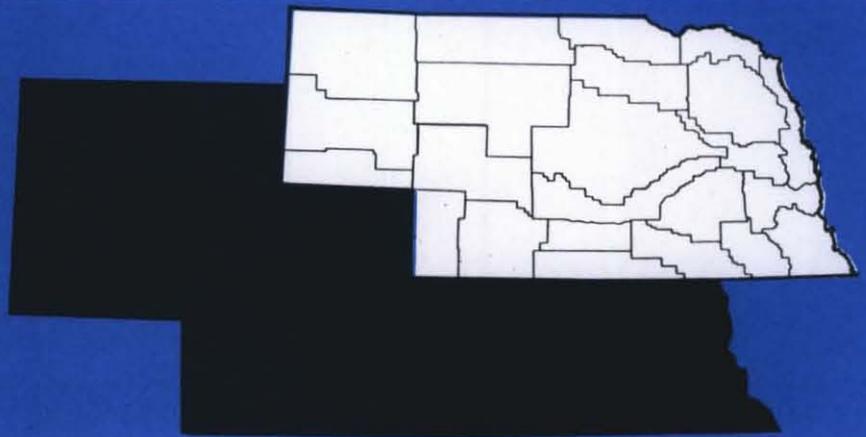


REPORT

on the
**COMPOSITION OF
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS**



NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
AUGUST 30, 1989

REPORT

on the
COMPOSITION OF
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS

REQUIRED BY
SEC. 1, LB 148, 89th LEGISLATURE, 1st. SESSION (1987)
(SECTION 2-3203.02, R.R.S. 1943)

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

AUGUST 30, 1989

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Summary Conclusions and Recommendations

General

1. NRDs are doing a commendable job carrying out their assigned responsibilities.
2. All existing NRD authorities should be maintained.
3. NRDs will and should be expected to take on new responsibilities as new resource needs, problems, and opportunities arise.
4. Many NRDs will need additional revenue sources as new responsibilities are assigned.
5. The general public still needs to become better informed about NRDs and their activities.
6. NRDs need to continue to work toward improved relationships with other entities, especially other units of local government.

Boundaries

1. Use of river basin boundaries as the primary criterion for NRD boundaries is generally still appropriate.
2. The merger of the Middle Missouri Tribes NRD and the Papio NRD (effective on January 5, 1989) into the Papio-Missouri River NRD was consistent with the public interest and was practicable and feasible.
3. A minor modification of NRD boundaries in Platte County could be considered, but there are substantial reasons for each of the four NRDs in that county to continue to have territory there.
4. The present NRD boundaries in Rock County are the best when all factors are considered and no modifications are needed.
5. While the boundaries of the Tri-Basin NRD are not based on hydrologic lines, that NRD has established good working relationships with its surrounding districts and there is no present need to consider relocation of any or all of its territory to other districts.
6. During the next two years, the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs should actively discuss and consider merging those two districts; the Lewis and Clark and Middle Niobrara NRDs should also be consulted for input on any other boundary modifications that should be made if such a merger were to occur.

Election Procedures

1. Voters are not well-informed about NRD candidates and many do not cast NRD ballots, especially not for those candidates residing in other portions of the NRD.
2. In general, the county election officials would prefer that NRDs create equal population subdistricts so that ballots could be prepared only for NRD candidates residing in the voter's subdistrict. However, the election at large method still used by a majority of NRDs also has advantages, especially in those NRDs with extremely uneven population distribution. As a result, NRDs should not be legislatively required to adopt the election-by-subdistrict method, but should be allowed to continue to choose from the election options presently available.
3. Subdistrict boundaries should coincide with election precinct boundaries whenever elections are to be by subdistrict.

Low Valuation NRDs

1. The four lowest valuation NRDs (Upper Loup, Lower Niobrara, Middle Niobrara, and Lewis and Clark) have sufficient revenue capability to meet current financial needs as determined by their respective boards of directors and no special revenue generating authorities are presently needed specifically for such districts.
2. New demands exceeding revenue generating capabilities could be placed on the resources of low valuation NRDs and also middle valuation NRDs; the districts' financial limits need to be considered and raised if necessary when new programs are assigned.
3. State funding of water quality monitoring costs and additional state funding of cost-share for soil and water conservation practices would aid all districts.

SECTION I

SPECIFIC TOPICS STUDIED

AND

CONCLUSIONS REACHED

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INTRODUCTION

The 1987 Nebraska Legislature directed the Natural Resources Commission to study the composition of the state's natural resources districts. The direction was stated as follows in LB 148:

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2-3203, the Legislature hereby directs the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to study the composition of the state's natural resources districts in existence on August 30, 1987, and formulate and recommend to the Legislature a plan which provides for natural resources districts which will equitably and economically manage, conserve, develop, and protect the state's natural resources. Such a plan shall be completed and presented to the Legislature no later than two years from August 30, 1987.

By using the term "composition" in reference to what was to be studied, the Legislature was non-specific. The senators most involved in the legislative floor discussion about the study were Senator Gerald Conway of Wayne, Senator Lee Rupp of Monroe, and Senator Loran Schmit of Bellwood. Through review of the floor debates and personal meetings with those three senators, two specific issues for study were identified. Those were as follows:

- (1) The financial viability of the Middle Missouri Tribs Natural Resources District and the potential for expanding its territory or merging it with one or more other natural resources districts; and
- (2) The necessity of continuing to have four natural resources districts with territory in Platte County.

While no funds were appropriated to the Commission for conduct of the study, the Commission concluded that the relatively long time frame for completion (two years) was sufficient to allow not only those two specific issues to be addressed, but to broaden the scope of the study to include other aspects of the "composition" of all natural resource districts. Recognizing that there was an almost unlimited number of ways to broaden the scope of the study, a way to identify and focus on the most important issues and to also get input on the specific issues of interest to the senators was sought. The decision

was made to develop a questionnaire that could be used to solicit opinions from those across the state who were likely to be the most familiar with natural resource districts. The questionnaire was mailed to nearly 2,000 individuals. A copy is found in Appendix 1 and the detailed analysis of the results of the questionnaire are found in Section II of this report.

When the results of the questionnaire had been compiled, several conclusions were possible. In general, NRDs were perceived as doing a good job carrying out their multiple missions with the funds available. In fact, considerable support was expressed for giving NRDs significant additional responsibilities. Not one existing program was suggested for elimination by the majority of respondents. Even when asked about how they believed NRDs were spending their funds (a dangerous question to ask taxpayers), the majority responded that the funds were being spent wisely. A further review of the analysis in Section 2 confirms the high level of support for the districts, for their programs, and for their methods of operation.

Fulfilling its intended purpose, the questionnaire also helped the Commission identify areas to explore further as part of this study. While the vast majority of the respondents felt that the existing criteria for NRD boundaries were still the best, some specific boundary changes were suggested for consideration. Concern was also expressed about the election process, particularly the lack of voter knowledge about candidates for NRD directorships. This and other questionnaire results also pointed to a still low public understanding of the functions of NRDs and their accomplishments. Also, concern about the financial ability of districts to meet program objectives was reflected in questionnaire responses.

By identifying the concerns that seemed to emerge most frequently, the Commission selected the specific topics to address as part of the study. These were of three types. The first concerned boundary questions in addition to those relating to the Middle Missouri Tribes NRD and Platte County. Looked at in detail were the NRD boundaries in Rock County where, as in Platte County, four different NRDs currently have territory. The possibility of dividing the Tri-Basin NRD up among the three or four surrounding districts was also studied. Also given brief and preliminary consideration was the boundary between the Lower Niobrara NRD and the Upper Elkhorn NRD.

As noted earlier, the lack of public knowledge about NRDs and the particular lack of information about NRD candidates was apparent from the questionnaire results. A review of election procedures to determine if there were ways to improve this situation was selected as the second topic.

Finally, concerns expressed about district financing were felt to be most critical in the NRDs with the least ability to raise their own funds. It was decided therefore to look in some depth at the four lowest valuation districts to assess their capability to meet present and potential future expectations.

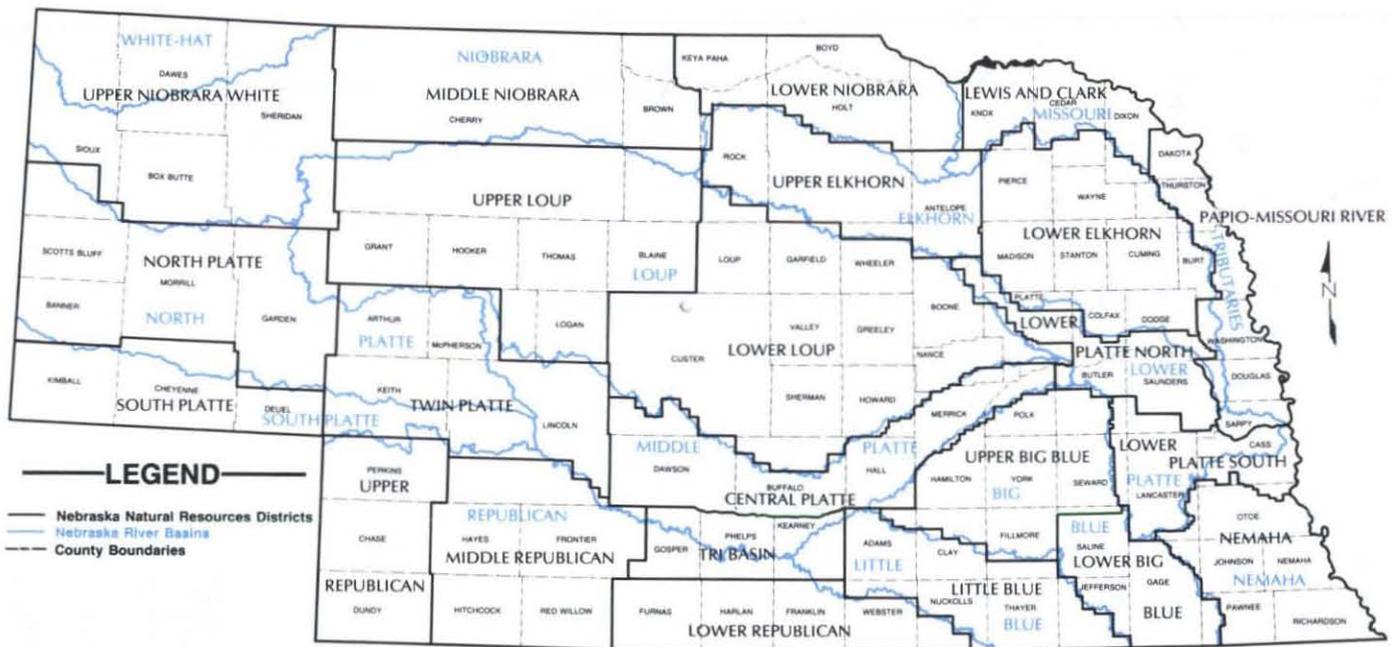
The remainder of this section of the report details what was done in each of these three specific issues and what conclusions were reached by the Commission.

NRD BOUNDARIES

Middle Missouri Tribs NRD

Process for Review. Even before LB 148 was passed, the Middle Missouri Tribs NRD had contacted all surrounding natural resource districts to initiate discussions about the possible merger of that NRD with one or more of the others. By the summer of 1987, the Middle Missouri Tribs NRD and the Papio NRD had begun to seriously consider the possible merger of those two districts into one. The Commission saw that process as fully consistent with the purposes of the LB 148 study; those two districts were encouraged to proceed to their own conclusions about whether such a merger was appropriate. Eventually, a majority of the board of directors of each NRD endorsed such a merger. A public hearing to consider the merits of that proposal was held by the Natural Resources Commission in the summer of 1988 and the Commission also approved the merger. The resulting Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District became effective on January 5, 1989, the same day that directors elected at the 1988 general election took office.

Conclusion. No additional conclusion is necessary on this issue as it has been previously resolved with the concurrence of the NRDs affected and the Commission.

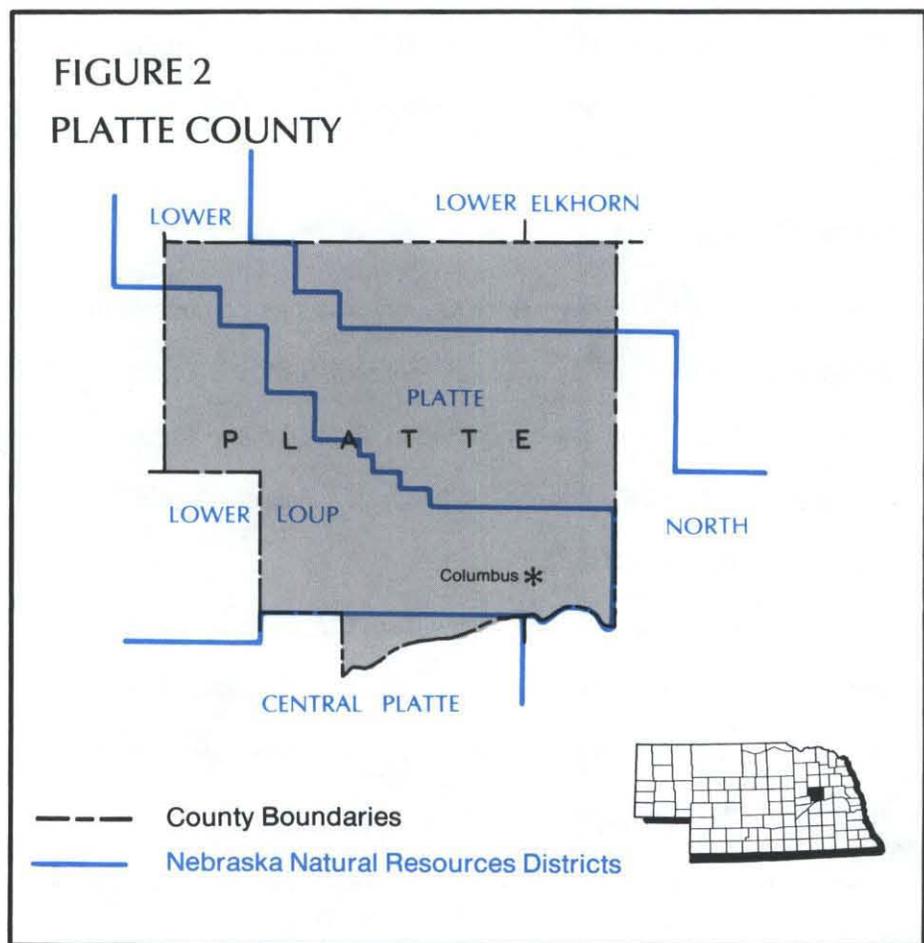


NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND RIVER BASINS

FIGURE 1

Platte County

Process for Review. The primary issue to be considered in Platte County was whether the number of NRDs in that county should be reduced. At present, the Central Platte, Lower Loup, Lower Platte North, and Lower Elkhorn NRDs all have portions of Platte County. To provide a forum for discussion, the four NRDs and the county and federal officials most affected by the Platte County boundaries were invited to attend and participate in a meeting on June 1, 1989. An attendance list and summary of the meeting is found as Appendix 2 to this report.



Several options were discussed at the meeting. They ranged from moving the boundary line around one square mile to placing all of Platte County in one natural resources district. At the conclusion of the meeting, only one option for changing the boundaries received support from more than one participant.

That option would move section 31 in St. Bernard township from the Lower Loup NRD to the Lower Platte North NRD. This option was proposed by the county officials present as it would make the NRD boundary line coincide with the county precinct lines. That would benefit both the county election commissioner and the county assessor.

Conclusion. While not a major revision, the possible relocation of section 31 in St. Bernard township could be pursued further. The landowner(s) and resident(s) of that section should be contacted by the county and/or NRDs for input. A formal position on such a modification is also needed by the Lower Platte North NRD. The Lower Loup NRD board has voted to oppose any changes in its boundaries. That position would have to be reconsidered before any change could take place. No other changes are recommended in Platte County at present.

