

RG600**Mid-State Reclamation and Irrigation District, Nebraska****Span Dates: 1930-1976****22 cubic feet****Background:**

The Nebraska Mid-State Reclamation and Irrigation District consisted of approximately 550,000 acres of farm land found in the counties of Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick. These counties were lying within the Platte River watershed which was prone to flooding. The District was organized under the 1947 Nebraska Reclamation Act (unanimously passed by the Nebraska Legislature) and was governed by an elected Board of Directors. Overall, the Mid-State project was designed to contribute to the growth of an agricultural economy, provide a stabilized ground water supply for irrigation, and assist with rural public power needs. The purpose of the project was to create flood control protection, irrigation for crops, produce hydroelectric power, and to develop recreational facilities within its boundaries. The District was approved by the Department of Roads and Irrigation in January 1948, and the voters of the District approved a mill tax levy on all tangible property in April 1948. Subsequently, the Hall County District Court upheld the constitutionality of the Reclamation Act, and eventually, the legality of the district was upheld by the Nebraska Supreme Court in February 1950. However, by the mid-1970s, local support for the district began to wane. Those opposing the district claimed inaction and a lack of cohesive planning by the Board of Directors on important projects that would benefit the counties. When the district compact/contract agreement came up for re-approval in the November 1975 election to retain the district, voters in these counties disapproved by a substantial margin. The District officially dissolved, and the administrative offices were closed by March 1976.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of eight subgroups:

- 1) Administrative Correspondence and Topic Files
- 2) Legal and Case/Hearings Files
- 3) Board of Director Meeting Minutes
- 4) Election Files: Tally Lists of Voters—Buffalo, Hall , and Merrick Counties
- 5) Financial/Accounts and Survey Data Files
- 6) Publications, Reports, and Studies of the project
- 7) Photographs
- 8) Oversize Materials

SUBGROUP ONE

Administrative Correspondence and Topic Files, 4 boxes, 1943-1976

Box 1

- f. 1 Associated Missouri Basin Conservationists, 1950
- f. 2 Audobon Society Grand Island, NE 1974-1975
- f. 3 Board of Directors: Mid-State, 1943-1948
- f. 4 Board of Directors: Mid-State, 1955-1956
- f. 5 Bureau of Irrigation-Nebr., 1948-1956
- f. 6 Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District 1949-1956
- f. 7 Contact List(No Date) Business/Political Press
- f. 8 Correspondence: Claude E. Campbell Shelton, NE, 1975
- f. 9 Correspondence: Abner K. Chestem Agricultural Construction Committee, 1944
- f. 10 Correspondence: Oscar A. Drake, Attorney, Kearney, NE, 1949-1960
- f. 11 Correspondence: John F. Dryar, Consulting Engineer, 1943
- f. 12 Correspondence: Gerald Gentleman, Manager-Platte Valley Public Power, 1943-1944
- f. 13 Correspondence: Harry Grimminger, Attorney, Grand Island, NE, 1944-1947
- f. 14 Reports/Studies Paul L. Hartley, Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Island, 1946-1947
- f. 15 Correspondence: Stanley K. Hathaway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 1975
- f. 16 Correspondence: Pat Heaton, Pres.(Mid-State Assn.), 1943-1947
- f. 17 Correspondence: Fred R. Kingsley, Pres.(Minden Nat'l Bank), 1946
- f. 18 Correspondence: Walter P. Lauritsen, Attorney, Grand Island, NE 1960-1975
- f. 19 Correspondence: John Mayne, Planning Officer-Bureau of Reclamation, 1975
- f. 20 Correspondence: T.F. Neighbors, Attorney, Scottsbluff, 1949-1953
- f. 21 Correspondence: Platte River Basin Study, Level B Plan, 1975
- f. 22 Correspondence: G.G. Stamm, Commissioner-U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 1975
- f. 23 Correspondence: Leslie F. Sheffield, UNL 1975
- f. 24 Correspondence: Harry Strunk, Nebraska Director, National Reclamation Association, 1944-1947
- f. 25 Correspondence: U.S.B.R/A. Meyer/Black+Veatch/Beck/NPPS, Review Reports, 1956-1957
- f. 26 Correspondence: Misc, 1947-1949
- f. 27 Correspondence: Misc, 1943-1946
- f. 28 Correspondence: Misc, 1950
- f. 29 Correspondence: Misc, 1955-1958
- f. 30 Correspondence: Misc, Jan. 1963- July 1970
- f. 31 Correspondence: Misc, 1971-1974

