

DR 83-10 - Feasibility Study for
the Proposed Douglass Reservoir
(Butler County)

ACTION

DATE

COMMITTEE _____

M.A.P.C. *Authorized Chairman*
to sign a letter in support. 11-4-82

B.C.C./B. CO. C. _____

DR 83-10 - Feasibility Study for
the Proposed Douglas Reservoir
(Butler County)

FROM _____ DATE 1/27/77

ADMINISTRATION	ADVANCE PLANS	CURRENT PLANS	GRAPHICS
<input type="checkbox"/> Lakin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chastant	<input type="checkbox"/> Galbraith	<input type="checkbox"/> Pierce
<input type="checkbox"/> Walter	<input type="checkbox"/> Funk	<input type="checkbox"/> Lytle	<input type="checkbox"/> Stafford
<input type="checkbox"/> Doramus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayo	<input type="checkbox"/> Young	<input type="checkbox"/> Commer
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<input type="radio"/> Comment	<input type="radio"/> Files

REMARKS Hester brought over. Good response
I support. Held in DR
Strong on the environmental questions but
weakly leaning on the economic one. WS

April 1983

DRAFT.

Mr. Donald E. Craybill
Deputy Associate Director
For Natural Resources
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Craybill:

We are in receipt of your letter dated February 10, 1983 regarding funding for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study of the proposed Douglass Reservoir project in Butler County, Kansas. Your letter indicated that two types of concerns, substantial environmental impacts and unfavorable project economics, have stalled further consideration of the project. We wish to take this opportunity to address those concerns and offer our comments for your consideration.

Your letter suggested that the environmental impacts of the proposed Douglass Reservoir project may be substantial. In particular, your letter indicated that the habitats of three endangered species--the whooping crane, the peregrine falcon, and the southern bald eagle--would be adversely affected. We believe that the aforementioned species would not be adversely impacted by the proposed Douglass Reservoir and we offer the following comments in support of our statement:

- 1) Range is a term which describes the geographic region in which a species is normally found. Habitat is a term which describes the physical place where an organism lives. The terms "range" and "habitat" are not synonymous and should not be interpreted as such. For example, the range of the porcupine in Kansas is described as state-wide by Bee, et al. (1981). However, in terms of habitat, the Kansas porcupine inhabits forests, riparian (banks of rivers) communities, and rock outcrops associated with them. Thus, while porcupines may be described as occurring throughout Kansas (in terms of range), one would probably not encounter the critter in upland prairies and in agricultural lands (both of which occupy sizable portions of the state) because such areas are not suitable habitat for the species. This distinction between range and habitat is critical.

Peterson (1947) and Booth (1971) both note in their classic field guides that Kansas lies within the ranges of the whooping crane, the bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon. However, such range considerations do not necessarily indicate that such species occur in the Douglass Reservoir site vicinity because suitable habitats may not be present.

- 2) Snow (1973) notes that the preferred habitat of the bald eagle (genus *Haliaeetus* or the fish eagles) consists of areas near estuaries, the sea coast, inland lakes and large rivers (such as the Mississippi River), marshlands, and reservoirs. In such habitats, the bald eagles can pursue their preferred food, various species of fishes, as well as carrion. The bald eagles may occasionally pursue waterfowl which are also associated with such habitats. The eagles nest in very large mature trees. Schilling (1981) notes that there are no historical records of bald eagles nesting in Kansas.

It is noteworthy that the type of habitat described in the previous paragraph does not occur presently at the site for the proposed Douglass Reservoir. The development of the proposed reservoir would probably create habitat suitable for the southern bald eagle, in which case the proposed reservoir would impact this endangered species favorably. In fact, the construction of the Cheney Reservoir west of Wichita did exactly that; an area previously devoid of bald eagles has become a favorite spotting area for local ornithology groups. Furthermore, Kansas Fish and Game Commission personnel have erected utility poles near the Cheney Reservoir to provide feeding and observation perches for bald eagles in the absence of suitable mature trees near the reservoir (Schilling and Schaefer 1983).

- 3) Snow (1972) and Schilling and Schaefer (1983) note that the preferred nesting habitat of the peregrine falcon includes cliffs, bluffs, deep river cut banks, occasionally hollows in very old and large trees, and rarely, even on man-made structures such as skyscrapers and grain elevators. Such habitat features are not found in the vicinity of the proposed Douglass Reservoir site.

Most records for peregrine falcon sitings in Kansas were established in the last century although a female peregrine falcon, believed to be a road kill, was found in Scott County, Kansas in May 1982 (Schilling and Schaefer 1983). Kansas Fish and Game Commission personnel have recommended against efforts to reintroduce the peregrine falcon to bluff areas in the state due to lack of previous success. Peregrine falcon sitings have not been reported anywhere near the Douglass Reservoir site.