Rock County

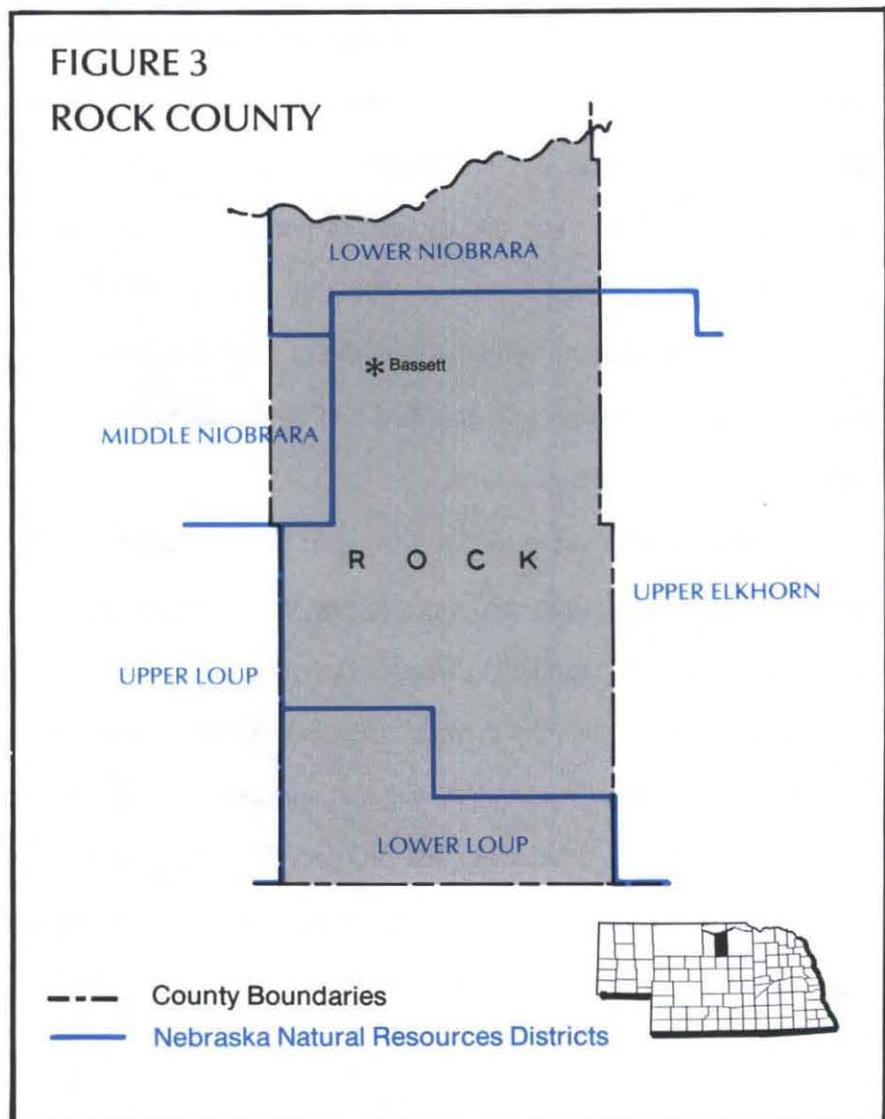
Process for Review. Rock County also has portions of four natural resources districts. They are the Middle Niobrara NRD, the Lower Niobrara NRD, the Upper Elkhorn NRD, and the Lower Loup NRD. A meeting similar to the one conducted in Platte County was held in Bassett on May 30, 1989. It was also well attended by NRD, county, and federal officials affected by the boundaries. A meeting summary appears as Appendix 3 to this report.

Several possibilities were discussed, but the only two considered worthy of any follow-up by the participants were the relocation to the Upper Elkhorn NRD of the portions of Rock County currently in the Middle Niobrara and Lower Niobrara NRDs. With regard to the Middle Niobrara NRD portion, it was agreed that the Ainsworth Irrigation District should be contacted and that its opinion and that of the Board of Directors of the Middle Niobrara NRD should be obtained. Both entities have since recommended no change concerning that portion of the NRD.

The Lower Niobrara NRD also agreed to consider allowing the portion of that NRD to be transferred to the Upper Elkhorn NRD. That consideration has since occurred and the Board concluded that the existing boundaries were preferable.

Action was also taken by the North Central Nebraska Resources Conservation and Development Board of Directors to recommend that no NRD boundary changes occur in Rock County.

Conclusion. While the current boundaries in Rock County cause some inconvenience for federal and county officials, those officials do not consider that inconvenience to be serious. They expressed an understanding of why the boundaries had been delineated as they are. Given the actions of the affected NRDs, the irrigation district, and the RC & D since the May 30 meeting, the Natural Resources Commission concludes that there is no justification at the present time for changing NRD boundaries in Rock County.



Tri-Basin NRD

Process for Review. The Tri-Basin NRD's boundaries are the least consistent with the statutory boundary criteria. The district contains significant portions of the Middle Platte, Republican, and Little Blue river basins. (See Figure 1, Page 1-4). The primary reason in 1971 for creating the Tri-Basin NRD (rather than allocating its territory to the surrounding districts on hydrologic lines) was the anticipated contact and need for NRD coordination with the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District headquartered in Holdrege. The question to be considered as part of the LB 148 study was whether that or others reasons for the current boundaries were still valid or whether changes should now be made.

To obtain input on this issue, the Commission asked each of the four surrounding natural resources districts (Central Platte, Little Blue, Lower Republican, and Middle Republican NRDs) if the current boundaries had hindered activities in their districts to date. They were also asked for any opinions about the division of Tri-Basin and the addition of portions of it to their districts. Three of the four districts responded. Two indicated that there would be some positive impacts if Tri-Basin were divided, but also noted that no serious problems had existed or were anticipated because of the current boundaries. A good working relationship with the Tri-Basin NRD was noted by all three. No district proposed any changes in the current boundaries.

The NRC staff also met with the Tri-Basin board on June 15 and sought that board's position on the same question. The action recommended by the NRD Executive Committee and endorsed by all board members present at that meeting was to support leaving the boundaries as they currently are.

Conclusion. While the current Tri-Basin NRD boundaries are not consistent with hydrologic basin lines, the Tri-Basin NRD has worked well with surrounding districts and existing boundaries do not appear to have created any difficulties for program operations in either the Tri-Basin NRD or any of the surrounding districts. No such problems are anticipated for the immediate future and no boundary changes are felt to be justified at this time.

Boundary Between Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs

Process for Review. The Commission did not identify this particular boundary as an issue for study. However, during the course of the LB 148 study, interest was expressed by some affected parties in either placing all of Holt County in the Upper Elkhorn NRD or in merging the Upper Elkhorn and Lower Niobrara NRDs (See Figure 1, Page I-4). These districts share ground water quantity and quality problems that may prove to be their biggest challenges in future years. Such possible boundary changes and others involving the Lower Niobrara NRD and surrounding districts were further discussed informally as part of the study of low valuation districts described later in this report. The Lower Niobrara NRD and two of the three districts which border it are among the four lowest valuation NRDs.

Conclusion. The Commission expresses no final conclusion about whether the boundary line between the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs should be relocated or whether a merger involving the Lower Niobrara NRD should be effected. However, the Commission believes that there is sufficient commonality of interest between the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs that consideration of a merger of those two districts should occur within the next two years. The Middle Niobrara and Lewis & Clark NRDs should also participate in any such discussions.

NRD ELECTION PROCEDURES

Question Considered. The natural resources districts currently have three methods which can be utilized for election of NRD directors. A district can be divided into subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 with an at-large vote on all directors. If a district chooses to make its subdistricts substantially equal in population, the elections can be by subdistrict only. That is, the residents of a subdistrict vote only on the candidates to represent that subdistrict rather than the whole board. Finally, a district may choose not to create subdistricts at all, but to nominate and elect all directors at large.

Originally, only the first election option was available. The second and third options first became available in 1988. Before the 1988 election five districts chose to create substantially equal population subdistricts and to elect by subdistrict. The remainder continue to use subdistricts, but to elect at-large.

Only eight percent of the respondents to the questionnaire distributed in 1988 felt that the voters were well informed about NRD candidates. A majority expressed the opinion that the 18 NRDs that still elect at-large should modify their procedures to elect by subdistrict. One reason given for such a change was the opportunity for the voter to become better informed about the NRD candidates for whom he or she was being asked to vote.

Current statutes encourage but do not require election by equal population subdistricts. Assuming that such elections would in fact improve the election process and enhance voter awareness of NRD candidates, the question the Commission decided to consider as part of this study was whether the current statutory encouragement was sufficient or whether statutory incentives or requirements ought to be added.

Process for Review. Additional input on this question was desired and obtained from - the natural resource districts and the county election officials. The county clerk or county election commissioner in each county was asked for his or her personal preference about NRD elections and for his or her opinion about voter preference on the same question. They were also asked to identify any expected impact on work load and any increase or decrease in their office costs because of election procedure changes.

Each of the natural resources districts was also asked for input. The five districts that have already switched to election by subdistrict were asked to express their opinion on that method after having utilized it for one election. Those not yet changing the election method were asked if they had considered doing so, any reasons for not selecting that method, and whether they would now support any requirements or incentives for such a change.

The complete responses appear as Appendices 4, 5, and 6 to this report. They are summarized as follows:

County Election Official Responses. (Appendix 4) Responses were received from 59 of the 93 county election officials. Fifty-six of those were willing to share at least their own preference for the type of NRD election: Thirty-eight of the fifty-five favored elections by equal population subdistrict; five favored the current system using subdistricts but electing at-large; eight favored electing at-large with no subdistricts; and three expressed no preference.

There was only slightly less willingness on the part of the county election officials to speculate on the voters' preference: Thirty-two of the officials felt that voters would prefer election by sub-district only; three felt the voters would prefer the current system; six believed that nomination and election without subdistricts would be preferred; and five felt the voters had no preference. Several election officials commented that a large percentage of their voters do not vote on NRD candidates because of lack of voter information.

In predicting the impact of elections by subdistrict only, the county election officials were much less in agreement: Fifteen felt that costs would increase; fifteen felt that costs would decrease; and sixteen felt that using the election by subdistrict approach would have no effect on election expenses. Several noted that the critical issue was whether the subdistrict boundaries coincided with the election precinct lines. A number were rather emphatic in their request that precincts not be divided because doing so greatly increases election costs and greatly complicates the job of precinct officials on election day.

A number of the election officials also commented about the current law requiring that NRD candidates appear on the primary election ballot even if there is only one or two candidates. They felt that was a waste of ballot space and money and encouraged legislation to require placing NRD candidates on the primary ballot only when more than two candidates have filed for a position.

NRD Responses. (Appendices 5 and 6) All 23 natural resource districts returned their worksheets. The results were significantly different from those submitted by the county election officials. Even among the five districts that have already selected the election by subdistrict method, only one recommended legislation requiring the use of that method. The other four felt that each district should continue to have the options presently in effect. All five seemed firm in their convictions that the election by subdistrict approach was right for their district.

Responses were similar from the districts which continue to elect at large. When asked if they would support a legislative requirement for equal population subdistricts, two districts responded in the affirmative, two were undecided and 14 answered no. Even when asked if they would support incentives for election by subdistrict, 14 still answered no. One district was undecided and three said they would support an incentive which provided for temporary state payment of election expenses for those districts with election

by subdistrict. Those three were however opposed to imposing any type of penalty on districts which wish to elect at large.

In other comments about the election process, several districts noted that they do receive complaints about lack of voter knowledge about NRD candidates. Several also expressed strong feelings that there are resources related reasons for not using population as the only criterion for designating subdistricts. As long as the current method of nominating by subdistrict but electing at large is constitutional, as it has been determined to be, they feel its advantages outweigh its disadvantages.

Conclusion. The nomination of candidates from unequal population subdistricts and their election at large has both positive and negative impacts. To some extent, it allows NRDs to create subdistricts that relate to specific resource areas or problems, and it simplifies the election process in one way - it is not critical that subdistrict boundaries coincide with precinct lines. However, it complicates the process in other ways, primarily because of the lengthy ballot required and the tendency of voters to ignore such a ballot, especially when they know few or none of the candidates. The Commission does not believe that additional legislative requirements or incentives for election by subdistrict are necessary or appropriate. Each district is in the best position to assess what is the most appropriate election method for that district. For those districts that do decide to elect by subdistrict, it is virtually imperative that the subdistrict boundaries be placed on election precinct lines.

ASSESSMENT OF LOW VALUATION NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICTS

Question Presented. When the Middle Missouri Tribes Natural Resources District began inquiring about the possibility of merger with other NRDs, its primary motivation was its low valuation and its apparent financial inability to handle future needs and requirements. That NRD's financial problems have now been resolved through a merger with the Papio NRD. Questions about the financial capability of other NRDs persist, however, because the Middle Missouri Tribes was not the lowest in valuation. Five NRDs have lower valuations. The question raised is whether any or all of those five can expect to face financial problems

similar to or worse than those of the Middle Missouri Tribes NRD. The question was deemed serious enough to justify inclusion as part of the LB 148 Study.

After looking at the financial status of the five lowest valuation NRDs, it was decided that the Upper Republican NRD did not need to be assessed. It has a ground water control area which gives it the ability to levy additional funds for ground water management purposes. Also, at present, it is levying less than one-half of its authorized levy for general program purposes.

The financial situation of the four lowest valuation districts is summarized in the table below. None of those four districts are currently at their maximum authorized levy. However, as the last column in the table shows, a relatively small amount of additional funds could be raised even if the maximum levy were imposed by each of the NRDs.

Table I
NRD 1988-89 Budget Summary

NRD	Valuation	Total Requirements	Tax Requirements	Cents Levied/ \$100 Valuation	Additional Funds if 4.5/\$100 Levied
Lewis and Clark	\$461,540,647	\$331,365	\$154,548	3.35	\$53,145
Middle Niobrara	308,293,277	336,266	107,962	3.50	31,669
Lower Niobrara	304,267,822	380,761	97,879	3.50	39,041
Upper Loup	290,715,700	227,498	80,815	2.78	50,007

Process for Review. A NRC staff member spent approximately one-half day discussing the financial status of each of the four NRDs with their respective managers. In the Lewis and Clark NRD, two directors and the liaison district conservationist for SCS were also present for the discussion. In each NRD, all existing NRD authorities were discussed, including the current level of activity under each authority, the ability to satisfy realistic needs in that NRD and the potential for major new financial demands in the future.

The overall financial viability of the four districts was then assessed individually and collectively with the resulting conclusions which appear below.

Conclusions. Each of the four low valuation NRDs has sufficient financial capability at the present time to meet the needs as identified by their respective boards of directors. The opportunity exists for additional expenditures in each of the NRDs, but thus far, funding has not proven to be a serious limitation.

In each of the four, the possibility for demands exceeding the district's financial capability is acknowledged, but cannot now be expected. All four districts are concerned about the potential demands that water quality monitoring and management might place on their resources. Each also identified the possible need to add staff either for the NRD's own purposes or for support for the Soil Conservation Service. Some additional taxing capability does exist for these purposes in all four districts.

Based on the information currently available, the Commission feels that no major revisions in NRD financial capability are needed specifically for low valuation districts. However, there are a number of potential demands on NRD resources which could rapidly alter that conclusion. The degree to which those demands impact low valuation NRDs could be minimized by state action in several areas. First, a significant amount of the financial burden that would exist in a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program would result from the water analysis costs. If the state were to assume responsibility for those costs as proposed in LB 445 of the 1988 legislative session, that would significantly reduce the potential for any single district being unable to do necessary water quality monitoring.

Another demand for expenditures that is often not met on a statewide basis is demand for cost-share dollars for basic conservation practices. At the current time, the cost-share demand in the four low valuation districts does not greatly exceed available funds, including those from state and federal sources. However, the Food Security Act and other incentives for landowner installation of conservation practices could increase that demand, especially in the Lewis & Clark and Lower Niobrara NRDs. Such additional demand could easily exceed what the natural resources districts could collect through local taxation. This additional demand could of course also be met through additional state appropriations to the Soil & Water Conservation Fund.

SECTION II

REPORT AND ANALYSIS
QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE COMPOSITION
OF
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS

APPROVED IN JANUARY, 1989

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INTRODUCTION

In 1987, the Nebraska Legislature adopted LB 148. The most controversial portion of that bill raised the maximum authorized tax levy of natural resources districts from 3.5 to 4.5 cents per \$100.00 actual valuation. The bill also modified NRD election procedures and directed a move toward more equal population subdistricts.