Box 2

- f. 1 Engineering General Correspondence, 1943-1945
- f. 2 Environmentalists, 1973-1975
- f. 3 Grupe, Egar Y. Consulting Engineer, Scottsbluff, 1949 (Resume Info)
- f. 4 Hall County Committee (n.d)
- f. 5 History of Project, 1941-1970
- f. 6 Member List, Platte Valley Pump Irrigators Assn. (n.d)
- f. 7 Meyer Adolph F. (Consulting Engineer), Misc. Reports/Studies, 1943-1953
- f. 8 Meyer Adolph F. Consulting Engineer, Testimonial Dinner, July 1962(After his death)
- f. 9 Natural Water Commission(and Data), 1973
- f. 10 North Platte Valley Irrigators Protective Assn. 1948-1949
- f. 11 Platte River Flood, 1947
- f. 12 National Water Resources Congress, 1975
- f. 13 Nebr. Games+Parks Commission, 1975
- f. 14 Nebraska Water Resources Association, 1975
- f. 15 Precipitation/Drainage/Flow, 1944-1956
- f. 16 R.W. Beck & Associates, Consulting Engineers, Apr. 1965-Aug. 1968
- f. 17 Reconstruction Finance Corp.(REA) 1949-1950
- f. 18 Red Willow Dam-Hugh Butler Lake Dedication- 4 August, 1962
- f. 19 Sec. Of State Correspondence, 1948-1969
- f. 20 Secretary of State Allen Beerman, 1975
- f. 21 Secretary of State January 1970-1975
- f. 22 United States Bureau of Reclamation, 1944-1951
- f. 23 U.S.B.R, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Feb. 1966- Dec. 1969
- f. 24 U.S.B.R, United States Bureau of Reclamation, 1972-1973
- f. 25 U.S.B.R, United States Bureau of Reclamation, 1974
- f. 26 U.S.B.R, United States Bureau of Reclamation, 1975
- f. 27 U.S. Geological Survey, 1953-1965
- f. 28 Wood River Valley Power+Irrigation District(Prepared), 1937

Box 3

- f. 1 Board of Directions, Lists/Biographical Info, 1948-1975
- f. 2 Campaign Leaders Correspondence, 1974-1975
- f. 3 Census Reports/Oaths, 1966-1974
- f. 4 Central Nebr. Public Power and Irrig. Dist. R.D. Dirmeyer, 1975
- f. 5 Conference Information, Bureau of Reclamation, 1950(January-April)
- f. 6 Congressional Delegation(National Delegation), 1974
- f. 7 Cornhusker Motor Club(AAA), 1975
- f. 8 Corps of Engineers, 1972-1975
- f. 9 Correspondence: District Landowners, 1973
- f. 10 Correspondence: Don H. Shriner, General Manager, 1974
- f. 11 Correspondence: Don H. Shriner, General Manager, 1975
- f. 12 County Clerks: Buffalo/Hall/Merrick Counties, 1969-1975
- f. 13 Greater Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, 1946-1947
- f. 14 Mid-State Contributors List, 1946-1948
- f. 15 Mid-State Reclamation District Issues/Reports On Progress, 1957
- f. 16 Engineering Correspondence, 1972
- f. 17 Missouri River Basin Commission, 1973-1974
- f. 18 Nebraska Legislative Correspondence, 1973 Session
- f. 19 Nebraska Natural Resource Commission, 1974
- f. 20 Nebraska State Irrigation Assn. 1970-1972
- f. 21 Platte River Wildlife/Bird Refuge, 1974
- f. 22 Secretary of Interior(U.S.), 1972-1975
- f. 23 U.S.B.R. (United States Bureau of Reclamation), Progress Reports, Jan. 1972
Correspondence: Don H. Shriner, General Manager, 1974

Box 4 (Political Correspondence)

- f. 1 Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall, 4th Dist. (Colorado), 1956
- f. 2 Senator Hugh Butler, 1945-1954
- f. 3 Senator Carl Curtis, 1973-1975
- f. 4 Senator Ron Cope, 1975
- f. 5 Governor J. James Exon, 1974-1975
- f. 6 President Gerald R. Ford, 1975
- f. 7 Governor Dwight Griswold, 1945
- f. 8 Senator Roman Hruska, 1974-1975
- f. 9 Senator Ralph Kelly, 1974-1975
- f. 10 Senator Orval A. Keyes, 1975
- f. 11 Congressman John Y. McCollister, M.C. 1975
- f. 12 Congressman A.L. Miller, 4th District, 1947-1962
- f. 13 Congressman William Moorhead, 1975
- f. 14 Senator Maurice Kremer, 1974-1975
- f. 15 Senator Carl Petrus Peterson
- f. 16 Governor Val Peterson, 1947
- f. 17 Congressman Virginia Smith, 1975
- f. 18 Congressman Charles Thone M.C. 1975
- f. 19 Senator Kenneth S. Wherry