The peregrine's principal food items are passerine birds, waterfowl, and shorebirds (Snow 1972) which suggests that a reservoir could provide an enhanced opportunity for prey species. However, lack of suitable nesting habitat would probably prevent the establishment of the falcon.

- 4) Peterson (1947) reports that whooping cranes (Grus americana) nest on the prairies of northwest Canada and migrate south via Nebraska to winter on the Texas coast and Mexico. The cranes pass through Kansas during their spring and fall migrations although the time spent in the state is limited. During rest stops, the migrating cranes prefer marshlands and broad, open, shallow rivers relatively free of woody vegetation. Such conditions enable the birds to wade and forage for food in comparative security. The Kansas Fish and Game Commission closely monitors the whooping cranes as they migrate through the state (Schwilling and Schaefer 1983). The Kansas tracking program has shown that the cranes normally pass through the state in the vicinity of the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Stafford County. The refuge is located approximately 100 miles west of the proposed site for the Douglass Reservoir. During 1982, a solitary crane was sited near Eureka, Kansas near the Fall River Lake and Toronto Lake, large lakes approximately 45 miles east of the proposed Douglass Reservoir site. This sighting is the only one recorded in eastern Kansas. Construction of the Douglass Reservoir could not be expected to adversely impact whooping crane migration.
- 5) A drive through the Little Walnut River Valley northeast of Douglass, Kansas does not reveal the types of habitats described for the three endangered species in question. The floor of the valley is relatively flat and consists largely of wheat fields and pasturelands; row crops were not present probably due in part to the rocky soil. The side slopes of the valley are fairly steep offering considerable relief (for Kansas) and occasional small outcrops of bed rock. It should be noted that the outcrops are small, diffuse, easily accessible to predators, not associated with steep bluffs or cliffs, or otherwise suitable as peregrine falcon nesting habitat. The side slopes and rocky uplands were consistently covered with native grasses and were being utilized as pastures. The Little Walnut River, which dissects the valley, is a small stream characterized by gravel or aggregate stream beds and dense woody vegetation growing quite close to the river banks. In many reaches of the stream, the tree canopy almost overgrows the width of the river.

Mr. Donald E. Craybill
Page 4
April 1983

- 6) We believe that a careful review of the information presented in comments #1 through #5 will show that the proposed Douglass Reservoir would not adversely impact the three endangered species mentioned in your letter. Furthermore, one may contend that construction of the reservoir could create an enhanced and desirable habitat for at least some of the species. As a result, we must take issue with the contention that project environmental impacts on the endangered species would be substantial and adverse and we further respectfully request that you reconsider your position on this matter.

Your letter also suggested that the project economics were unfavorable with a current estimated benefit-cost ratio of 0.6 to 1 using a 7 7/8% discount rate. We are concerned that all benefits, which may be attributed to the project, may not have been included in the benefit-cost analysis. In that spirit of concern, we offer the following comments:

- 1) The proposed Douglass Reservoir site lies within the Wichita Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) which includes Butler and Sedgwick Counties and is the most populous SMSA in Kansas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study on the Walnut River Basin, which included the proposed Douglass Reservoir, was submitted on December 31, 1963. The Wichita SMSA included 343,231 residents in 1960 which was the last census prior to the issuance of the report. The 1980 census recorded 411,313 residents in the SMSA, a 19.8% increase in population from 1960. This increase in population would certainly impact the number of potential users of a Douglass Reservoir, which in turn would influence the benefits attributed to the project.
- 2) As noted in item #1, the Corps of Engineers issued its original feasibility study in late 1963. At that time, benefit-cost analyses did not attempt to quantify (in dollars) factors such as aesthetics; recreational experiences such as hunting, fishing, boating, swimming and so forth; and other environmental benefits. Such factors were listed in reports and were sometimes quantified in terms of days of use, but efforts were rarely made to convert such values into economic terms. As a result, benefits values were often underestimated or unestimated in total.

In 1980, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census) jointly issued a document which surveyed hunting and fishing recreation in the United States and calculated dollar values for such experiences

Mr. Donald E. Craybill
Page 5
April 1983

on a state-by-state basis (Anon. 1981). In 1980, Kansans spent \$3,001,505 on hunting and fishing for an average of \$470.90 per sportsman. Such figures included food and lodging, transportation, privilege fees, fishing and/or hunting equipment, licenses, tags, permits, auxiliary equipment, magazines, club dues, land leasing, and so forth. Detailed expenditure breakdowns were given for such items as well as for certain types of recreational experiences such as big game hunting, small game hunting, and migratory bird hunting. The availability of such detailed expenditure information for recreational experiences should facilitate the computation of benefits, in dollars, for a facility such as the Douglass Reservoir. We would hope that such benefits are calculated and included in the benefit-cost analysis for the project.

