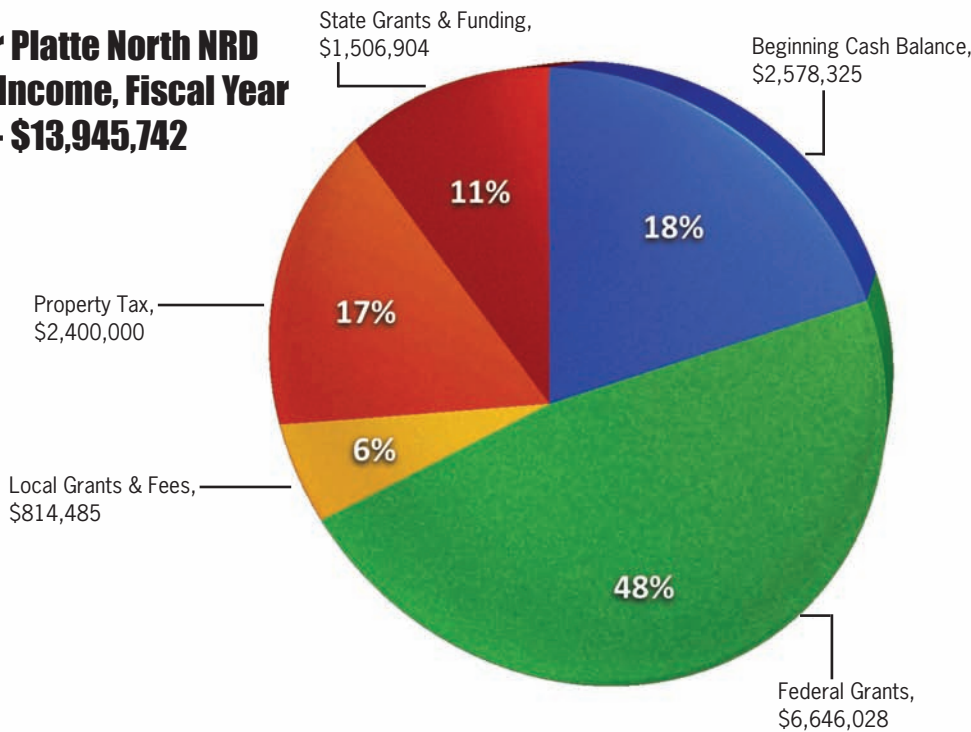
The Lower Platte North NRD is funded by a combination of property taxes and grants from local, State and Federal sources. For fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011), the district's overall budget is \$13,945,742.

This is higher than normal due to construction on Lake Wanhoo and other components of the Sand Creek Watershed Project. Budget patterns should return to more typical levels when major construction on the Wanhoo/Sand Creek project is complete in 2012.

State statute allows NRDs a maximum property tax rate of 5.5 cents per \$100 of valuation. At the FY2010 rate of 4.2661 cents, the NRD is at 77% of the allowable rate. This equates to \$42.66 in property tax for a \$100,000 home or farm.

For the FY2010 budget, each dollar of property tax collected is matched by nearly five dollars in outside funding. Property tax receipts accounted for only 17% of the NRD's total budget in FY2010.

Lower Platte North NRD Total Income, Fiscal Year 2010 - \$13,945,742



About the NRD

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, based in Wahoo, covers parts of seven counties in eastcentral Nebraska. There are 23 NRDs in Nebraska, charged with developing and protecting the state's natural resources. In pursuing this mission, the districts often work in partnership with landowners and other government agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Lower Platte North NRD is governed by 19 locally-elected directors from nine subdistricts, and employs 21 full-time staff members (see current listing of NRD directors and staff at right). Get more info on the NRD and our projects and programs at www.lpnrd.org.

Protecting Lives
Protecting Property
Protecting the Future

The Annual Report is distributed once a year in newspapers in the Lower Platte North NRD. Writing/design by Troy Thompson, Information/Education Specialist.