SUBGROUP TWO

Legal Files: 1944-1975

Box 1 (Legal Research and Case Files)

- f. 1 Constitutional Issues, Irrigational Water Laws, n.d.
- f. 2 Legislative Bills, 1947, 1953-1954, 1959, 1967
- f. 3 Nebraska Reclamation Act, LB619, 1961
- f. 4 Reclamation Act, LB350, Constitutionalists, 1950-1961
- f. 5 Water Conservancy District Law-Colorado, 1937
- f. 6 Case #111216, Gus Holling et. al v. Mid-State Reclamation District, 1948
- f. 7 Case #111216, Gus Holling et. al v. Mid-State Reclamation District, 1950
- f. 8 Nebr. Mid-State Reclamation District v. Hall County Case #11171, 1949
- f. 9 Supreme Court of Nebr. Case #32702, Nebr. Mid-State Reclamation District v. Hall County, 1950

Box 2 (Hearings Files)

- f. 1 Publications; Hearings before Subcommittees, 1953-1967
- f. 2 Hearing-Legislative Council, Kearney, NE. Feb. 1944
- f. 3 Transcript Hearing, Feb. 1944
- f. 4 Transcript Hearing, Jan. 1944
- f. 5 Hearing-State Legislature, LB257, March 1947
- f. 6 Transcript-Hearings, Grand Island, NE. Jan. 1949
- f. 7 Hearing, Additional Data, Docket No. Pa-663, May 1947
- f. 8 Hearing, Petition to Form Nebr. Mid-State Reclamation District LB350 (Dept. of Roads/Irrigation) Sept. 1947
- f. 9 Transcript Hearing before Subcommittee on Irrigation+Reclamation, Oct. 1955
- f. 10 Hearing; HR4484, Grand Island, NE. Oct. 27, 1955
- f. 11 Hearings; Exhibits, 1965
- f. 12 Hearing, Data for Appropriations Committee, 1973-1974
- f. 13 Statement-Hearing, Central Nebraska Public Power, Jan. 1944
- f. 14 Statement-Hearing, Farm Operators, Buffalo/Hall/Merrick Counties, Feb. 1944
- f. 15 Statement-Hearing, Mid-State Reclamation Districts Committee, March 1944
- f. 16 Statement-Hearing, Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation Districts, March 1944
- f. 17 Statement-Hearing, Directors of the Nebr. Mid-State Reclamation District, 1951
- f. 18 Statement-Hearing, Adolph E. Meyer, Dec. 1954
- f. 19 Statement-Hearing, W. Marshall Ross, Alfadale Stock Farm, Gibbon, NE, April 1955
- f. 20 Statement-Hearing, W.P Lauritsen Statement, April 1955
- f. 21 Statement-Hearing, Edwin L. Anderson, Gibbon, NE, April 1955
- f. 22 Statement-Hearing, Wayne Aspinall Subcommittee on Irrigation+Reclamation, Oct. 1955
- f. 23 Statement-Hearing, J.K. McKinney, Subcommittee on Irrigation+Reclamation, Oct. 1955
- f. 24 Statement, Willard H. Reuss, House Subcommittee on Irrigation, Oct. 1955
- f. 25 Statement-Hearing, Commissioner Of Reclamation, Nov. 1960
- f. 26 Statement-Hearing, Walter P. Lauritsen, House Interior Subcommittee, HR427/HR845, May 1967
- f. 27 Statement-Hearing, Darrell B. McCostrich, Senate Interior Committee, S. 774, Sept. 1967
- f. 28 Statement-Hearing, Heber C. Wagner, House Interior Subcommittee, HR427/HR845, May 1967
- f. 29 Statement-Hearing, Walter P. Lauritsen, Public Works Subcommittee on Appropriations, May 1970
- f. 30 Statement-Hearing, D.B McCostrich, Omaha District of Corps of Engineers, Aug. 1970
- f. 31 Statement-Hearing, Wallace E. Peterson, Public Works Subcommittee on Appropriations, May 1971
- f. 32 Statement-Hearing, Howard v. Kelly, Public Works on Subcommittee, U.S. House of Reps, May 1972
- f. 33 Statement Amos Jr./Omar Bashart, Wood River, NE, 1972
- f. 34 Statement Cecil Kushman, Gibbon, NE, 1972