- 3) As noted earlier, the original Corps of Engineers flood control and reservoir study of the Walnut River Valley was issued in 1963. The primary concern of that initial study was flood control and protection for residents of the Walnut River Valley. Other uses for any new reservoirs, such as water supply and recreation, were considered to be of subordinate importance.

Conditions in the Wichita SMSA have changed considerably since the issuance of the original report in 1963. Future water supplies have assumed a role of primary importance to SMSA residents. Recreation has assumed a larger role in the lives of SMSA residents, as well as other Americans, than it did in 1963. Methods for identifying and calculating costs and benefits for major federal projects have changed since 1963. The values of various benefits and costs attributed to a project, such as the proposed Douglass Reservoir, have changed since 1963 and not necessarily in uniform fashion relative to each other. For these reasons, we do not believe that the benefit-cost ratio computed for the Douglass Reservoir project is valid today. Furthermore, we believe that application of inflation indices to the 1963 values in order to "update" the figures fails to account for changed priorities for project benefits, non-uniform changes in the values of those benefits, and newer formulas for computing costs and benefits for a project.

- 4) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff in Tulsa, Oklahoma have estimated that the average annual flood damage reduction benefits attributable to the Douglass Reservoir project are \$1,603,000 in 1982 dollars. Over a 50-year time period, over \$80 million in flood control benefits could be accrued (in 1982 dollars) and the actual figures may be much higher due to inflation. Such values are much greater than those presented in the 1963 report.

Mr. Donald E. Craybill
Page 6
April 1983

- 5) We respectfully request that the items outlined in points 1 through 4 be reviewed and incorporated into the benefit-cost analysis for the proposed Douglass Reservoir project, if appropriate. We believe that the inclusion of the tangible benefits described previously may significantly alter the previously computed benefit-cost ratio.

In closing, we ask that you carefully review our comments regarding the Douglass Reservoir project feasibility study update and that, in light of those comments, you reconsider the current posture not to fund such a study at this time. Your attention to our request is most appreciated and we await your response. If you desire further information from us on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Note: May want to copy to senators, congressmen, commissioners, and other appropriate officials.

Literature Cited

- Anon. 1981. 1980 national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation--Kansas. U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
- Bee, J. W., G. E. Glass, R. S. Hoffman, and R. R. Patterson. 1981. Mammals in Kansas. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence. 300 pp.
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Mr. Donald E. Craybill

Page 7

April 1983

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Snow, C. 1973. Habitat management series for endangered species. Report No. 5, southern bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucouphalus and northern bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus. U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. T-N-171. 58 pp.



METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING
COMMISSION

CITY HALL - TENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 268-4561

November 8, 1982



Dr. Donald Craybill
Deputy Associate Director
of Natural Resources
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

1

Dear Dr. Craybill:

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) was asked by the Chairman of the Butler County Commission to comment on the proposed Douglass Reservoir. The MAPC supports the conduct of a feasibility study for the potential reservoir.

The provision of adequate amounts of good quality water has become an increasingly important issue in Sedgwick and Butler Counties. Use of available local groundwater resources has been allocated among municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users. Given the relatively flat terrain of Kansas, there are few local sites suitable for reservoirs. One of the few local sites where a sizeable reservoir could be built is near Douglass, Ks. in Butler County.

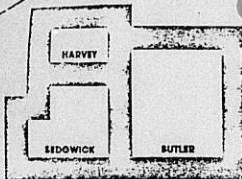
The costs of building Douglass Reservoir are not known. Good estimates of those costs are needed to help the area determine the best ways to meet its water needs. The conduct of a feasibility study now may help both the federal government and local governments to identify the viable way to satisfy water needs in Butler County.

Sincerely,

Dave Bayouth, Chairman

DB:CEL:rh

cc: J. W. Simmons, Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners
Jack Spratt, Chairman, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
Don Gragg, Sedgwick County Commissioners
Tom Scott, Sedgwick County Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Camel, Chief, Engineering Division, Army Corps of Engineers,
P. O. Box 61, Tulsa, OK 74121



**CENTRAL
PLAINS
TRI
COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

2

CITY HALL - TENTH FLOOR, 455 NORTH MAIN STREET, WICHITA, KANSAS 67202 (316) 260-4394

December 30, 1982

Dr. Donald Craybill
Deputy Associate Director of Natural Resources
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503



Dear Dr. Craybill:

The Central Plains, Tri-County Planning Committee strongly supports efforts to undertake a feasibility study for the proposed Douglass Reservoir. The Committee urges that funds be appropriated to enable the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the study.

Local groundwater resources are largely committed and there are few potential reservoir sites in the area. Areas that have not needed water before are beginning to need water now. In fact, one community in the area, Rose Hill, grew over 300 percent between 1970 and 1980. Local government officials on the Committee believe that planning must begin now in order to meet water needs of people who will live in the area 20 years from now. In short, a new source of water needs to be developed in the Douglass area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Don Gragg'.