Not controversial at the time, but also included in the bill was a section requiring the Natural Resources Commission to conduct a study. That section, found now at Section 2-3203.02, R.R.S.1943 provides as follows:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2-3203, the Legislature hereby directs the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to study the composition of the state's natural resources districts in existence on August 30, 1987, and formulate and recommend to the Legislature a plan which provides for natural resources districts which will equitably and economically manage, conserve, develop, and protect the state's natural resources. Such a plan shall be completed and presented to the Legislature no later two years from August 30, 1987". (Emphasis added.)

Legislative history concerning the purposes for the study is brief. Clearly some legislators saw the geographic composition of the natural resources districts as the primary purpose for the study. These included Senator Gerald Conway of Wayne, the introducer of the amendment calling for the study. Other legislators, including Senator Loran Schmit of Bellwood appeared to have other issues in mind, including a review of the basic authorities of natural resource districts and of the districts' accountability to the public. These issues relate more to the political composition of the NRDs. Finally, the staff and members of the Natural Resources Commission saw the study as an opportunity to reflect on where NRDs have come after sixteen years of operation and to suggest any change in programs or authorities that might make them more effective in fulfilling their objectives to manage, conserve, develop, and protect the state's natural resources.

The potential breadth of such a study was noted and considered; it could include a review of all aspects of NRD makeup and operations. However, such an extensive and far-reaching study was not felt to be consistent with the intent of most legislators and was also deemed to be beyond the capability of the staff given other responsibilities and the lack of any funding for this study. A way to narrow the issues, selecting those felt to be most important, was sought. The decision was made to utilize a questionnaire sent to individuals familiar with or likely to be familiar with natural resource districts as a means to identify issues for further study.

The questionnaire was prepared by NRC staff with help from the Cooperative Extension Service at UNL. It was designed to focus on three major areas: (1) NRD boundaries; (2) NRD accountability and relationships; and (3) NRD programs and responsibilities. A copy of the questionnaire is attached as Appendix 1.

A total of 1,963 questionnaires were mailed to individuals in the categories noted in Table 1. All recipients were either directly involved with natural resources districts or, for other reasons, likely to have had sufficient contact with NRDs to have some opinions about their composition.

Overall, one third of the questionnaires were returned. Individual questionnaires were anonymous, but the respondents were identifiable by the categories noted in Table 1. Table 1 also shows the total number of questionnaires returned by category and the percentage that return represents to the number sent. The Commission is very pleased with the number of responses received and expresses its appreciation to each individual who took the time to offer his or her opinions on the many questions asked.

One of the questions also asked each respondent to identify the natural resources district in which he or she resided. Table 2 indicates the number of questionnaires returned by the residents of each NRD. At least twelve questionnaires were returned from each natural resources district.

The results of the questionnaire are summarized in the material which follows. As noted earlier, the questionnaire was not intended to be an end in itself. Its primary purpose is to help the Commission

TABLE 1
QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTION

CATEGORY	NO. SENT	NO. RETURNED	%RETURNED
1) NRD Board Members NRD Managers NARD Staff	399	179	49%
2) County Board Chairpersons Mayors & Village Board Chairpersons City Managers & Administrators League of Nebraska Municipalities Staff Nebraska Assoc. of County Officials Staff	660	158	24%
3) Members of the Legislature	49	13	26%
4) Farm Organization Representatives Environmental Organization Representatives General Interest Organization & Assoc. Representatives Resources Organization Representatives	27	12	44%
5) Land Improvement Contractors	186	50	27%
6) Federal Agency Representatives SCS (State, Area, & Field Off. Staff) ASCS (State & Local Office Staff) EPA Bureau of Reclamation Corps of Engineers Bureau of Indian Affairs U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Farmer's Home Administration	201	130	65%
7) State Agency and UNL Representatives Dept. of Environmental Control Staff Natural Resources Commission Members Department of Water Resources State Budget Office Board of Educational Lands & Funds Conservation & Survey Division Game & Parks Commission Staff Extension Service (State & County Staff) Other University Personnel	134	54	40%
8) Newspaper Editors Radio & TV Station Managers Other Press	307	49	16%
9) Unknown (Respondent Removed Questionnaire Coding Number)	0	12	33%
TOTALS	1963	657	33%

TABLE 2
QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED

NRD RESIDENCE	NUMBER RETURNED
Upper Big Blue	34
Lower Big Blue	21
Upper Elkhorn	15
Lower Elkhorn	36
Little Blue	31
Upper Loup	13
Lower Loup	31
Lewis and Clark	16
Middle Missouri Tribs	12
Papio	27
Nemaha	36
Upper Niobrara	12
Middle Niobrara	12
Lower Niobrara	18
North Platte	16
South Platte	13
Twin Platte	13
Central Platte	24
Lower Platte North	27
Lower Platte South	50
Upper Republican	13
Middle Republican	19
Lower Republican	23
Tri-Basin	17
Unknown (Residence Question was not answered by respondent)	<u>129</u>
TOTAL	657

identify aspects about the "composition" of NRDs which deserve further study. The analysis which follows identifies potential study topics based on the questionnaire results. The Commission then selected those which it felt was most appropriate for additional analysis. The results of those analyses are in Section I of this report.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

General

The responses to the questionnaire were computerized and the answers were made available by category and by NRD residence of the respondents. Written responses to open ended questions were also computerized. Those results have now been analyzed and are summarized here. Issues which emerge as those considered most significant by the respondents are identified as possible issues for further study.

As noted earlier, the questionnaire addressed three major areas: (1) NRD boundaries; (2) NRD accountability and relationships; and (3) NRD programs and responsibilities. The analysis which follows utilizes the same breakdown.

Part I: NRD Boundaries

The questionnaire was designed to get opinions on four different boundary questions: (1) whether the basic boundary criteria (primarily river basin lines) should be changed; (2) whether specific boundary lines ought to be relocated; (3) whether specific NRDs ought to be merged; and (4) whether any NRDs ought to be divided into two or more smaller NRDs.

Question 1: NRD boundaries are based primarily upon hydrologic boundaries (river basin lines) especially in eastern Nebraska. Do you believe this boundary criteria ought to be changed? Of the 642 individuals who responded to this question, 95 (15%) said yes, 454 (71%) said no, and 93 (14%) had no opinion. The results indicate that the majority of respondents believe the current boundary criteria are the most appropriate. Of those believing that changes should be made, the most often recommended

change was to make NRD boundaries correspond more closely with county lines. 45% of those suggesting a change identified that as the desired revision. Most of those making that suggestion (72%) were federal agency representatives (Category 6). The fact that such a large percentage came from federal agency representatives is not surprising because their service areas are largely based on county lines. It is worth noting, however, that even among the federal representatives, only 29% felt a change was necessary while 63% felt it was not.

Other suggestions which were made, but much less frequently, include the following:

- (1) Utilize hydrologic lines even more closely than they are presently;
- (2) Rely more on tax valuation or population; and
- (3) Utilize common problems or mutual interests more than hydrologic boundaries.

Possible study topics: With respect to the overall boundary criteria, more use of county lines appears to be the only possible topic for additional study. Whether or not that should receive separate study should be considered in view of some of the individual boundary changes suggested in response to questions 2, 3, and 4.

Question 2: Are there specific NRD boundaries which you believe ought to be moved? Overall, the responses to this question were similar to those to question #1 except that there was a larger number of "no opinions". 96 respondents (16%) felt that specific boundary changes should be made, 306 respondents (50%) suggested no changes, and 208 (34%) had no opinion. Of those respondents answering yes, many suggested NRDs mergers which are discussed in the analysis of question #3. It was also obvious from the responses to this question and question #3 that some individuals made their recommendations based primarily on the visual appearance of the statewide NRD map. However, the question did elicit a large variety of specific boundary suggestions. Those which were identified on four or more responses are as follows:

1. Thirteen respondents suggested relocating the Shell Creek drainage which is now part of the Lower Platte North NRD. Some suggested moving this drainage to the Lower Elkhorn NRD and

others to the Lower Loup NRD. Since a portion of Platte County is within the Shell Creek drainage, the suggestions below concerning it also relate.

2. Six respondents commented specifically about Platte County and the fact that it is currently divided into four different natural resource districts. However, few of those suggested anything specific about how to change the boundaries.
3. Five respondents felt that the Tri-Basin NRD should not be a separate NRD and that its territory should be split up among three surrounding districts.
4. Five individuals mentioned the Holt County portion of the boundary line between the Lower Niobrara NRD and the Upper Elkhorn NRD. Some of them suggested that all of Holt County be in the Upper Elkhorn NRD. Also related was a suggestion of a number of respondents that the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs be combined.
5. Finally, four respondents suggested that changes be made in Rock County, where like Platte County, four NRDs presently have territory.

Possible Study Topics. Any of the five areas identified above could be considered for additional study by the Commission.

Question 3: Are there any NRDs you believe should be merged with each other?

This question produced a higher proportion of positive responses than the previous two questions. 157 respondents (26%) answered yes, 226 (37%) said no and 233 (38%) had no opinion. By far the most frequently suggested merger involved the Middle Missouri Tribes NRD. 81 of the respondents (52% of the yes answers) suggested a merger of that NRD with either the Lewis and Clark, Lower Elkhorn or Papio Natural Resource Districts. Since the Commission, the Middle Missouri Tribes NRD, and the Papio NRD have already approved a merger beginning January 5, 1989, that issue has been resolved. No other merger received a comparable amount of support. However, four other mergers were suggested by at least five respondents each. They are as follows:

1. Five individuals suggested merging the Middle Niobrara and Lower Niobrara NRDs.

2. Six suggested a merger of the Lower Niobrara and Upper Elkhorn NRDs, the only transbasin merger receiving any significant support. Note also the earlier suggestions about the Holt County portion of the boundary between these two districts.
3. Five suggested a merger of the Upper Big Blue and Lower Big Blue NRDs. Those giving reasons for that were mostly concerned about flood control in the Lower Big Blue NRD.
4. Six respondents suggested a merger of the Lower Platte North and Lower Platte South NRDs.

There were also at least ten responses which suggested multiple mergers statewide using river basin boundaries for that purpose. For example, all Niobrara NRDs would be combined, both Elkhorns, both Loups, etc.

Possible Study Topics. Each of the possibilities identified above could be given further consideration by the Commission and by the NRDs involved.

Question 4: Are there NRDs you believe should be divided into two or more smaller NRDs? Increasing the number of districts by dividing existing ones received very little support. Only 35 of the respondents (6%) answered in the affirmative on this question. 344 (57%) answered no and 220 (37%) had no opinion. Only the Lower Loup NRD was suggested more than five times as a candidate for division; it would appear to be the only possible NRD for further study in this regard.

Question 5 was the question asking for the NRD residence of the respondent. Table 2 in the Introduction reflects the answers.

Part II: NRD Accountability and Relationships

This portion of the questionnaire was designed to get opinions about how well NRDs are understood, how they are perceived to be doing thus far, how their performance could be helped, and how they relate to others. As the copy of the questionnaire in Appendix 1 notes, opinions on these issues were obtained through two questions. The first included 18 statements; respondents were asked to strongly agree, agree,

neither agree or disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the 18. The second question asked specifically about NRD relationships with other entities and interest groups.

Question 6: The 18 statements in question 6 generated opinions on six different sub-topics. The following five statements were particularly relevant in obtaining opinions about how well NRDs are doing in general.

NRDs are addressing the resources needs of their areas

Agree or strongly agree - 75%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 11%

Neutral - 14%

NRDs respond to public opinion

Agree or strongly agree - 65%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 13%

Neutral- 22

NRDs effectively carry out their assigned responsibilities

Agree or strongly agree - 60%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 11%

Neutral - 29%

NRDs need more authority to prevent harm to soil and water resources

Agree or strongly agree - 41%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 28%

Neutral - 31%

State government should have more control of NRD activities

Agree or strongly agree - 18%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 58%

Neutral - 24%

Overall, these responses indicate general satisfaction with NRDs. A substantial number, but less than a majority, felt that NRDs need more authority to prevent harm to soil and water resources. That same issue received more attention, and with somewhat different results, in the responses to question number 9 discussed later. It is clear that most respondents did not feel that NRDs would be improved if state government had more control of them.

Two groups of statements related to how well NRDs are known and understood. The first, including three statements, addressed public knowledge about NRDs in general as follows:

Most people know what an NRD is

Agree or strongly agree - 22%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 60%

Neutral - 18%

Most people know what an NRD does

Agree or strongly agree - 14%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 67%

Neutral - 29%

NRDs attempt to keep residents well informed

Agree or strongly agree - 55%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 18%

Neutral - 27%

The responses indicate that much remains to be done to inform the public about NRDs, but surprisingly few of the respondents felt that the need resulted from lack of NRD effort to inform and educate the public.

Three statements specifically addressed the election of NRD directors.

They were as follows:

Most voters are well informed about NRD candidates

Agree or strongly agree - 8%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 75%

Neutral - 17%

NRD directors should be elected by sub-district rather than at-large

Agree or strongly agree - 64%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 14%

Neutral - 22%

Even if elections are at-large, NRD sub-districts should be of equal population

Agree or strongly agree - 42%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 27%

Neutral - 31%

The statement about how well informed voters are about NRD candidates received the lowest "agree or strongly agree" and the highest "disagree or strongly disagree" totals of all 18 of the statements. The majority of those responding appeared to believe that voters could be better informed if elections were by subdistrict. A plurality, although not a majority, supported making NRD subdistricts equal in population, a move constitutionally required to utilize election by subdistrict.

Two statements related to the level of non-financial assistance provided NRDs by the state and federal government. The responses to those are summarized as follows:

State government should provide NRDs with more non-financial assistance

Agree and strongly agree - 46%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 17%

Neutral - 37%

The federal government should provide NRDs with more non-financial assistance

Agree and strongly agree - 43%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 22%

Neutral - 35%

As noted, the results are similar for both the state and federal government on the question of additional non-financial assistance.

Five statements related directly to NRD funding. The following statement about current use of funds was made with the following results:

NRDs spend funds wisely

Agree and strongly agree - 51%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 17%

Neutral - 31%

Of the nine categories of respondents, only the undesignated one (category 9) had a higher number of negative responses than positive responses.

The need for additional funds was addressed by a number of separate statements as follows:

NRDs need more money to perform tasks properly

Agree and strongly agree- 46%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 26%

Neutral - 28%

State government should provide NRDs with more money for programs or projects

Agree or strongly agree - 58%

Disagree or strongly disagree - 17%

Neutral - 25%

A larger share of project costs should be paid by fees from users and beneficiaries

Agree and strongly agree - 53%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 19%

Neutral - 28%

The federal government should provide NRDs with more money

Agree and strongly agree - 45%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 28%

Neutral - 27%

It is interesting to note that a significantly higher number of respondents were in favor of additional state funding and additional user fees than were in favor of additional federal funds. With regard to the

statement about federal funds, there were two categories of respondents (4 and 6) where a larger number of respondents disagreed than agreed with the statement. More of the respondents in all categories agreed with additional state funding than disagreed.

Possible Study Topics: The lack of general public and voter information about NRDs remains a problem. Ways to publicize NRDs more effectively could be considered as could ways to improve the elective process. While current law encourages natural resources districts to create subdistricts of equal population, consideration could be given to legislation requiring that. Then, the election by subdistrict supported by the majority of the respondents would be possible.

Also, the level of funding available to NRDs remains a problem in the opinion of many respondents. The two options most appropriate for consideration based upon the responses are additional state funding and additional ways to use fees to charge users and beneficiaries. Finally, ways could be sought to encourage additional state and federal non-financial assistance to NRDs.

Question 7: As noted earlier, the second question in this portion of the questionnaire related specifically to relationships between NRDs and others. The questions and the responses which followed were: **"Do you feel there is a need to improve relationships between NRDs and:**

a. Other NRDs?

Yes - 24%; No - 25%; No opinion - 51%

b. Other local units of government?

Yes - 46%; No - 21%; No opinion - 32%

c. State agencies?

Yes - 26%; No - 25%; No opinion - 49%

d. Federal agencies?

Yes - 33%; No - 26%; No opinion - 41%

e. Interest groups?

Yes - 34%; No - 24%; No opinion - 42%

Note that a significantly higher proportion of the respondents felt that there was a need for NRDs to have better relationships with other local units of government than with any of the other categories.

For each respondent answering yes to any of these categories, they were also asked to make suggestions about how the relationships could be improved. A large number of suggestions were provided under each category. Many suggested just more communication and cooperation in general while others had more specific and sometimes more colorful suggestions. A sampling of those suggestions follows by category of relationship.

