

Work Remains to Balance Nemaha NRD Budget

(KTNC) - The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board reviewed the first draft of the fiscal year 2012-13 Budget last week. While it's not unusual for the budget to be far from balanced at this time, NRD Manager Bob Hilske informed the board that this year's first draft is nearly \$650,000 in the red.

The culprit for some of the added expense is the planned Duck Creek Watershed project. That involves both a flood control dam and a public recreation area northwest of Peru. The Nemaha NRD needs to purchase land for the project, which will be costly. State funding has been approved for the Duck Creek project, but those funds won't be available for several years.

In addition to the Duck Creek project, NRD officials say the District is also responsible for some of the cost to upgrade a county road in Nemaha County that's impacted by the Duck Creek flood control project. Funds are also being tapped this year to upgrade a structure on Wilson Creek west of Dunbar to high-hazard status due to its impact on Highway 2.

The budget also includes funding to replace a 1982 pickup that had been used for spraying until it experienced a serious breakdown.

NRD staff will work with the Budget Subcommittee to adjust figures and make cuts where needed to balance the budget the September deadline. The NRD's new fiscal year began July 1st.

On a related note, the NRD Board voted to increase its restricted fund allowance by an additional one percent for this budget year. A motion to increase the restricted fund allowance received the required two-thirds majority approval.