Box 2 Continued

- f. 35 Statement Mike Dibbern and Sons(Gordon and Jerry) Shelton, NE, 1972
- f. 36 Statement Delbert Frazell, Shelton, NE 1972
- f. 37 Statement G.W. Grosch, Silver Creek, NE 1973
- f. 38 Statement L.L. Haddrix, Central City, NE, Feb. 1974
- f. 39 Statement John C. Hannappel, Clark, NE, 1973
- f. 40 Statement Bill Hannon, Shelton, NE, 1972
- f. 41 Statement Carl Harders, Wood River, NE, 1972
- f. 42 Statement Vernon Heupel, Cairo, NE, 1972
- f. 43 Statement Russell Howe, Kearney, NE, 1972
- f. 44 Statement-Hearing, Robert W. Lowry, National Water Commission, Feb. 1973
- f. 45 Statement-Hearing, Robert W. Lowry, Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Appropriations, April 1975
- f. 46 Statement Bob McClurkin, Shelton, NE, 1972
- f. 47 Statement D.E. McGregor, Gibbon, NE, 1972
- f. 48 Statement Bob McClurkin, Shelton, NE 1972
- f. 49 Statement Francis Harders, Wood River, NE 1973
- f. 50 Statement Joe R. and Marvin J. Rickert, Wood River, NE 1972
- f. 51 Statement Stuart Schepers Shelton, NE 1972
- f. 52 Statement Lester Stiber Shelton, NE 1972
- f. 53 Statement Francis Harders, Wood River, NE 1973
- f. 54 Statement Leo Szathe, Clark, NE 1973
- f. 55 Statement Cary Thornton, Kearney, NE 1973
- f. 56 Statement Leland Wagner, Archer, NE 1973

Box 3 (Contracts and Agreements)

- f. 1 Contracts/Compact Materials, Misc., 1946-1953
- f. 2 Contract with Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, 1953
- f. 3 Contract with Tri-County and Mid-State District, March 9, 1953
- f. 4 Legal Agreements with Merrick County, Mid-State Publishing Co, and Hall County, 1946
- f. 5 Loan Application, Construction, October 1945
- f. 6 Loan Application, Modified Agreement, October 1945
- f. 7 Storage Water Permit Applications, Numbers 1 thru 23, 1943
- f. 8 Storage Water Permit Applications, Numbers 2350 thru 3474, 1943
- f. 9 Storage Water Permit Applications, Numbers 3476 thru 4019, 1943-1950

Box 4 (Topic/Subject Files)

- f. 1 Articles of Association and Board of Directors, 1947-1949
- f. 2 Articles of Incorporation, Mid-State Irrigators, Kearney, NE, Feb. 1964
- f. 3 By-Law Changes, 1975
- f. 4 Bonds, 1945-1947
- f. 5 Election Materials, 1957
- f. 6 Election, Canvas of Voters, 1957-1958
- f. 7 Elections Information, Radio Outlets, 1957
- f. 8 Election 1975 (total of 2 folders)
- f. 9 Election Polls: Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick Counties, 1975
- f. 10 Election Results, Certification, 1975
- f. 11 Insurance, Liability Policies, 1973-1975
- f. 12 Oaths of Office, Board of Directors, 1967-1975
- f. 13 Petition, 1944
- f. 14 Petition for Creation & Certificate of Approval from Department of Roads and Irrigation, May 1945
- f. 15 Petition for Formation, 1947
- f. 16 Petition, Prairie Island Landowners to have lands detached from district, 1951-1952
- f. 17 Petition, Exclusion from Mid-State Reclamation District, March 1966
- f. 18 Resolutions, Support of Project 1945
- f. 19 Resolution, Dissolution of District, 1959
- f. 20 Resolutions, Board of Directors, 1973-1975
- f. 21 Legislative Resolution 35, April 1975
- f. 22 Testimony, Landowners and Pump Operators, October 27, 1955

SUBGROUP THREE

Box 1

Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors, 1943-1975

SUBGROUP FOUR

Box 1

Election Files

Tally Lists of Voters (Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick Counties), October 1957

SUBGROUP FIVE

Financial Files, 3 boxes

Box 1

Financial Files

State Audits, 1943-1975

Box 2

Financial Files

Expense Reports, 1944-1971

f. 1 Financial Expenses, 1944

f. 2 Financial Expenses, 1948-1949

f. 3 Financial Statements, Lobbying, 1947

f. 4 Financial Reports (Misc.), 1948-1953

f. 5 Financial Report/Expenses, 1957

f. 6 Groundwater Control and Costs, 1968-1969

f. 7 Board of Directors, Financial Reports, 1975

Box 3

Survey Data, Misc., 1945-1971

f. 1 Farm Survey Data, 1950-1958

f. 2 Wood River Discharge+Flow Data, 1951-1955, 1973

f. 3 Irrigated Land (Counties), n.d

f. 4 Buffalo County Irrigable Acres, 1971

f. 5 Hall County Irrigable Acres, 1971

f. 6 Merrick County Irrigable Acres, 1972

f. 7 Platte Valley-Dawson County, Irrigation Rate, Feb. 1945

SUBGROUP SIX

PUBLICATIONS (total of 8 boxes)