Board MemberSubdistrict

Roland Renter.....	1
Gene Acklie.....	1
Frank Pollard.....	2
Frank Hagerbauer.....	2
Dave Saalfeld.....	3
William Taylor, Secretary.....	3
Clint Johannes.....	4
Art Bailey.....	4
Ralph Pieke, Chair.....	5
John Hannah.....	5
Alan Boyd.....	6
Robert Hilger, Vice Chair.....	6
Donald Kavan.....	7
Ronald Sabatka.....	7
Jim McDermott.....	8
Robert Meduna, Treasurer.....	8
Don Veskerna.....	9
Ray Casey.....	9
Gene Ruzicka.....	at large

Staff Member..... Position

Larry Angle.....	Water Resources Manager
Kelly Bartek.....	NRD/NRCS Technician
Curt Becker.....	Water Resources Specialist
Jill Breunig.....	Administrative Manager
Andrew Ekstein.....	O & M/Rural Water Specialist
Eric Gottschalk.....	Projects Coordinator
Bob Heimann.....	O & M Manager
John Miyoshi.....	General Manager
Tom Mountford.....	Assistant Manager
Mike Murren.....	Lake Wanhoo Coordinator
Russell Oaklund.....	Water Resources Specialist
Dave Odvody.....	Recreation Facilitator (seasonal)
Chris Poole.....	GIS Specialist
Karen Rezac.....	Secretary/Receptionist
Joe Sabata.....	O & M Specialist
Mike Sousek.....	Rural Water Manager
Krystal Sund.....	Accountant
Troy Thompson.....	Info-Ed/Computer Specialist

NRD/NRCS Clerks..... County

Susie Leu.....	Butler County
Brenda Wardman.....	Colfax County
Jenny Campbell.....	Dodge County
Marla Milliken.....	Saunders County

To receive the NRD's quarterly newsletter, *The Viaduct*, contact:

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NRD Certifying All Irrigated Acres in the District

The Lower Platte North NRD office in Wahoo was busy through the latter half of 2010 with landowners coming in to complete their irrigated acre certification. The NRD is certifying all irrigated acres in the district to protect existing irrigation rights in the event that our basin is declared fully-appropriated by the state.

If the state does declare parts or all of the district as fully-appropriated in the future, new irrigation will be restricted but existing irrigation will be protected, so it's in the best interest of each landowner to ensure that all of their irrigated land is certified now.

Information packets on certification were mailed to all affected landowners in Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison and Platte counties in summer and fall 2010; packets for remaining landowners in Saunders and Dodge will begin going out over the next few months.

Because of high volumes, the NRD is asking landowners who need to come in to finish their certification to make appointments to ensure that everyone can be served in a timely manner. You can make an appointment by calling our office at (402) 443-4675. Our office hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Irrigation Development Areas

When the NRD began working on a plan in 2009 to allow limited irrigation development to resume in areas formerly declared fully-appropriated by the state, it was decided to designate three "Irrigation Development Areas" in the district. In **Restricted** Development Areas (where the NRD declared a moratorium in 2008), no new irrigated acres are allowed. In **Limited** Development Areas (the former fully-appropriated area), up to 2,500 new irrigated acres per year are allowed. In **Normal** Development Areas, there is no restriction on new irrigated acres, but well permits are required for all new acres.

About the GWMA

In 1997, the NRD designated a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) covering the entire district. The GWMA monitors and regulates both groundwater quality and groundwater quantity.

Under GWMA rules, well operators must be certified in nitrogen and water management every four years. Operators become certified by attending free NRD training classes (held each spring). The classes focus on ways to manage water and nitrogen use to protect our shared water supply.

Well operators who are not certified in nitrogen and water management are ineligible for cost-share funds from the NRD and will not be able to get their irrigated acres certified.

The GWMA also includes restrictions on commercial nitrogen fertilizer applications in the spring and fall on certain soil types, among other regulations. There are also two "Phase II" areas in the district (in the Schuyler and Bellwood areas) where additional regulations apply. For a complete list of GWMA requirements, please visit our website at www.lpnrd.org or contact us at (402) 443-4675.

