

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:**  
**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD FINANCES SKIN TAXPAYERS.**

**POOR BUDGET PRACTICES.** This NRD taxing authority has a disreputable history of levying more property taxes than necessary to fund its main purposes, flood control, erosion control, and water quality. Its FY 2023-2024 budget is no exception. The NRD boasts that it lowered resident property taxes, but the decrease was only .0034c per \$100 of valuation, a pittance. The owner of a \$250,000 house will pay \$78.30 in NRD property taxes. The average property valuation increase in the 7-county NRD taxing authority area reached almost 13%, so the tiny drop in the tax levy did not meaningfully dampen the increase in property taxes stemming from the high valuation increase. Meanwhile, the NRD increased spending by 13%.

Federal funds total only 10% of NRD FY 2023-2024 revenues, property taxes total 26%, and state funds only 4%. However, cash on hand and bond proceeds comprise a whopping 47% of the budget, much of this funding stashed in the budget to build unneeded dams and accompanying sites along the watershed. Flood control operations, the main concern of the NRD, consume only 37% of the budget, erosion control and water quality only 8%. Administrative costs require a hefty 15% of the budget. A large 24% of this budget is funding moved forward year after fiscal year in reserve to build eventual dams and dam site recreation and other costs, dams much more costly than low impact development, dams whose reservoirs silt up continually and provide no swimming opportunities. Taxpaying residents in the Papio NRD district continually face over-taxation from this taxing authority because of its grandiose plans to cover the entire, long watershed with unneeded dams that will cancel much productive farmland and eliminate other land uses along with their accompanying employment and development possibilities. This NRD has lost sight of its main purpose, to credibly stop massive flooding along the watershed. Instead, it has embarked on a spending spree to build structures that mostly benefit residential and commercial real estate developers and simultaneously has generated an expanding NRD bureaucracy. The recreational opportunities about which it boasts are minimal, as silting makes boating treacherous, and chemical/fertilizer runoff offers only Frankenfish, not safely edible.

**TAKE ACTION NOW.** Join our effort to find NRD board candidates who will reverse this accelerating tax-spend cycle and restore the Papio NRD to its original purposes. Email [netaxpayers@gmail.com](mailto:netaxpayers@gmail.com) to join our *NRD Watch Project*.

Research, documentation, and analysis for this issue paper done by **Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom**. This material copyrighted by Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, with express prior permission granted for its use by other groups in the *NE Conservative Coalition Network*. 9-23. C