Box 1

Reports and Studies: Mid-State Project, 1944—1955

Box 2

Reports and Studies: Mid-State Project, 1956—1967

Box 3

Water Level/Groundwater Publications, Reports, and Studies, 1935-1964

U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior

Box 4

Publications, Reports, and Studies

Missouri River Basin Project, Lower Platte Valley, 1944-1961

Box 5

Brochures, Pamphlets/Newsletters, and Flyers, 1930-1974

Misc. Charts and Maps, 1930-1974

f. 1 Publications, Brochures, fliers, newsletters, n.d

f. 2 Publications, Nebraska On The March, 1955-1956

f. 3 Publications, The Central Nebraska Irrigator, 1955-1962

f. 4 Publications, Platte Prosperity News, 1964-1969

f. 5 Publications, Brochures/Pamphlets, Mid-State Project, 1945-1968

f. 6 Publications, Newsletter, Tri-Co Echo, June 1950

f. 7 Publications, Brochures/Pamphlets-other projects/districts, 1950-1968

f. 8 U.S.B.R. Progress Maps

f. 9 Publications, Maps/Charts, 1930-1973

f. 10 Plot Map-Buffalo County, Shows land/property owners, 1965

f. 11 Plot Map-Hall County, Shows land/property owners, 1969

f. 12 Wells Registered In Mid-State District, 1930-1974

Box 6

Newspaper Clippings and Articles, 1943-1971

Box 7

Newspaper Clippings and Articles, 1971 (continued)-1976

Box 8

Scrapbooks, total of 2, 1946-1947

SUBGROUP SEVEN

PHOTOGRAPHS (total of 1 box) is located at K St. (Govt. Records Facility)

- f. 1 Photo: Individual Mid-State Reclamation, Senator Carl T. Curtis, NE, 1960
- f. 2 Photo: Individual Congressman Carl Petrus Peterson, Mid-State Reclamation District, Polk County, 20th District, 1941-1947
- f. 3 Photo: Individual, Mid-State Reclamation, Michael W. Straus, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, 1954
- f. 4 Photos: Geography, Platte River-Channel Flood Damage, Mid-State Reclamation, 1947
- f. 5 Photos: Geography, Platte River and Channels, Ids. On Photos, Mid-State Reclamation, July 1953
- f. 6 Photos: Geography, Platte River and Channels, Ids. On back of Photos, Mid-State Reclamation(w/ Negatives), July 1953
- f. 7 Photo: Group, Mid-State Reclamation, Courthouse at Kearney, NE, Buffalo County, May 1949
- f. 8 Photo: Group, Mid-State Reclamation, Conference-Long Beach, CA, 1952
- f. 9 Photo: Group, Mid-State Reclamation, Presentation Displays/Exhibits
- f. 10 Photos: Group, Mid-State Reclamation, Project tour and Grand Island, Late 1940's
- f. 11 Photos: Group, Mid-State Reclamation, Project tour w/ Congressman Rogers, Oct. 27th, 1961
- f. 12 Photos: Misc, Mid-State Reclamation, Analog Models+Equipment, 1950's
- f. 13 Photos: Misc, Mid-State Reclamation, Model Dam Experiments, Western Laboratories Inc. w/ Report on Model Dams
- f. 14 Photos: Misc, Mid-State Reclamation Project Poster Board Displays, 1950's

SUBGROUP EIGHT

Oversize Material, 1948-1972 (total of 3 items/boxes)

1. Oversize Box 1 (KN39/07/08)

Maps and Plans

Missouri River Basin Project: Frenchman-Cambridge Division

--Bartley Canal, Maps (Land Area)

--Frenchman Unit, Maps (Land Area)

--Meeker Driftwood Unit, Maps (Land Area)

--Red Willow Unit, Red Willow Canal, Maps (Land Area)

2. Oversize Maps and Plans, K St. (Govt. Records) Map Drawer 5-9

a) Nebraska Mid-State Division

--Boundary Maps for Lands, Petitions for Irrigation Services

--Facilities and Locations

--Waster Supply Factors

--Well Networks

b) Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company

Maps and Plans

--Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick Counties Irrigation Lines

3. Ledger--Account Book

Buffalo, Merrick, and Hall Counties, 1948-1965

GMK, June 2013