NRD/NRD

Share employees and responsibilities, not be so independent and not act without any supervision, guidelines, or lack of responsibility towards resource conservation and proper management.

Workshops - and exchange of information ideas.

Eliminate opposing each other in court. This has cost the taxpayer thousands of dollars.

Through NARD - NRC

NRDs/Other Local Units of Government

Conference of local governments

Tell them what you are doing

They need to have mutual goals. Could pull resources together more.

More PR by NRDs

Recognize urban needs

NRDs/State Agencies

Give NRDs more powers; everything has to be approved by state NRC.

Solicit comments from all environmental groups early in project planning

State to allow local control

Share programs of like nature

State needs to impose fines or limits rather than local NRD

I think it's a very poor question to be asking the recipients of this questionnaire

State agencies should reach out more

Keep NRDs out of the hands of politicians

Less reliance on NNRC and more involvement with other state agencies

NRDs/Federal Agencies

Quit fighting between NRD and SCS

Not be so independent, have to answer to or be responsible to a higher level of government

NRDs need to know that most NRD programs and federal programs are the same job and not "theirs and ours"

NRD/Interest Groups

Solicit comments early in project planning

Work face to face, communication

Some interest groups are grossly overrepresented, some groups are not represented at all.

A subdistrict only election would help with better representation

There is a constant need to maintain and improve relationships with other agencies and groups. The greatest need is probably with other interest groups. The NRDs should initiate action to involve these groups in their various committees.

Open communication lines and not wait for input voluntarily.

There is a vast need to proceed cautiously with some special interest groups.

Communication (real communication as opposed to newsletters) and joint problem solving.

Part III: NRD Programs and Responsibilities

This portion of the questionnaire sought opinions about maintenance of current programs, addition of new programs, and legislative improvement in existing programs.

Question 8: This question asked whether NRDs should continue to have responsibility for 16 different authorities currently held. The responses are listed in order of support for continuation.

Flood control

Agree and strongly agree - 92%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 3%

Neutral - 5%

Soil conservation

Agree and strongly agree - 91%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 4%

Neutral - 5%

Ground water quality regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 89%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 5%

Neutral - 6%

Chemigation regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 87%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 6%

Neutral - 7%

Irrigation runoff regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 87%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 4%

Neutral - 9%

Groundwater quantity regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 87%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 5%

Neutral - 8%

Soil erosion regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 84%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 47%

Neutral - 9%

Streambank stabilization

Agree and strongly agree - 76%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 10%

Neutral - 14%

Water supply for irrigation

Agree and strongly agree - 73%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 10%

Neutral - 17%

Water supply for domestic use

Agree and strongly agree - 66%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 15%

Neutral - 19%

Range management

Agree and strongly agree - 61%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 15%

Neutral - 24%

Drainage projects

Agree and strongly agree - 59%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 11%

Neutral - 30%

Instream flow appropriations

Agree and strongly agree - 59%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 13%

Neutral - 28%

Forestry

Agree and strongly agree - 53%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 18%

Neutral - 29%

Fish and wildlife habitat development

Agree and strongly agree - 51%
Disagree and strongly disagree - 22%
Neutral - 27%

Recreation and park development and management

Agree and strongly agree - 42%
Disagree and strongly disagree - 30%
Neutral - 28%

Possible Study Topics: A majority of the respondents supported continuation of all but one of the current programs and that was supported by a plurality of those responding. For that program receiving the least support (recreation and park development and management) the category 6 respondents (federal agency representatives) were the only ones where more of the respondents (36 percent) disagreed with continuing than those supporting continuation (33 percent). Members of the press (category 8) and representatives of other local governments (category 2) strongly supported continuation. If elimination of this authority were to be considered as a possible study topic, its relationship to the other NRD authorities would have to be taken into account.

Question 9: Respondents were also asked to express opinions about the possibility of adding new responsibilities and programs. Nine possibilities were listed and they are ranked below according to relative levels of support for additional NRD involvement.

Surface water pollution control

Agree and strongly agree - 61%
Disagree and strongly disagree - 22%
Neutral - 17%

Resolving drainage conflicts

Agree and strongly agree - 55%
Disagree and strongly disagree - 21%
Neutral - 24%

Flood plain regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 53%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 22%

Neutral - 25%

Surface water use regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 52%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 25%

Neutral - 23%

Habitat protection

Agree and strongly agree - 46%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 26%

Neutral - 28%

Resolving well interference conflicts

Agree and strongly agree - 43%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 25%

Neutral - 32%

Land use regulation

Agree and strongly agree - 33%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 38%

Neutral - 39%

Solid waste disposal

Agree and strongly agree - 22%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 54%

Neutral - 24%

Weed control

Agree and strongly agree - 19%

Disagree and strongly disagree - 56%

Neutral - 25%

In summary, the majority of those responding supported the addition of four new programs and responsibilities and the plurality supported two more. Only three of the possibilities listed were opposed by at least a plurality.

Possible Study Topics: The addition of any of the four programs receiving the most support, i.e. surface water pollution control, resolving drainage conflicts, floodplain regulation, or surface water use regulation, could be considered.

Question 10: The last question in the section on NRD programs and responsibilities asked for any suggested legislative changes in existing NRD programs and authorities. Eight specific programs were identified. In no case did those suggesting changes constitute a majority or a plurality, but there was nevertheless a noticeable difference among levels of support for changes. For those suggesting changes, two common themes supported were additional program funding and more consistent and effective enforcement of regulatory programs. The programs listed below are in decreasing order of support for legislative changes; frequently recurring suggestions are identified.

Funding capability

Yes - 27%; No - 35%; No Opinion - 38%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

Additional state and federal funds

Additional property tax

Additional user fees

Allow general obligation bonds

Chemigation

Yes - 25%; No - 43 %; No opinion - 31%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

Make regulations tougher

Stop chemigation altogether

Higher fees or additional funding

Erosion and Sediment Control Act

Yes - 17%; No - 43%; No opinion - 40%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

Reduce the mandatory cost-share rate to 75 percent or normal county rate

Eliminate the reference to "T" or make compatible with FSA

Include urban erosion

Groundwater control areas

Yes - 13%; No - 45%; No opinion - 42%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

More local control

More financing

Groundwater management areas

Yes - 11%; No - 45%; No opinion - 44%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

More enforcement capability

More control of chemicals

Special protection areas (Non-point groundwater pollution control)

Yes - 10%; No - 35%; No Opinion - 55%

Most Frequently Mentioned Changes

More enforcement capability

More funding capability

Instream flow appropriations

Yes - 9%; No - 38%; No opinion - 53%

Most Frequently Mentioned Change

Allow recognition of groundwater recharge

Improvement project areas

Yes - 9%; No - 35%; No opinion - 56%

Most Frequently Mentioned Change

Make it easier to establish IPAs

Possible Study Options: Any of the suggestions noted above, particularly those mentioned in the first three or four programs would be appropriate for consideration for further study.

Question 11. To conclude the questionnaire, each respondent was given an opportunity to make any additional suggestions he or she felt was appropriate to improve the composition of the state's NRDs. A significant number of the respondents used the opportunity to blow off steam, sometimes about NRDs and sometimes not. As a result, many of the responses had a negative tone. No particular theme not already addressed emerged from the responses to this question. The following quotes have been chosen as a sample of the suggestions that were made, with emphasis on issues not covered in the rest of the questionnaire.

A state wide water policy has to be developed and water use above normal should pay the highest fees.

That the members of the Legislature and the Governor's office quit chipping away at the operations of districts. We need local control to solve local problems. Districts have proven themselves responsible to local needs. LB 1106 was bad legislation. It undermined the working relationship between the NRC and the NRD's.

More control on clean water.

You need to provide a system which would at least guarantee an equal emphasis on preserving existing natural resources. At present this balance does not exist and the current structure of NRD's is for development at the expense of all else.

The NRD is doing a good job but feel it is competing with the Soil Conservation Service for tax dollars we are spending valuable tax dollars on administration of two separate services. The NRD in effect is doing what the SCS has done for years. If these two departments were combined into one service it would free millions of dollars that could be used directly to save our soil.

I would like to see common policies or regulations among NRDs because our agency works with different NRDs, and each one has to be handled differently even when we are working with identical programs. Most are ok as is - don't need changes.

The major limitation is probably funding. The potential for earmarking a portion of the sales tax for natural resources should continue to be pursued.

NRD operations across the state would be much improved if they did not have to spend a large amount of time and money defending themselves and their friends in Lincoln from the fumbling attempts to reorganize state government every time a new Governor takes office. The so-called improvement of this and the previous administration have done nothing but handicap any NRD trying to develop long range plans.

We would like to see more cooperation between the NRD and the County Board of Commissioners in regard to road dam structures.

Make limits on the number of years a director can serve. Watch for conflict of interest. An example is having a conservation contractor on the Board of Directors. They have first hand knowledge of new programs, money available for project and cost share, and use it to their advantage.

I felt questionnaire was poorly designed, particularly in questions 6/8/9. There are no yes/no answers to these questions. I may strongly agree with part of the statement and strongly disagree with another part. I feel as though this whole exercise is designed to lead you to the answers you want.

More training for staff and especially board members. The job of public responsibilities of boards. Many NRDs don't address the main conservation programs that they were created for.

As time and needs of districts change NRD's need to change, NRD's have different needs throughout the state and each district needs its own programs and I think this is good. NRD's need to work together with state and federal agencies.

Federal, state and local monies are often used to finance construction of flood control measures which protect areas that should never have been developed in the first place. Improvement project areas are the way to handle these situations, where the people that benefit pay the total cost of improvement. No tax money involved.

NRDs are presently doing an efficient and responsible job. Improvements can be made but should come locally, from within. Value should be given to districts maintaining their individuality, to not becoming administrators or regulators, but providing services, projects and self-government in the representations of their local needs that relate to natural resources.

It would be nice if two or more separate NRDs in one county would have identical programs available for similar resource-related problems.

Statewide evaluation on staffing needs, programs needs in general (equipment, supplies, etc.) to determine if NRDs are actually carrying out their charges or merely existing as entities and doing the minimal amount of work required. Most individuals have literally no clue as to the actual potential that an NRD could accomplish in its given area - if funding were available and the people desired it. Public awareness is the key. The majority of the public is not aware of NRD if they were we'd be in a far better shape - not that we currently are in a bad shape - but we need to evaluate ourselves periodically.

Our Board of Directors meetings have degenerated to fights meeting after meeting with little hope of conciliation or coordinated action on any issue. I suggest directors be elected in their own subdistrict. Decrease the number of directors to 8. At present the number is beyond the span of control by the chairman.

Make public aware of what NRDs are and their responsibilities and areas of concern. Public service spots on TV and radio would help - also public town hall meetings - newspaper coverage of projects and long term goals under consideration. An informed public would be more responsive to possible tax increases to help support the NRDs.

I believe the NRDs need to answer in a greater degree to the state. Some NRDs appear to "shirk" their responsibilities or their programs go off on a tangent or are very narrow - some means at some point, some overall state overlook needs to be implemented.

One area of concern in particular is on road projects and the drainage project by different agencies and subdivisions. I think NRDs need to be involved and have authority to stop such projects. One that I am familiar with is where a county has dug a ditch about 8-10 deep beside the road to take water from one creek to another. I just would like the NRDs to be able to help design such projects as they have more expertise than our local people plus they would also be concerned about the safety of our citizens.

No suggestion to improve composition. Items which need to be addressed by the state association and NRD management: procedures to allow flexibility and yet to maintain some uniformity of policies and procedures between NRDs. State guidelines relative to reimbursement to staff and directors for travel and expenses. The possible pooling and administration of cost-share monies for conservation practices, ACP monies, LB-450 money and NRD money.

Overall I like the NRDs, however, they need to be more aggressive in a number of areas to protect our soil and water better. In addition the election process is much better now but needs to continue to evolve to develop close ties to citizens.

The state must make a larger financial commitment to the NRDs if the state intends to effectively utilize the NRD system to manage its natural resources.

Pay is too low for the job directors are asked to do. This is a 16 year pay scale. It should be doubled - might get some better, more active directors to run.

Local control is a failure as people are unable to govern themselves. Selfish individual interests limit NRD power and give back to the state. The NRDs have moved to mini Corps of Engineers and mini Bureau of Reclamation organizations. NRDs should concentrate on natural resource enhancement, not environmentally unsound development.

Every year the trend seems to be more personal and administrative cost in comparison to funds available for actual conservation construction. I for one would like to see if this trend can be slowed if not reversed.

To accomplish major water resource development there needs to be reunified state support from all interests including the Governor's office, State Legislature, state agencies, NRDs, and Congressional delegation. Some professional state agency staff needs to provide technical support. Probably need one state agency, not 3 or 4.

I believe Board members need to be sworn in with an oath that commits them to working for the protection and appropriate utilization of our natural resources. It would seem that half are dedicated to this while 25% are dedicated to handcuffing the NRD to save tax dollars which has a net effect of wasting tax dollars because all funds go to operation, none to programs. The other 25% think they are big-time politicians and make meetings and program proposals into a passage through Dante's eternal hell. You can't do something in one county without these guys wanting it in each county. Regular weekly radio programs on local stations.

Make more subdistricts, equalize population, pay board members better. Education programs give the NRDs more authority especially as it concerns public safety and give them the authority, if they see fit to discontinue irrigation.

Basic concept of NRDs is excellent, however, poor administration. NRDs are not as effective as they could or should be. Important natural resource issues continue to be ignored or given slight of hand treatment as a result. NRD management both at the local and state level scurry for more administrative funds and personal power. Vital natural resources concerns are not addressed. NRDs are building huge recreational projects and thus assuming duties better left to more appropriate agencies; problems such as contamination of our precious underground water supplies and rivers and streams.

Continue to streamline the red tape. Have one area in charge. If it needs 10 approvals, have that one agency get them not to have to run around to all ten before you know where you are. Have legislature and government decide how important natural resources are.

Abolish NRDs and give responsibility to the county boards.

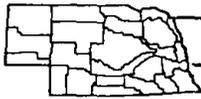
APPENDICES

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APPENDIX #1

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON COMPOSITION
OF NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS**

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Composition of Natural Resources Districts

NRD BOUNDARIES

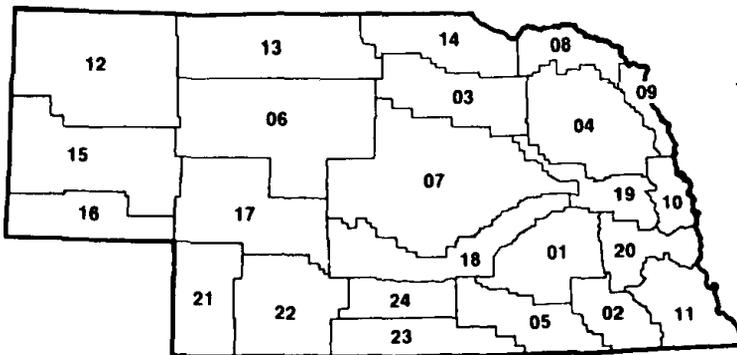
1. NRD boundaries are based primarily upon hydrologic boundaries (river basin lines) especially in eastern Nebraska. Do you believe this boundary criteria ought to be changed?

- 1. Definitely should How? _____
- 2. Probably should How? _____
- 3. No opinion
- 4. Probably should not
- 5. Definitely should not

2. Are there specific NRD boundaries you believe ought to be MOVED?

- 1. Yes, definitely Go to 2.A. and 2.B.
- 2. Yes, probably Go to 2.A. and 2.B.
- 3. No opinion Go to 3.
- 4. Probably not Go to 3.
- 5. Definitely not Go to 3.

2.A. On the map below, please circle the boundary lines you think should be MOVED.



