

NCORPE ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

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:

No water was pumped for augmentation in 2019. Only a small amount was pumped for maintenance and testing.

The amount of land leased and for what purposes:

Row crop – 527 acres

Cattle grazing – 14,340 acres

Facilities – One shop, two storage buildings, nine grain bins, one feedlot facility, two houses

The amount of revenue gained from land leases:

In 2018: \$421,447.34 total. \$97,532.00 from row crop leases, \$306,882.18 from grass leases and \$17,033.16 from facility leases.

The amount of payments made in lieu of taxes:

An amount of \$145,039.04 was paid in 2019. 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: \$88,324,002.34 (source: 12/31/19 financial statement)
- The amount of outstanding bonds and loans: \$88,324,002.34 (12/31/19 financial statement)
- The project budget: \$10,984,000, which \$1,364,400 is operating expenses (source: 2020 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:

Water levels have seen substantial increases since augmentation water has not been pumped since 2017.

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 2020. The volume of water that will be needed will be determined on a monthly basis by the NE DNR.

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