

NCORPE ANNUAL REPORT – 2022 – Approved Version

Details on the operation of the project:

The Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) was created to help satisfy the water needs of the Republican River Compact and the Twin Platte NRD's (Natural Resource District) Integrated Management Plan. Approximately 16,000 acres were retired from irrigation and the water has been repurposed to increase Republican and Platte River stream flows, when needed. The general operation supports those goals. The large tract of land, which is needed to pump the required water, must be maintained and managed in order to be good stewards to the taxpayer.

The amount of water pumped:

2,878 acre feet of water was pumped in 2022 for augmentation purposes to the Platte River on behalf of the Twin Platte NRD.

The amount of land leased and for what purposes:

Row crop – 132 acres

Cattle grazing and hay production – 18,390 acres

Facilities – One shop, two storage buildings, one house.

The amount of revenue gained from land leases:

In 2022: \$477,391.63 total. \$19,800.00 from row crop leases, \$424,115.46 from grass leases, \$9,804.72 from facility leases and \$23,671.45 from the sale of hay.

The amount of tax payments:

An amount of \$122,178.82 was paid in 2022 to Lincoln County for in lieu of taxes. Additionally \$45,332.11 was made in property taxes and \$439.14 in personal property taxes. In 2018, the NCORPE board approved a policy to pay in lieu of taxes for future years.

Financial details of the project:

- The amount of debt: \$77,312,807.19 (source: 12/31/22 financial statement)
- The amount of outstanding bonds and loans: \$77,312,807.19 (12/31/22 financial statement)
- The project budget: \$9,683,643.72, which \$1,444,500.00 is for operating expenses (source: 2023 fiscal budget).

Whether the project is achieving its intended purpose:

Yes, NCORPE continues to keep the NRDs and the State of Nebraska in compliance with multiple agreements.

The effect of the project on ground water supplies:

NCORPE commissioned the design of a computer model to track static water level changes within the project area and its associated footprint. This model guides NCORPE so that it will

have **no greater impact** than the pre-existing irrigation pumping, over the long term. Also, the TPNRD and the MRNRD have put allocations on the project that are correlated to what an irrigated farm would be allowed to pump over the same time period. At this time NCORPE has not had any sustained decline in static water levels, and in areas there have been increases in static water levels since the project was implemented.

Projections for the use of the project in the future and the effect of its use on ground water supplies:

NCORPE's pumping is based on projections for water supply needs by states and the NRDs. The TPNRD plans to use the project in 2023. The volume of water that will be needed will be determined on a monthly basis by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

NCORPE is a partnership between the Upper Republican NRD, Middle Republican NRD, Lower Republican NRD and the Twin Platte NRD.