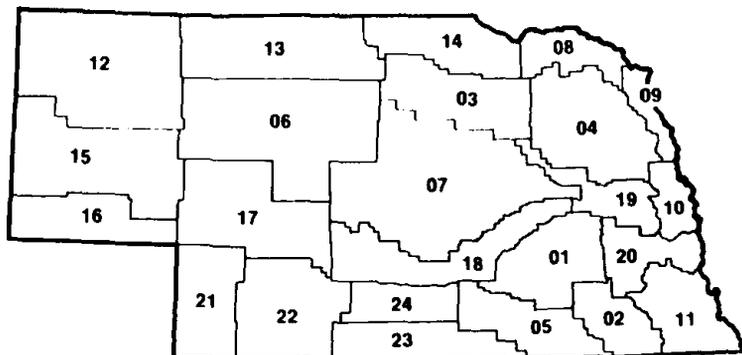
NRD Number	NRD Name	NRD Number	NRD Name
01	Upper Big Blue	13	Middle Niobrara
02	Lower Big Blue	14	Lower Niobrara
03	Upper Elkhorn	15	North Platte
04	Lower Elkhorn	16	South Platte
05	Little Blue	17	Twin Platte
06	Upper Loup	18	Central Platte
07	Lower Loup	19	Lower Platte North
08	Lewis and Clark	20	Lower Platte South
09	Middle Missouri Tribes	21	Upper Republican
10	Papio	22	Middle Republican
11	Nemaha	23	Lower Republican
12	Upper Niobrara	24	Tri-Basin

2.B. Please describe where the lines should be MOVED to and explain why.

3. Are there any NRDs you believe should be MERGED with each other?

- 1. Yes, definitely Go to 3.A. and 3.B.
- 2. Yes probably Go to 3.A. and 3.B.
- 3. No opinion Go to 4.
- 4. Probably not Go to 4.
- 5. Definitely not Go to 4.

3.A. On the map below, indicate which NRDs you think should be MERGED -- please color or mark the appropriate NRDs the same way.



NRD Number	NRD Name	NRD Number	NRD Name
01	Upper Big Blue	13	Middle Niobrara
02	Lower Big Blue	14	Lower Niobrara
03	Upper Elkhorn	15	North Platte
04	Lower Elkhorn	16	South Platte
05	Little Blue	17	Twin Platte
06	Upper Loup	18	Central Platte
07	Lower Loup	19	Lower Platte North
08	Lewis and Clark	20	Lower Platte South
09	Middle Missouri Tribes	21	Upper Republican
10	Papio	22	Middle Republican
11	Nemaha	23	Lower Republican
12	Upper Niobrara	24	Tri-Basin

3.B. Why do you believe a MERGER should occur?

4. Are there NRDs you believe should be DIVIDED into 2 or more smaller NRDs?

- _____ 1. Yes, definitely Go to 4.A.
- _____ 2. Yes, probably Go to 4.A.
- _____ 3. No opinion Go to 5.
- _____ 4. Probably not Go to 5.
- _____ 5. Definitely not Go to 5.

4.A. On the map under question 3.A., indicate which NRD(s) you think should be DIVIDED by drawing a line through the appropriate NRD(s) where you think the division should occur.

4.B. Why do you believe the NRD(s) should be DIVIDED?

5. Using the map under question 2.A. or 3.A., what is the 2 digit number of the NRD in which you reside. _____

NRD ACCOUNTABILITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

6. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements related to NRD accountability to the public or NRD relationships with others.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) NRDs are addressing the resources needs of their areas.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) NRDs respond to public opinion.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Most people know what an NRD is.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) Most people know what an NRD does.....	1	2	3	4	5
e) NRDs attempt to keep residents well informed.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) NRDS spend funds wisely.....	1	2	3	4	5
g) NRDs effectively carry out their assigned responsibilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) NRD directors should be elected by subdistrict rather than at large.....	1	2	3	4	5
i) Even if elections are at large, NRD sub-districts should be of equal population.....	1	2	3	4	5
j) Most voters are well-informed about NRD candidates.....	1	2	3	4	5
k) NRDs need more authority to prevent harm to soil and water resources.....	1	2	3	4	5
l) NRDs need more money to perform tasks properly.....	1	2	3	4	5
m) State government should have more control of NRD activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
n) State government should provide NRDs with more non-financial assistance.....	1	2	3	4	5
o) State government should provide NRDs with more money for programs or projects.....	1	2	3	4	5
p) A larger share of project costs should be paid by fees from users and beneficiaries.....	1	2	3	4	5
q) The federal government should provide NRDs with more non-financial assistance.....	1	2	3	4	5
r) The federal government should provide NRDs with more money.....	1	2	3	4	5

7. Do you feel there is a need to improve relationships between NRDs and:

--other NRDs?

- _____ 1. Yes -- How? _____
- _____ 2. No _____
- _____ 3. No opinion _____

-- other local units of government?

- _____ 1. Yes -- How? _____
- _____ 2. No _____
- _____ 3. No opinion _____

-- state agencies?

- _____ 1. Yes -- How? _____
- _____ 2. No _____
- _____ 3. No opinion _____

-- federal agencies?

- _____ 1. Yes -- How? _____
- _____ 2. No _____
- _____ 3. No opinion _____

-- interest groups?

- _____ 1. Yes -- How? _____
- _____ 2. No _____
- _____ 3. No opinion _____

NRD PROGRAMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. NRDs currently have responsibilities relating to several different kinds of resources needs. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following:

NRDs should continue to have responsibilities for:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Flood control.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Soil conservation.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Groundwater quantity regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Groundwater quality regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Chemigation regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. Recreation and park development and management.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. Water supply for domestic use.....	1	2	3	4	5
h. Water supply for irrigation.....	1	2	3	4	5
i. Forestry.....	1	2	3	4	5
j. Range management.....	1	2	3	4	5
k. Fish and wildlife habitat development.....	1	2	3	4	5
l. Drainage projects.....	1	2	3	4	5
m. Instream flows appropriations.....	1	2	3	4	5
n. Soil erosion regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
o. Irrigation runoff regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
p. Streambank stabilization.....	1	2	3	4	5

9. Some people think NRDs should be given additional responsibilities and programs. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following:

NRDs should have responsibility for:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Solid waste disposal.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. Flood plain regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Resolving drainage conflicts.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. Weed control.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. Resolving well interference conflicts.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. Surface water use regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. Surface water pollution control.....	1	2	3	4	5
h. Land use regulation.....	1	2	3	4	5
i. Habitat protection.....	1	2	3	4	5
j. Other.....	1	2	3	4	5

(specify) _____

APPENDIX #2

PLATTE COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

MEETING SUMMARY

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Platte County Boundaries: Meeting Summary

The Platte County meeting was held on June 1, 1989 at the New World Inn. The following were in attendance:

Richard Beran, Frank Bartak - Lower Loup NRD
Ray Hartung - Lower Platte North NRD
Stan Staab, Dick Seymour, Dennis Newland - Lower Elkhorn NRD
Ron Bishop - Central Platte NRD
Senator Jennie Robak - Nebraska Legislature
Dorothy Kyriss - Platte County Election Commission
Mona Moje - Platte County Assessor
Robin Foulk - SCS
Bob Voboril - Cooperative Extension Service
Dick James - ASCS
Steve Miller - Columbus Telegram
Bob Olson - NRC
Dayle Williamson, Jim Cook - NRC Staff

The NRDs in Platte County explained the programs and activities of their districts in their respective portions of the county. Most indicated no official position on any possible changes, but each identified existing or potential projects for which the existing boundaries would prove to be beneficial.

Most of the county and federal officials noted that the existence of the four NRDs did complicate their job somewhat and that in some cases it caused some confusion. With one exception, however, they felt that any problems which existed were little more than an inconvenience. One federal official did express a strong opinion that the boundaries resulted in very poor NRD service to Platte County and that the county could only be served properly if it were placed entirely in one Natural Resources District.

During the discussion, five possible boundary changes were identified and discussed. At the end of the meeting, a straw vote was taken to indicate which of the five options were felt to be worth pursuing. The options and the results of the straw vote are listed as follows in order of decreasing support:

1. Move Section 31 in St. Bernard Township from the Lower Loup NRD to the Lower Platte North NRD. This option was proposed by the county officials present and was supported by about one half of those in attendance. It would make the boundary line coincide with the county precinct lines.
2. Make a number of internal revisions within Platte County to place the Lower Loup/Lower Platte North and Lower Platte North/Lower Elkhorn boundaries in locations even more consistent with hydrologic boundaries. This would result in the boundary being moved not more

than two miles in several locations. The change was suggested by the Lower Platte North NRD and received only the support of that district at the meeting.

3. Put all of Platte County in one Natural Resource District. One individual supported this change; several expressed considerable opposition to it.
4. Move the Central Platte portion of Platte County to the Lower Loup NRD. No one in attendance supported this change.
5. Move the Lower Elkhorn NRD portion of Platte County to the Lower Platte North NRD. No one in attendance supported this change.

As followup to the meeting, the only option that seemed feasible is the relocation of section 31 (option 1 above). The Lower Platte North NRD and the Lower Loup NRD will address that option at their meetings. It was agreed that the landowner(s) and resident(s) of that single section should be contacted for input before changes are made. NRC will, with the assistance of the three-member committee, make a recommendation in August.

APPENDIX #3

ROCK COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

MEETING SUMMARY

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Rock County Boundaries: Meeting Summary

The meeting on the Rock County boundaries was held on May 30, 1989 in Bassett. The following were in attendance:

Keith Drury, Jim Cook, Paul Nelson, Loren Ammon - Lower Niobrara NRD
Paul Mann, James Keller, Roy Stewart - Upper Elkhorn NRD
Bob Hilske, Dave Jones - Middle Niobrara NRD
Richard Beran, Butch Koehlmoos, Sally Domeier, Jim Ziegler - Lower Loup NRD
Senator Howard Lamb - Nebraska Legislature
Linda May - Rock County Treasurer
Merlin Helm - Rock County Commissioner
Marjorie Bussinger - Rock County Assessor
Raymond Stenka - ASCS
Gene DeBolt - North Central Nebraska RC & D
Bud Stolzenburg - Cooperative Extension Service
Bob Olson - NRC
Dayle Williamson, Jim Cook - NRC Staff

The Natural Resources Districts reported on the activities and programs they have for their respective portions of Rock County. The county and federal officials also explained how the existence of four NRDs affected their responsibilities. Most indicated a preference for the county being in fewer NRDs, but described the current situation as an inconvenience and not as a serious problem. During the course of the discussion, four possible boundary changes were noted. They are listed in decreasing order of support as indicated by the discussion.

1. Move the Middle Niobrara portion of Rock County (less than 2 townships) to the Upper Elkhorn NRD. Former Commission member Jim Cook recalled that a portion of Rock County had been included within the boundaries of the Middle Niobrara to avoid splitting the Ainsworth Irrigation District. Since the irrigation district was not present at the meeting, it was agreed they should be contacted before any decisions about changes were made.
2. Extend the Middle Niobrara portion of Rock County northward to include all of the Long Pine Creek Drainage in the Middle Niobrara NRD. The mouth of the Long Pine Creek is currently in the Lower Niobrara NRD although nearly all tributary drainage is in the Middle Niobrara.
3. Move the Lower Niobrara portion of Rock County to the Upper Elkhorn NRD. At the meeting, the Lower Niobrara NRD did not identify any existing or definitely planned programs which would depend upon the maintenance of current boundaries. However, the potential for some streambank and streambed erosion control projects on Niobrara tributaries was noted in that portion of the NRD.

4. Move the Lower Loup portion of Rock County to the Upper Elkhorn NRD. This portion of the county includes drainage area for the Calamus River. The Lower Loup NRD expressed concern about any boundary changes that would affect its ability to deal with water quality problems on the Calamus should they arise in the future.

It was agreed that the following actions should be taken as followup before Commission recommendations are made:

1. Dave Jones, Middle Niobrara NRD and NRC, will check with the Ainsworth Irrigation District to see if they have any objections or comments about changing the boundary in their area.
2. The Middle Niobrara and Lower Niobrara Boards will consider options 1, 2, and 3 above and will provide the Commission with comments on those options by July 15.
3. NRC will, with the assistance of the three-member committee, arrive at its recommendations in August.

APPENDIX #4

**RESPONSES RECEIVED
FROM
COUNTY ELECTION
OFFICIALS**

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUL 1 1989

ADAMS County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? I have found that most voters in Adams County will not vote for any candidate in a contested race if they are not familiar with any of them. Because of this there are then candidates on the ballot which receive very few votes in Adams County, however the ballot expense and time involved are still there.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? Same as above.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Currently Adams County has one election precinct that is split by two different NRD's, however we don't at this time have any election precincts that are split by sub-districts.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

I believe there are a couple of problems that need to be cleared up that were created by the 1987 legislation dealing with NRDs. One problem is that there are now write-in candidates allowed in the primary elections however they are not allowed in the general elections. I think this needs to be corrected, either write-in candidates should be allowed in both elections or not in either.

The second problem is the fact that all candidates who filed for office
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must appear on the primary ballot, even if there is no contest or run off for advancement to the general election. I feel this is extra cost and could be eliminated by advancing all candidates who filed for office to the general election if there were not more than twice the number of filings than vacancies to be filled on the ballot.

I want to thank you for asking for my input with your study and hope I have been helpful. If you have further questions I would be glad to try and help.

Chris Lewis
Adams County Election Commissioner

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Antelope County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)
- I have had no problems with the way we have conducted elections for the Natural Resources Districts, I would be perfectly happy to have it remain as in the past.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

ARTHUR County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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JUN 2 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Blaine County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

The nominees would be better known; this would make the election more at a local level and more people would vote.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

They want to vote for people they know.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

The decrease in cost would be very slight.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

No.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Beane County

JUN 2 1989

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? *Local representation and cut down on Election Costs and when there is no opposition in the primary they would automatically go to the General Election.*

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.
None effect on the County, sound, but the expense would be greater when you want a large ballot & people don't vote on the issue because they don't know the people.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

(1987) (1988)

Lex Butler County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? /

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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10/12 1059

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Box 94876 County

- 1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *There are no subdistricts in our county. The voters would prefer to vote for one person at large.*

- 2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *Our population would have to be divided into subdistricts. It would have to be done by population. It is not done in other counties.*

- 3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
 - Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

It would increase the number of ballots cast and the cost of the election.

- 4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Most voters in the county are in favor of one person at large. The voters in this county do not want to vote for NRDs. They are not interested.

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JUN 2 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

BUFFALO County

- As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? If elections are held at large and everybody in the county votes for the same people, most of them don't even know the person on the ballot.

- What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? If they vote only on their own subdistrict they would likely know the candidate from that subdistrict.

- What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

An NRD election is very expensive for the County the way it is now.

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

I have computerized (scanner) type voting machines, we are charged for programming charges \$15 for each precinct split, \$12 for each race/issue, \$4 for each candidate name etc, so it adds up fast for NRD's when all subdistricts run county wide.

- Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

Sometimes the Primary election is the same as the General election, I don't see any need in running the same candidates at both elections. If more then two persons file for a sub-district, have a run-off in the primary, so the top two candidates will appear on the general election ballot. When there is only one candidate per subdistrict and no write-in line it is costly to print the same ballot for both primary and general election.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Batter County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? Elector only know the people in their district, and this is all most vote on. The rest is wasted space.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Cass County

- 1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?
 It's expensive to run all the names/subdistricts in a county. It takes ballot space. Most voters do not know the candidates in the other subdistricts.

- 2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?
 Same as above.

- 3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

It would to ~~decrease~~ increase, even without subdistricts which precinct I get ballots.

- 4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

It takes a lot of ballot space to list all candidates in all subdistricts (Leah Hall South) within Cass County. It is a lot of time consuming. We seen cases where a candidate (not local) run same name as someone within a precinct and they get a lot of votes due to local similarity. Very few voters know what they are voting for.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Cedar County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? NO Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

NRD's Should have private elections at their offices

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JUN 27 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Chase County

- As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

- What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

You'll have to ask the voters

- What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
 - Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

- Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Let the NRD handle the elections

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUL 1 1989

Clay County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

 Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 X Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 No subdistricts with election at large
 No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

 X Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 No subdistricts with election at large
 No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

 Increase
 X Decrease
 No Effect
 If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

In Clay County, we have electors asking if they should vote the entire ballot. My suggestion, we vote only the sub-district in our County. Thank you.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Cuming County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 No subdistricts with election at large
 No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 No subdistricts with election at large
 No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

Increase
 Decrease
 No Effect
 If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary) I am new at elections so I do not understand your questions above. But I think if just the districts that pertain to our county could be on the ballot it would be much easier.

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JUN 2 1989

DAKOTA County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

Better representation from each area

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

They would be voting for people they know

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

They are somewhat sub-district now

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Electing people by sub-district keeps the public in closer contact with government, which gives them more of an opportunity to speak. Elections at large, depending on the area, tend to support candidates of which voters are not familiar with. Sub-district elections give the voter ^{More of an opportunity} to know the candidates.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Dawson County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines? I do not understand this question. If we were to vote only on one subdistrict then the cost would increase as I would need
- Increase to seperate by precinct. Voters in a certain
 - Decrease precinct could only vote on one, but they might
 - No Effect be in two different subdistricts, thereby adding to
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

the confusion.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary) It would seem to me that Dawson County should only vote on the NRD representatives in our Subdistricts. Voters do not know the people running in other counties. This would take less space on the ballot as we only have four(4) subdistricts in our County.

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Linda Linn
P.O. Box 376
Lincoln, Ne 68509

Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

_____ County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- _____ Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- _____ Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- _____ No subdistricts with election at large
- _____ No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? _____ Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- _____ Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- _____ No subdistricts with election at large
- _____ No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- _____ Increase
- _____ Decrease
- _____ No Effect
- _____ If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Dixon County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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JUN 2 1989

Dodge County

NEB. STATE ELECTIONS

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *if on precinct boundaries, it would save money because of smaller ballot. If not on nearest precinct boundaries, go at large.*

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *most do not know*

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

If you would have one ballot without subdistricts, ballots would be less expensive than present system

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

As I said, if redistricting occurs, please align the districts to nearest precinct lines. otherwise, go at-large.

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Also, our present system certifications, allows voters to vote for two separate NRD's. Overlap occurs with lower Platte & lower Elkhorn and lower Platte & Papio. That's a real pain! + expense!

Douglas County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

It should give the voter a better opportunity to learn about the candidates (as a representative) when or where it is merely a name recognition contest.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

When districts split precincts, they create extra ballot styles & cost the tax payers money in Ballot programming costs -

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Keeping the district lines drawn along other lines such as state legis. lines would help to lessen the burden of local election jurisdictions.

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Perhaps not having run-offs in the gen. election when only 1 cand. has filed in a dist. would be an option to look at since no write-ins are allowable or at least if only 2 has filed in a Prim. & no write then they could be fwd. to gen. & not have to have a Prim. Ballot

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Dundy County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Done to the NRD

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

FILLMORE County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? CURRENT METHOD HAS TOO MANY CANDIDATES, ONLY ONE OR TWO OF WHOM ARE FAMILIAR TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE CANDIDATES HOME SUB-DISTRICT

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? SAME AS NO. 1

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

COUNTY SHARE OF ELECTION COST WOULD REMAIN THE SAME - NRD COST WOULD DECREASE BECAUSE OF FEWER CHANGES IN BALLOT, SMALLER BALLOT

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

CANDIDATES ARE NOT CAMPAIGNING - SEEM TO BE NO ISSUES AND MANY PEOPLE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHO THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD IS NOR WHAT THE NRD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

FRONTIER
County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

WE ALL READY ELECT BY SUB DIVISIONS.

Margaret Crawford, County Clerk
Frontier County
Stockville, Nebr. 69042

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUL 07 1989

Garden County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary) The present system is not equitable as counties with large land mass and small populations don't receive as much representation as small counties with large populations. So sometimes conservation needs suffer.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUL 1 1989

Sioux County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

How can you have elections by subdistrict if there are no precinct lines? Please let me know.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Help back on LB to eliminate rotation. It is costly, and its importance questionable.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

0042 1050

Lincoln County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Lincoln County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *Cost efficiency and less problems for election officials*

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

We are fortunate in as much as we are only in one sub-district

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

HALL County

JUL 14 1989

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

COST OF PRINTING BALLOT

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

Hamilton County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

When subdistricts don't follow precinct lines, different paper ballots go to different voters in the precincts which make

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? *the margin for error increases*
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

_____ County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- _____ Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - _____ Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - _____ No subdistricts with election at large
 - _____ No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? _____ Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- _____ Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - _____ No subdistricts with election at large
 - _____ No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- _____ Increase
 - _____ Decrease
 - _____ No Effect
 - _____ If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Howard County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? It would be much easier to conduct an election where we wouldn't have more than one subdistrict in one precinct. It would be less confusing when giving ballots out.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

In looking at our maps I did find that the sub-districts do follow our precinct lines, which is a big help since we just combined a lot of our precincts. It would be much easier if they were elected at large because we wouldn't have to worry if we got the right name to the right sub-district and precinct. But how the people of Howard

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County would feel about it I wouldn't know.

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Jefferson County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary) Most coments I have gotten from persons in our county are that they do not know the people from the other counties and don't feel they should be voting on them, for there is usually no advertising for this position. Usually we only have one or two people running from our county. Most people feel that if they don't know them they won't vote for them.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

10/2/89

Keamy County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

As elections are very difficult, it appears easier to stay with the process we are using. Please do not divide Counties!

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Beck County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

*If sub districts followed
pre set lines it would
be confusing, but
you have a pre set
line decided but not
widely*

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*Confusing
for the
election
people*

JUN 21 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Keya Paha County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

Increase

Decrease

No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Prints lessers number of ballots - easier ballot distribution (wouldn't have to watch boundary lines as close as we do now)

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

Kimball County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.
- Possibility of extra election ballots and costs. ,

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

 Knox County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- X Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? People do not know who they are voting for or even heard of them. (the candidates). I feel it is a waste of time and money to prepare and print and count areas that do not pertain to my county.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- X Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?
As above

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- X Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)
- If there is no competition in the primary why do we have to run this ballot? Since you have certain filing standards/qualifications, it seems a waste of everyone's money, in our races if their is no competition they are automatically advanced and nominated to the General.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

Lincoln County

- As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - xx Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

Lincoln County has two NRD's and one votes one way and the other votes the other way. Very confusing to set up the election. It is extremely hard to administer NRD elections because subdistricts do not follow voting precinct lines. This makes for much work for the election officials, also extra expense.

- What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

There does not seem to be a lot of interest in NRD elections. A lot of people do not know the purpose of NRD's. I do not believe there is heavy voter participation in NRD elections.

- What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- yyyy Decrease
- No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Work load would be much less. Printing of different styles of ballots for the optic scanning counting equipment would be much less. This is very expensive to have to print ballots to accomodate the changes.

- Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

NRD's have been a problem to administer in our county because of the way the two NRD's divide the county. They split very small precincts, thus causing us to print different ballots in these precincts. It is very expensive to do this. Also very hard to determine just who votes on what NRD. The subdistricts need to follow precinct lines, at least. Also the NRD's should follow precinct lines. This should be determines after the new lines are drawn following 1990 census.

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Also, there should be NO write in's in the primary election. There are none in the General, so this law should be changed not to allow write-in's in the General Election.

I am not convinced that voters understand NRD's, therefore they do not vote on the candidates. I think they do not vote for races and issues they are not informed on or familiar with.

Worksheet For County Election Officials

 Dawson County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Madison County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

The current process works well in Madison County since no election precincts are divided, but election by subdistricts would be more beneficial for voters.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any? Voters prefer to vote only on candidates which they know and are familiar with. Many voters bypass the NRD elections on the ballot as they are not familiar with the candidates. Candidates would much more accountable to the voters if elected by subdistrict and campaigning would be easier for candidates.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

As an election official, I would strongly suggest that the subdistrict boundary lines would follow precinct lines. Dividing a voting precinct between several subdistricts creates an enormous amount of extra work for election officials and also precinct workers. There is much less chance of error at the polls when the voting precinct is confined to one subdistrict.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

MERRICK County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

WE WANT ELECTIONS BY SUBDISTRICTS WITHIN THE COUNTY AND FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY TO VOTE FOR THEIR CANDIDATE.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

Morrill County

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1989

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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I have only been in office for two years, therefore I feel like I am not qualified to answer the questions. I feel like I just don't know enough about this as yet.
Rosethy Lanik, Morrill Co. Clerk.

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Ne County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUL 1 1989

NUCKOLLS County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Would decrease due less printing costs.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

We repeatedly hear voters stating that they do not know the majority of the candidates. They will question if we have the ballot correct. They question why they should be allowed to vote for sub-district candidates that are not living in or near this county. Therefore, we suggest voters only be allowed to vote for their (1) sub-district area candidate.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

 OTOE County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- X No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- X No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

The Subdistricts are so convusing to keep straight for election workers.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- X Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

No subdistricts with election at large require just one ballot, in comparison to division by subdistrict require more ballots.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

 PHELPS County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- x Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- x Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- x No Effect as long as the entire precinct is in the subdistrict
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.
- Boundary lines should follow voting precincts, so that one precinct does not have one voter voting for one person and another voter voting for a different issue in the same voting precinct.
4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

I am enclosing a copy of the ballot used in the last election. As I recall, all of the county voted for all six sub districts. It seemed kind of odd to me that all members of the County voted on all six. Maybe my memory fails me. There was no problem that I know of, I just wondered why there would be 6 subdistricts for Phelps Co

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

PLATTE County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

In Platte County both systems workable.

Lower Loup N.R.D. were elected by subdistricts. It was very much appreciated this change in 1988 followed the ward lines in the City of Columbus and the remaining subdistrict followed the additional

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD area. elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

The voter may be more inclined to become familiar with the N.R.D. they reside in, the candidates and the director who represents them. It is very important the ward and township lines be followed for accuracy.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Ballot preparation and election boards to issue ballots to the proper residents entitled to vote.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)
- Elections for N.R.D. held in General Election only would cut costs, as held previously.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

JUN 2 1989

Polk County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?

- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.

- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase Under the present system in some elections 1/4 of our printing cost comes from NRD's.
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

Only one ballot would be ordered and sent to each precinct. The chance of error would be eliminated and time would be saved in distribution and counting and reporting.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

I can speak only for myself and the sizeable number of people who have commented on NRD ballots. Voters in Polk County have never heard of the people for whom they are asked to vote. In most cases the candidate goes unopposed and I fail to see how the cost of the election can be justified. I would favor a smaller defined sub-district and residents of Polk County would vote only for that sub-district.

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This should enable the candidate to make himself known to the residents of the sub-district he wants to represent and the voter would have a chance to know if they want to be represented by the candidate.

Dayle E. Williamson

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Saline County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

It would seem the fairest way to elect.

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

Voters seem to be interested only in persons in their district who they are familiar with.

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

Increase

Decrease

No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Be sure to send plenty of information and maps to the County Clerks or election commissioners and in plenty of time.

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SARPY County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

If the sub-districts did not follow precinct lines it would be an increase in costs of ballot preparation, computer costs, workload, etc.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

Voter to vote on only the sub-districts within the county. The voter trend is a no-vote for those candidates which are not known. It would also decrease the workload, and would decrease the cost of election due to ballot space, computer time, printing costs, etc.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Saunders County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

Increase

Decrease See Attached letter

No Effect

If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

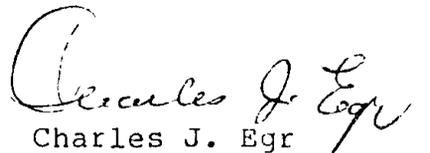
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NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS ELECTIONS

The present system of balloting for N.R.D. Board members is that all candidates from all sub-districts are placed on one ballot and all voters vote for all candidates within all sub-districts. The obvious advantage of this type of balloting is that all voters in each voting precincts get the same ballot without the need of the election board determining which voter gets what sub-division ballot and the chance of error is lessened. The disadvantage is that the voter cares less who they vote for or do not even know the candidates that are not in their sub-district. The result is that the Counties print and spend money printing candidates' names that are not voted upon at all.

A suggested solution to the problem would be to re-draw the boundary lines of the sub-districts to coincide with our voting precinct lines as near as possible without disturbing the general layout of the various sub-district. I understand that sub-district boundary lines may be changed as long as the district lines as a whole are not disturbed. This would enable voters to vote by sub-districts without too much problem of the receiving boards at the polling places.

There would still be two areas in Saunders County where the district boundary lines would be crossing voting precinct lines, namely Newman and Ashland Rural voting precincts, if the proposed changes are approved as per map, but this cannot be helped because the boundary line of the districts as a whole cannot be changed as indicated above. The two areas alone would not cause much inconvenience as far as balloting is concerned.


Charles J. Egr
Saunders County Clerk

Dayle - It has been a long time since we have chatted.
Your elections really wouldn't be a problem if we
could get the Legislature to do away with name ro-
tation by precinct.

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Seward County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *Voters are more apt to know the candidates*

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? JUN 2 1989

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase - *at least double*
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

For each district not bounded by precinct lines, another ballot split is required. This with rotation is very costly.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? *names is*
(use back if necessary) *very costly.*

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 14, 1989 TO DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, DIRECTOR OF NATURAL RESOURCES, P.O. BOX 94876, LINCOLN, NE. 68509.

To: Help us get HB638 passed early next session, and save the NRD's a bunch of money
A4-56 *Del Maier*
Seward Co. Clerk.

JUN 2 1989

Skedar County

- 1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
 - Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

- 2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

- 3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?

- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

- 4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

#3 There would not be any additional workload or expense if the election precincts and subdistrict lines coincide, however as you can see from the enclosed map, the subdistricts presently do not. It would mean printing of many additional ballots and persons living within the same precinct being required to know which subdistrict they live in so they would receive the correct ballot for that subdistrict.

(over)

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The County Clerk and Commissioners are in the process of consolidating some of the precincts. Therefore, before the next election our precinct lines will be different than the ones which are indicated by the present map.

I consulted with the Board of Commissioners before returning this worksheet. It was their opinion that election by subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict would be a preferred election rather than the present election for candidates at large.

D. Maxine Kearns
Sheridan County Clerk
P. O. Box 39
Rushville, Ne. 69360

308-327-2633

Worksheet For County Election Officials

Williamson County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *I don't know enough about NRD's to answer this.*

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any? *I Don't know what they would prefer. I have never got a complaint on how these were done.*

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

It is hard to divide ballots when the sub-districts do not coincide with precinct lines.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue? (use back if necessary)

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JUN 2 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

 SIOUX County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- X Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.
- DO NOT KNOW

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- X No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Thayer County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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JUN 2 1989

Worksheet For County Election Officials

THOMAS County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
 - Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
 - No subdistricts with election at large
 - No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
 - Decrease
 - No Effect
 - If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

The price wouldn't be too much different, I don't think.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Thurston County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

I suggest that in a Primary Election for NRD's, if no more than two candidates file for each vacancy to be filled, they be declared nominated and their names will not appear on a primary ballot.

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Worksheet For County Election Officials

Hayes County

1. As the election official for your county, what is your preferred type of election for Natural Resources Districts?
- Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

2. What do you believe the voters of your county would prefer for NRD elections? Subdistricts with population disparities of no more than 3 to 1 and election at-large.
- Subdistricts of substantially equal population with election by subdistrict.
- No subdistricts with election at large
- No preference.

Reasons, if any?

3. What effect would (do) NRD elections by subdistrict have on your workload and expenses if the election precincts were not divided by subdistrict lines?
- Increase
- Decrease
- No Effect
- If increase or decrease, please describe to the extent possible.

4. Do you have any other suggestions or comments regarding this issue?
(use back if necessary)

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APPENDIX #5

RESPONSES RECEIVED

FROM

NRDS WITH ELECTION

BY SUBDISTRICT

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Worksheet For NRDs With Election by Subdistrict

JUL 25 1989

LEWIS & CLARK Natural Resources District

1. What if any impact do you feel election by subdistrict had on the 1988 election of your NRD directors?

Reduced our board of directors to 14 from 17
Made directors more accountable to their constituents - not whole district
Simplified the ballot to voters for name recognition purposes.

2. Have you received any favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials about the change? If so, please explain.

Minimal response - all favorable

3. Have you received favorable or unfavorable public or press reaction to the election by subdistrict method? If so, please explain.

No public or press reaction received

4. Do you believe that the change in election method will have any significant impact on NRD activities? If so, please explain.

Hoped for result will be a more efficient, dedicated, group of directors since their responsibility will be on the shoulders of fewer people.
No significant impact on activities expected.

5. Would your district support legislation requiring or more strongly encouraging all NRDs to elect by equal population subdistricts?

We think it's a great idea but should be optional. There's a limit to how many times we need to bend to political pressure if Districts feel they're doing a good job.

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

The directors are satisfied they made the right decision and like election by sub-districts.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 TO DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

JUL 0 1989

Worksheet For NRDs With Election by Subdistrict

Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District

1. What if any impact do you feel election by subdistrict had on the 1988 election of your NRD directors? The major impact the 1988 election had was its impact on Incumbant directors being in the same Sub-district because of new boundaries. In the 88' election, one sub-district had two incumbants, two districts had no Incumbants. In the 1990 election, one sub-district will have three incumbants, one will have two incumbants and one will have no incumbants. I feel election by sub-district gave the candidates which had opposition, a sense to campaign in their sub-district.
2. Have you received any favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials about the change? If so, please explain. No comments either for or against. Only questions before the primary on the boundary of the sub-district and the changes on who can vote now for the candidates, versus before. We did have some ballots in a voting precinct that voters voted on candidates from two different sub-districts.
3. Have you received favorable or unfavorable public or press reaction to the election by subdistrict method? If so, please explain.
Mostly favorable from public and press. Most people are atuned to one-man-one vote elections and feel the candidate elected from their area represents their interest.
4. Do you believe that the change in election method will have any significant impact on NRD activities? If so, please explain.
In the next 2 - 4 years, No, however I think it will in the future as funding becomes more of an issue as to where the money will be spent and as programs and projects become more controversial.
5. Would your district support legislation requiring or more strongly encouraging all NRDs to elect by equal population subdistricts?
I would strongly encourage other NRD's to elect by equal population sub-districts. However, I think in four years each NRD should elect by equal population.
6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

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Worksheet For NRDs With Election by Subdistrict

LOWER LOUP Natural Resources District

1. What if any impact do you feel election by subdistrict had on the 1988 election of your NRD directors?

We do not think the first election had any impact. It may in the future--only time will tell. We are going to have a higher percentage of urban directors on future Boards.

2. Have you received any favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials about the change? If so, please explain.

Yes. We have received favorable comments from the one Election Commissioner and most all County Clerks. We kept our subdistricts on voting precinct lines, so it made everyone happy.

3. Have you received favorable or unfavorable public or press reaction to the election by subdistrict method? If so, please explain.

No unfavorable comments. It's a little too early. The NRD elections are not the most immediate concern of the general public. When the public comes in contact, they will probably think it's always been like it is now.

4. Do you believe that the change in election method will have any significant impact on NRD activities? If so, please explain.

Yes, for the good, I hope. Most districts need a more even balance between rural and urban directors. I sure don't want to be hung for high treason, but our urban reps are more often better conservationists than our farmer directors.

5. Would your district support legislation requiring or more strongly encouraging all NRDs to elect by equal population subdistricts?

Probably not. We feel that it's up to each NRD to elect the way they want. Don't continue to mess around with the local administration of districts.

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

We would encourage all NRDs to go to the one-man, one-vote by subdistricts. Our experience has, so far, been good; however, any changes should be initiated by the NRD affected. We were hardliners on the old "at-large" election but felt that we should adopt a system more familiar to the general public. I think you will find that most rural people are suspect of the

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urban representation. In many cases, this is a hold-over from the old SWCD days.

Naming Natural Resources District

1. What if any impact do you feel election by subdistrict had on the 1988 election of your NRD directors?

There was a significant impact on the 1988 election of NRD directors due to the change in subdistrict boundaries. This did not occur this time.

2. Have you received any favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials about the change? If so, please explain.

None.

3. Have you received favorable or unfavorable public or press reaction to the election by subdistrict method? If so, please explain.

There have been some unfavorable comments from the public and press regarding the change in the election method. Directors must be made responsible to the voters of subdistricts.

4. Do you believe that the change in election method will have any significant impact on NRD activities? If so, please explain.

As stated above, Directors will need to be responsible to the voters. Therefore activities should be distributed more equally among subdistricts.

5. Would your district support legislation requiring or more strongly encouraging all NRDs to elect by equal population subdistricts?

Yes

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

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Worksheet For NRDs With Election by Subdistrict

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

JUL 1 1989

1. What if any impact do you feel election by subdistrict had on the 1988 election of your NRD directors?

I believe the voter was more likely to know the candidates.

2. Have you received any favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials about the change? If so, please explain.

None.

3. Have you received favorable or unfavorable public or press reaction to the election by subdistrict method? If so, please explain.

Favorable - The press reported the change when it occurred and again prior to the election. Reporting at both times was well done, positive and favorable.

4. Do you believe that the change in election method will have any significant impact on NRD activities? If so, please explain.

No.

5. Would your district support legislation requiring or more strongly encouraging all NRDs to elect by equal population subdistricts?

No. The Board of Directors believes strongly that the choice should be the local Board's, as the local Board knows their District and the voters the best.

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

The election by Subdistrict works well for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

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APPENDIX #6

**RESPONSES RECEIVED
FROM
NRDS WITH ELECTIONS
AT-LARGE**

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Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

LITTLE BLUE

Natural Resources District

JUL 28 1989

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

Majority still favored more rural representation because of the dominance of rural programs administration. Knowledge of and response to local needs was considered an advantage of the current sized subdistricts and representation.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No *Mixed Views*

Reasons, if different from number 1.

Our board does like the opportunity to have directors elected only by his/her subdistrict constituents. Its interesting that the answer to this question seems to follow the rural/urban division.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

2 - No 4 - Yes State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

4 - No 2 - Yes State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

3 - No 3 - Yes Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

3 - No 3 - Yes Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

Greater State Aid to "equal population" districts

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Most comments received from the general public is that people don't usually know who the people are running for the positions. (Apathy) Our staff has been ridiculed for providing a character and interest summary of candidates in area papers.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

One board member wrote that because the present board members do not represent equal district constituents, they can not be objective in this matter. Thus he suggests that boards will not go 1 to 1 themselves without legislative mandate.

Carrts are more palatable than whips.

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JUL 07 1989

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large? At the time of the review in October 1986 the population sub-district ratio was 1.6:1. The directors were satisfied by being elected at large. Concern was expressed about the sub-district method promoting sub-district selfishness, rather than encouraging decisions for the good of the entire NRD.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No
 Undecided

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

Yes State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

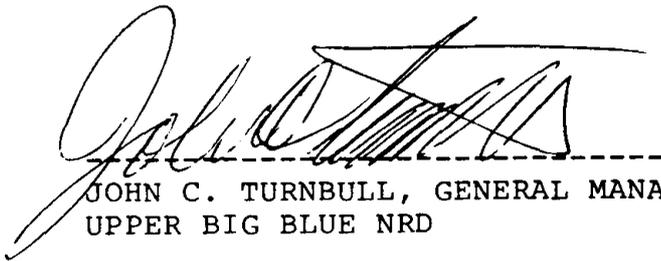
Yes Other: (please describe)
 State funding for State mandated programs.

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

We have received some comments from the general public about voting by sub-district so that the voters have a chance of knowing the candidate.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

A map of the 1980 census data and the NRD sub-districts is attached. For the sake of clarity it is probably best that all NRD's elect directors by the same method. However, --I suspect that each board feels differently about which method is best. In the end the legislature will have to decide if the NRDs are to have options, or if we should all elect directors by the same procedure.



JOHN C. TURNBULL, GENERAL MANAGER
UPPER BIG BLUE NRD

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Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No - electing directors by subdistrict

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?
The Upper Elkhorn NRD did discuss equal population, since our district is now at 2.7-1 ratio, the Board decided not to pursue it any further at this time.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.
Districts should have the option of electing at-large or by sub-district what ever they think works the best for that particular District.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

YES State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

NO State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

NO Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

NO Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD has not received any comments concerning issues on the election methods.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

~~Since~~ To our knowledge we have not had any complaints about the current election process, the boards thoughts are if it is not broken, don't fix it,

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Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

JUL 3 1989

LOWER ELKHORN Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

 X Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

1. Potentially harmful and decisive attitude of Directors that just the subdistrict and not the whole District would be represented if elected by subdistrict.
2. Present form of representation seems to be working fine, just as it has in the past.
2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

 Yes
 X No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

Same reasons as above.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

 NO State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

 State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

 Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

 Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

 Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Yes - We have received unfavorable comments regarding the aspect of the public not being familiar with the NRD candidates when the NRD candidates are elected at large.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

The LENRD Board of Directors has considered a plan to reduce the number of Directors from 19 to 15 and it was the consensus of the Board at the time to wait until after the 1990 census to reconsider type of reapportionment.

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UPPER LOUP

Natural Resources District

- 1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

Our subdistricts are of equal population. We had continued to elect as done years ago and never really considered the change as important.

- 2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

Election costs to Districts could be less.

- 3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Yes, a very few people have commented that they were not acquainted with the person on the ballot in a distant subdistrict.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue? No.

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JUL 24 1989

Upper Nebraska White Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

Yes

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

Very difficult to have representation throughout the NRD with such a system.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Generally we do not receive many comments, however, a few people have voiced concern that they are not familiar with candidates.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

Since the present system is constitutional, I see no reason Districts should be penalized for not being at 1 to 1. The present system allows Districts several options thus they can tailor an election procedure to their NRD. In the Middle Niobrara NRD, it is difficult to create equal population sub-districts without dividing voting precincts which would cause greater confusion among the public and election officials.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

The LNNRD previously considered creating equal population subdistricts. we believe subdistrict considerations should include activities, land area and valuation as well as population. We continued to elect at-large, because the system works well for the District.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

No comments have been received either favorable or unfavorable.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

We just recently went through the effort of redistricting. It doesn't seem we need to consider this again.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Central Platte

Natural Resources District

JUL 3 1989

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

Same

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

No Other: (please describe)

If any or all of the above suggestions were put into effect, there would be political pressure and the district would not accomplish much of anything.

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

No favorable or unfavorable comments other than the people in one subdistrict may not know the persons running for office in another subdistrict, which is also true in community college board elections and others.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

The board feels the formula of land area, valuation and population works best. This formula should be given more consideration than the "one man one vote" formula. This issue has been brought to the district's attention several times and the board has not changed their opinion of the "one man one vote" issue. They still feel the representation for the district should be based on all three; the land area, the valuations and the population of the district.

1. The board feels the resources of the district are geographical based, not population based. The "one man one vote" formula would imply that the problems the Natural Resources District deals with are population based and that is not true. Therefore, the formula developed for elections in our district, which takes into consideration the land area, the valuations, and the population, deals with the resource problems better and is a more fair representation than "one man one vote". The board also feels that the decisions they make affect the district as a whole and the "at large" elections give the entire population an opportunity to vote for all board members whose votes determine actions on their local projects and programs.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

JUL 20 1989

Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

- . could reduce the number of directors
- . entire district could be controlled by one city
- . wanted the rural decisions
- . area where dollars are spent should make decisions

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

NO State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

NO State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

NO Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

NO Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

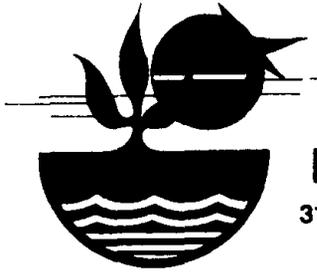
 Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Yes, have received some comments indicating the need for 1:1 - counties have said that they have no problem with our redistricting as long as we keep it on precinct lines.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

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**The Lower Platte South
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

3125 Portia • P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, NE 68501 • 402/476-2729

July 26, 1989

JUL 2 1989

Dayle E. Williamson, Director of Natural Resources
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
P.O. Box 94876
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4876

Dear Payle:

This letter, on behalf of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, is in response to your letter of June 15, 1989 and questionnaire on NRD election subdistricts. This questionnaire is part of the Commission's study as directed by LB148 in 1987, and is a follow up to a questionnaire which was distributed in 1988.

As a general observation, it appears that the focus of the study of the "composition of the state's Natural Resources Districts" has centered on two main areas: (1) NRD boundary changes and (2) NRD elections. Neither of these two areas, in our opinion have a significant effect on the Districts' ability to "equitably and economically manage, conserve, develop and protect the state's natural resources." Statutory authorities, rules and regulations, funding, and inter-agency cooperation are much more vital to the success of NRD programs.

The first question on your work sheet is whether or not the Lower Platte South NRD previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict, and the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large.

The Lower Platte South Board has studied and reconsidered their subdistricts numerous times since originally established in 1974. These subdistricts were also the subject of a class action lawsuit brought against the NRD and the Commission. The NRD has submitted testimony on a number of legislative bills over the years dealing with NRD elections. In every review, the Board of Directors has considered creating equal population subdistricts but has consistently opposed a mandatory imposition of equal population subdistricts on this particular District.

The Board has consistently maintained that a relative balance between the number of rural and urban representation is desirable and necessary for the District to effectively carry-out its responsibilities. It is this balanced representation which has enabled the District to successfully implement the flood control programs in the rural areas, to provide protection to Lincoln,

the soil conservation programs to reduce erosion and enhance the agricultural economy of the entire area, the stream channel improvements in Lincoln, and the recreation and fish and wild-life benefits for the benefit of all the residents of the District.

With the City of Lincoln being the major population center in the District, comprising approximately 80% of the population, equal population subdistricts on the average would result in the situation where eighteen directors would be from the City of Lincoln and three from the remaining areas of the District. This is a representation imbalance which the Board of Directors does not feel is in the best interest of the constituency of this District.

Enclosed is a description of the actions taken by Lower Platte South NRD since 1973 on the election subdistricts.

The second question on the work sheet was whether this District would support a legislative requirement that all NRD's create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994.

First, I assume that you mean elect by subdistrict in your question rather than elect at-large. The District would oppose any legislative requirement that all NRDs institute equal population subdistricts, at any time. The District supported LB148 which gave the Districts three options on election of Board members. These options allow the individual District Boards to make the choice as to how best the constituents of that District can be represented. To suggest all Districts can be most effectively represented by equal population subdistricts and subdistrict elections fails to recognize the uniqueness of each particular District.

Proponents of a mandated move to equal-population subdistricts have used the one-person/one-vote principle as an argument. Natural resources districts, based on the District court decision which has not been reversed or superseded, are special-purpose districts and any of the three options of election, and even the statutes prior to LB148, result in an election process that meets the one-person/one-vote test.

The third question in your work sheet asked whether this District would support legislative incentives for Districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict is "out-of-bounds"! To even suggest that one District be treated differently than another District because they select one election option over another is inappropriate, and very likely unconstitutional. We respond NO to each of the listed incentives or penalties. If the Districts do not voluntarily all select the equal population subdistrict/subdistrict election option, and the Legislature feels strongly enough that this is the preferred option, then the Legislature should change the laws to mandate it rather than offering bribes.

Your fourth question on the work sheet is whether the District has received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public or the press about our current election method.

We have received numerous comments over the years from the public, the media, our own board members, and legislators saying they did not understand the NRD election process, or that they did not know the candidates on the ballot, or that it is difficult to campaign for a position on the Board of Directors in an at-large election. (Some of these same criticisms can be made for many other elected offices at the local and state levels.) However, we must be doing something right when we consistently have more candidates on the ballot than any other District, with competition in nearly all subdistricts, and offer more competition for Directors seats than do other local and state elections. Not since the first election have we received any unfavorable comments from election officials: in fact, several have expressed in recent years gratitude that this district has not had subdistrict elections like in the Nemaha NRD.

Your final question is whether we have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue.

LB 148 was significant in broadening the options available to allow local Districts to best develop election schemes most appropriate to their Districts. The new subdistricts under this statutory change have been in place for only one election. It is our suggestion that the focus of the study on the "composition of natural resources Districts" be shifted away from the election process to more meaningful issues, as mentioned earlier.

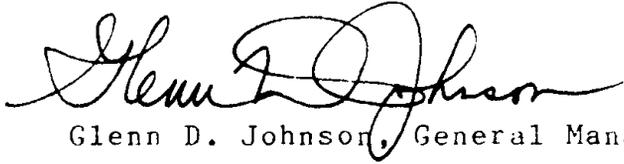
We would also add comments concerning the work sheet for county election officials. Following the changes in our subdistrict boundaries in October 1987, NRD staff met with the County election officials in each of the six counties to review the new subdistrict boundaries and other election changes, gave them updated maps, and answered questions. We received a very positive response from the county election officials in those meetings.

From the standpoint of workload for the election officials, the at-large election options are by far the simplest because the officials need not concern themselves with the interior subdistrict boundaries, rather only the outside boundaries of the NRD when determining who gets what ballot. The ballots are essentially the same for all county voters within the NRD. By contrast, for election by subdistrict, the election officials have to make a determination for each voter of the subdistrict in which they reside, and consequently which ballot they should receive. Each subdistrict would have a separate ballot prepared, printed, and published. This would add to the costs of the election which are borne by the District.

The NRD election process has been the subject of much controversy and legislation since 1974. Our District has been very closely involved in this issue from the beginning and has seriously

reviewed and considered the various implications on a number of occasions. We had thought LB148 had put the issue to rest and are now disappointed that the Commission is continuing to make it an issue. The election issue is more a philosophical issue and interferes with the much-needed discussions on other more critical issues for the State.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Glenn D. Johnson".

Glenn D. Johnson, General Manager

GDJ:kjs

encl.

SEQUENCE OF SUBDISTRICT ACTIONS

September 19, 1973	Executive Committee recommended a 21-member Board.
October 11, 1973	Natural Resources Commission approved 21-member Board.
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November 7, 1973	Meeting with Lincoln city officials to discuss subdistricts.
December 14, 1973	Area IV public meeting on subdistricts, Weeping Water.
December 17, 1973	Area I public meeting on subdistricts, Valparaiso.
January 10, 1974	Area III public meeting on subdistricts, Louisville.
January 14, 1974	Area V public meeting on subdistricts, Lincoln.
January 22, 1974	Area II public meeting on subdistricts, Ashland.
February 27, 1974	Executive Committee approved boundaries of five subdistricts outside Lincoln (1-5) with special committee designated to delineate boundaries of five subdistricts containing Lincoln (6-10) for approval by Area V Directors.
March 2, 1974	Special committee met, reviewed a number of alternative boundaries, and revised and selected boundaries for recommendation.
March 7, 1974	Area V meeting, Lincoln, where approved committee recommendation of boundaries of Lincoln subdistricts (6-10).
March 7, 1974	Area IV meeting, Weeping Water, to review boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
March 13, 1974	Area III meeting, Louisville, to review boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
March 14, 1974	Area I meeting, Lincoln, to review boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
March 15, 1974	Area II meeting, Ceresco, to review boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
March 18, 1974	Meeting with Lincoln Mayor and City Council to review boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
March 20, 1974	Executive Committee approved boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.

March 28, 1974	Full Board of Directors reviewed subdistrict boundaries.
April 16, 1974	Natural Resources Commission approved boundaries of subdistricts 1-10.
November 1974	Election
March 17, 1976	Directors' approved appointment of subcommittee to study nomination subdistricts. (Amen, Todd, Wagener, Landis).
March 31, 1976	Subcommittee met.
April 14, 1976	Public meeting of subcommittee on subdistricts, after which subcommittee approved recommendation to retain present subdistrict plan through the 1976 election and further study in preparation for 1978 election.
April 21, 1976	Directors' approved subcommittee recommendation to retain present subdistrict plan through 1976 election and further study in preparation for 1978 election.
November 1976	Election
February 22, 1978	Chairman reactivated subcommittee to review nomination subdistricts. (Amen, Todd, Wagener, Landis).
March 15, 1978	Subcommittee report at Directors' meeting on plan to hold public meeting on subdistricts.
March 20, 1978	Subcommittee met.
March 30, 1978	Public meeting of subcommittee on subdistricts. (Legal notices in: Seward Independent, Lincoln Journal-Star, Plattsmouth Journal, David City Banner-Press, and press releases).
April 3, 1978	Subcommittee met and prepared recommendation that, since current population statistics will not be available until after the 1980 census, that the present subdistrict boundaries be retained for the 1978 election; further, that the Board adopt the principle that subdistricts 6-10 (Lincoln area) should have boundaries set with population as the primary factor and be essentially equal in population.
April 19, 1978	Director's approved resolution:

WHEREAS all factors as provided by statute should be considered by the Board of Directors in reviewing subdistrict boundaries, and;

WHEREAS population is one factor in establishing subdistrict boundaries, and current population statistics will not be available until after the 1980 census, and;

WHEREAS the Board has previously adopted the principle of a balance between rural and urban areas in establishing subdistricts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all the present subdistrict boundaries be retained for the 1978 election,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board reaffirm the principle that five subdistricts be located in the urban area and five subdistricts in the remainder of the NRD, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in subdistricts 6 through 10, only, after considering all factors required by the statutes, an effort be made to establish subdistricts that are essentially equal in population.

LAWSUIT

January 7, 1975	Summons served on lawsuit on subdistricts.
January 13, 1978	Judge issued Memorandum and Order.
March 9, 1978	Judge overruled Plaintiff's motion for new trial.
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November 1978	Election.
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November 1980	Election.
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March 18, 1981	Directors authorized Chairman to appoint Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review the nomination subdistricts. (Harlan, Amen, Todd, Hale, Kennedy).
August 1981	1980 Census data received; staff began analysis.
October 21, 1981	Subcommittee met, reviewed subdistricts, statutes, 1978 resolution; outlined four alternatives for staff to prepare data, for consideration at a public hearing, and a later recommendation to the Board.

November 18, 1981	Subcommittee reviewed four alternatives and set public hearing date.
December 8, 1981	Public Hearing on the four alternatives for the nomination subdistricts 6-10, as follows: Alt. #1 No change in boundaries. Alt. #4 Use five unicameral districts in Lincoln as boundaries. Alt. #3 Use five unicameral districts and expand to meet outer boundaries. Alt. #2 Modify interior boundaries to make essentially equal in population.
December 15, 1981	Subcommittee considered input from hearing; adopted a recommendation that the Board reaffirm the 1978 resolution; and adopted a recommendation that the Board approve Alternate #4.
December 16, 1981	Directors adopted a motion to reaffirm the 1978 resolution, adopted a motion and amendment to consider both Alternative #2 and #4, and finally adopted Alternative #2.
February 1, 1982	Transmitted recommended, revised nomination subdistricts to Natural Resources Commission.
March 25, 1982	Natural Resources Commission approved revised nomination subdistricts.
<hr/>	
November 1982	Election.
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November 1984	Election.
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Spring 1986	LB 302 passed by legislature, and requires NRD Directors to participate in primary elections.
<hr/>	
November 1986	Election.
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October 15, 1986	Chairman appointed Special Subcommittee to review current nomination subdistricts and to formulate and evaluate alternatives to bring within 3:1 and 1:1 maximum population variances between subdistricts.
October 29, 1986 November 13, 1986	Special Subcommittee meetings to review the history of the creation of subdistricts, the statutes, and present statistics of subdistricts.
November 19, 1986	Special Subcommittee report on subdistricts review was presented to the Board of Directors.

December 17, 1986

A resolution was adopted at the Board of Directors meeting to support legislation to change subdistrict population variance to 3:1 maximum, but to oppose a reduction in the number of Directors or a mandated equal population subdistrict move.

Spring of 1987

LB 148 adopted by the Legislature, which gave NRDs the option to maintain nomination by subdistrict and election at large with a maximum 3:1 population disparity, or to have entirely election at-large, or to have nomination and election by subdistrict with subdistricts equal in population. Legislation also directed review of NRDs by Natural Resources Commission and increased maximum tax levy authority to 4.5 per \$100 actual valuation.

April 1987

Chairman appoints special Subcommittee to address subdistrict changes required by LB 148 and prepare recommendation to Board of Directors.

May 20, 1987

Special Subcommittee met and recommended:

- a. continue to utilize option of nomination by subdistricts and election at large with a 3:1 maximum population disparity,
- b. no change in the number of Directors,
- c. establish guidelines for revising subdistrict boundaries.

July 13, 1987

Special Subcommittee met and recommended specific subdistrict boundaries for approval by the Board of Directors and also recommended a plan to obtain public input on the subdistrict boundaries.

July 22, 1987

Board of Directors gave tentative approval of the special Subcommittee recommendations on subdistrict boundaries, subject to public hearing and final consideration. The Directors also approved the public input recommendations.

August and September 1987

News releases on subdistrict boundary changes were sent to all media, public meetings were held in Lincoln and Plattsmouth with all elected officials invited, and a meeting was held with a mayor and council of Lincoln. To review the proposed subdistrict boundary changes.

September 14, 1987	Special Subcommittee met, reviewed the public input, and recommended that the Board of Directors approve the Subdistrict boundaries has proposed.
September 16, 1987	The subdistrict boundaries has recommended by the special Subcommittee, for continued nomination by subdistrict and election at large, with a population variation of less than 3:1, were approved by the Board of Directors.
October 19, 1987	The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission approved the Lower Platte South NRD subdistrict boundaries has proposed.
December 1987	NRD staff met personnel with County election staff to review new subdistrict boundaries and the other election changes, gave updated maps, hand out information, and answered questions.
March 11, 1988	Filing dead line for primary election. A total of 38 candidates had filed in this NRD. Three subdistricts had six candidates, two subdistricts had four candidates, three subdistrict had three candidates, and one subdistrict had two candidates, and one subdistrict had one candidate.
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May 10, 1988	Primary election.
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November 8, 1988	General election.
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North Platte Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

XX Yes
 _____ No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

The distribution of the population is so uneven. The population of the City of Scottsbluff is more than the combined populations of Banner, Morrill, Garden and our portion of Sioux County.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

_____ Yes
XX No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

NO State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

NO State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

NO Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

NO Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

_____ Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

We have received no comments.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

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JUN 2 1989

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

South Platte Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

 Yes
 x No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

 Yes
 x No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

The SPNRD is currently 2.5 to 1. We feel this has worked well and the subdistrict boundaries are workable.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

 NO State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

 NO State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

 NO Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

 NO Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

 Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

The only comments is that some director's are not known to voters in all of the other subdistricts. In that case the voter friendly name usually will win in that subdistrict.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

The Board is happy with our 2.5 to 1 ratio. We have had equal work load in all subdistricts. Strict 1 to 1 ratio is not necessarily the best, as it would follow political boundaries and may change each election year. The city of Sidney, Sidney (the largest community) could have 4 members on the board. The districts valuation is two thirds rural one third urban.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

- 1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

 X Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

The option to create equal population subdistricts, with reduced Board size, was not selected in 1986 by the District because: (1) County boundaries were to be honored in establishing subdistrict boundaries, (2) the 2.5:1 population ratio, with reduced Board size, was attainable from a political perspective, and (3) 1980 census figures were used and it was recognized that 1990 figures could be considerably different.

- 2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

 X Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

The Board passed a resolution of intent to realign subdistricts' boundaries to equalize population between subdistricts following the 1990 census. With the merger of the Papio and Middle Missouri Tribes NRDs, Subdistrict #1 (Washington County plus the entire Middle Missouri Tribes NRD) now has the same population as one Douglas County subdistrict. With the exception of two Sarpy County subdistricts, equal population subdistricts currently exist.

- 3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

 No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

 No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

 No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

 No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

 Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Following the District's Board reduction and subdistricting action in 1986 the attached letter, news articles, and editorials appeared in the Omaha World-Herald. There has been no further press activity. The District has received numerous comments from the public about not knowing the Director candidates, especially when they do not live near their geographic area.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

Benefits of subdistrict elections would include:

- 1) relief from defending at-large elections to the general public
- 2) make Directors more responsible to the electorate
- 3) provide urban areas with proportionate representation as well as greater return from tax revenue
- 4) It is more likely that the electorate will know the candidates for whom they are voting.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Middle Republican

Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

X Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

Out present at-large subdistricts utilize known boundaries such as county lines and city limits. This simplifies election procedures saving time and money. It would not, in our opinion improve taxpayer or voter representation within our NRD to switch to equal population subdistricts.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

 Yes
X No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

NO State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

NO State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

NO Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

NO Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

YES Other: (please describe)

State to pay county election expenses indefinitely, exempt district from sales tax, place district on government license plate list for vehicles and have state auditor conduct annual audits at state expense for all districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

YES. We have received minimal comment. Some voters have been confused by the election-at-large ballot. One county clerk thought our process was more desirable than a neighboring NRD she works with, that went to equal population subdistricts.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

If we were required to go to a one person/one vote concept, we would certainly consider electing all directors at large without subdistricts

We also believe that the current NRD election process should be left in place for awhile. It has not had time to prove its acceptability.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

JUN 2 1983

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Upper Republican Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large? The District has to cross county lines and sub-district encompasses several different voting precincts to get equal population. If it is required that elections are by sub-district only, it would cause a real hardship on election officials at each voting precinct determining which sub-district voters are eligible to vote in.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

That is the way the district is now, leave it as is.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

No

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

I would hope you would leave everything as is. It is hard to get individuals to run for any elected office now. This includes city officials, school boards and State Senators.

PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 28, 1989 to DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION.

Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Lower Republican Natural Resources District

JUL 21 1999

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

X Yes
_____ No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

Understand the law currently indicates that almost equal population, per sub-district, is required to move from the election at-large position. Our NRD current subdistrict boundary is very close to a 1:1 ratio; but is not exactly -- but is it almost(?) Other advantages to our current subdistrict boundaries and almost equal population has not motivated our NRD to change. If we were assured that our current ratio would not be a problem, perhaps we would change, even in 1990.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

_____ Yes
X No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

We do not believe that this change would be a major reason for people to desire a NRD directorship or really cause a great voting difference.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

Yes State pay county election expenses for ~~one or two election years~~ duration of time. (why just 1 or 2 years?)

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

No Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Some of the public express questions why they are asked to vote for people they do not know or have heard of in some cases. Election officials have not indicated a desire to go to a subdistrict basis. Very few now have major questions to our current process.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

One thing our public definitely cannot understand is why they voted (in the general election) for the same people they thought they voted to election in the primary. This area is a problem and waste of public funds.

Just being concerned about population equality per subdistrict is not necessarily in the best interest of our public. Subdistrict boundaries were originally set with a series of criteria to consider -- one was population equality (if possible). Perhaps more NRDs should have placed a greater emphasis on this factor, but just divisions for population equality is not necessarily helpful in addressing NRD's responsibilities.

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Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

JUL 25 1989

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

Yes
 No *NOT seriously, anyway.*

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

Yes
 No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

None Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

The only complaints have been from the directors.
There have been no favorable comments that I know of.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

I discussed this questionnaire with the directors at our July 19 board meeting. The consensus of the nine directors present was that they would support election by sub-district - perhaps even prefer it - but only if they could keep the subdistricts basically as they are now. They oppose election by subdistricts if it means reforming the boundaries to make them equal in population. In other words Tri-Basin directors feel the present system of determining subdistrict boundaries is better than equal population subdistricts.

Bill Umberger

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Worksheet for NRDs with Election At-Large

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

1. Has your district previously considered creating equal population subdistricts and electing directors by subdistrict?

X Yes
 _____ No

If yes, what were the reasons for deciding to continue to elect at-large?

The option to create equal population subdistricts, with reduced Board size, was not selected in 1986 by the District because: (1) County boundaries were to be honored in establishing subdistrict boundaries, (2) the 2.5:1 population ratio, with reduced Board size, was attainable from a political perspective, and (3) 1980 census figures were used and it was recognized that 1990 figures could be considerably different.

2. Would your district support a legislative requirement that all NRDs create equal population subdistricts and elect at-large by 1992 or 1994?

X Yes
 _____ No

Reasons, if different from number 1.

The Board passed a resolution of intent to realign subdistricts' boundaries to equalize population between subdistricts following the 1990 census. With the merger of the Papio and Middle Missouri Tribes NRDs, Subdistrict #1 (Washington County plus the entire Middle Missouri Tribes NRD) now has the same population as one Douglas County subdistrict. With the exception of two Sarpy County subdistricts, equal population subdistricts currently exist.

3. Would your district support any of the following legislative incentives for districts to create equal population subdistricts and elect by subdistrict? (Yes or No on each)

No State pay county election expenses for one or two election years.

No State withhold all or a portion of state funds for which NRDs are otherwise eligible.

No Authorize higher tax levy for districts with election by equal population subdistricts.

No Grant districts with elections by equal population subdistrict specific additional authorities. Suggestions?

_____ Other: (please describe)

4. Has your district received favorable or unfavorable comments from election officials, the general public, or the press about your current election method? If yes, please explain.

Following the District's Board reduction and subdistricting action in 1986 the attached letter, news articles, and editorials appeared in the Omaha World-Herald. There has been no further press activity. The District has received numerous comments from the public about not knowing the Director candidates, especially when they do not live near their geographic area.

5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions concerning this issue?

Benefits of subdistrict elections would include:

- 1) relief from defending at-large elections to the general public
- 2) make Directors more responsible to the electorate
- 3) provide urban areas with proportionate representation as well as greater return from tax revenue
- 4) It is more likely that the electorate will know the candidates for whom they are voting.

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