Don Gragg
Chairman

cc: J. W. Simmons, Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners
Jack Spratt, Chairman, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
Charles Benjamin, Harvey County Board of Commissioners
Tom Scott, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Camel, Chief Engineering Division, Army Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 61,
Tulsa, OK 74121



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FEB 10 1983

3

Mr. Don Gragg
Chairman, Central Plains Tri-
County Planning Committee
City Hall - Tenth Floor
455 North Main Street
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Dear Mr. Gragg:

Thank you for your letter of December 30, 1982, expressing support of the Central Plains Tri-County Planning Committee for inclusion of the Douglas Reservoir feasibility study in the FY 1984 budget of the Corps of Engineers.

Funds for this study were not included in the President's 1984 budget, which was submitted to the Congress on January 31, 1983, for two reasons.

First, Corps of Engineers reconnaissance investigations of the project have indicated unfavorable project economics, and second, project environmental impacts may be substantial. The current estimated benefit-cost ratio of the project using a 7-7/8% discount rate is 0.6 to 1, and the habitat of three endangered species - whooping crane, peregrine falcon, and southern bald eagle - would be adversely affected.

Until these issues are resolved, it is unlikely that funds for this study will be budgeted.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Crabill
Deputy Associate Director
for Natural Resources

*Sorry we can't give you a
more positive answer.*

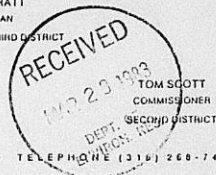


SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JACK SPRATT
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSIONER THIRD DISTRICT

DONALD E. GRAGG
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM
COMMISSIONER FIRST DISTRICT



TOM SCOTT
COMMISSIONER
COMMISSIONER SECOND DISTRICT

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • SUITE 320 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203-3759 • TELEPHONE (316) 268-7411

March 24, 1983

Senator Mark Hatfield
The Russell Building Room 3224
Washington D. C. 20510

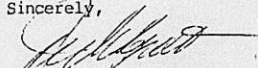
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Senator Hatfield:

The Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County Kansas strongly supports efforts to undertake a feasibility study for the proposed Douglass Reservoir. The Committee urges that funds be appropriated to enable the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the study.

Local groundwater resources are largely committed and there are few potential reservoir sites in the area. Areas that have not needed water before are beginning to need water now. In fact, one community in the area, Rose Hill, grew over 300 percent between 1970 and 1980. Members of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County believe that planning must begin now in order to meet water needs of people who will live in the area 20 years from now. In short, a new source of water needs to be developed in the Douglass area.

Sincerely,


Jack Spratt, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JS/blf

cc: J. W. Simmons, Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners
Charles Benjamin, Harvey County Board of Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Camel, Chief Engineering Div. Army Corps of Engineering, P.O. Box
61, Tulsa, OK 74121
Doug Hahn, Director, Sedgwick County Environmental Resources
Representative Tom Beville



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JACK SPRATT
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSIONER THIRD DISTRICT

DONALD E. GRAGG
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM
COMMISSIONER FIRST DISTRICT

TOM SCOTT
COMMISSIONER
SECOND DISTRICT

COUNTY COURTHOUSE • SUITE 320 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203-3750 • TELEPHONE (316) 261-7411

March 24, 1983

Representative Tom Bevill
Rayburn Building Room 2302
Washington D. C. 20515

5




Representative Bevill:

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Sincerely,


Jack Spratt, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JS/blf

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E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Camel, Chief Engineering Div. Army Corps of Engineering, P.O. Box
61, Tulsa, OK 74121
Doug Hahn, Director, Sedgwick County Environmental Resources
Senator Mark Hatfield, Washington D.C.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FEB 10 1983

Office of the City Manager *Carl*

SH
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 REC

MAR 10 1983

Copies To *RAV/JW*
 Send To
 File

Mr. Don Gragg
Chairman, Central Plains Tri-
County Planning Committee
City Hall - Tenth Floor
455 North Main Street
Wichita, Kansas 67202

RECEIVED

MAR 14 1983

METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ROUTE

Dear Mr. Gragg:

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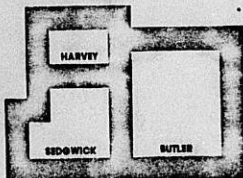
Sincerely,

Donald E. Crabill

Donald E. Crabill
Deputy Associate Director
for Natural Resources

*Sorry we can't give you a
more positive answer.*

DC



**CENTRAL
PLAINS
TRI
COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

CITY HALL - TENTH FLOOR, 455 NORTH MAIN STREET, WICHITA, KANSAS 67202 (316) 268-4394

December 30, 1982

Dr. Donald Craybill
Deputy Associate Director of Natural Resources
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

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Sincerely,

Don Gragg
Chairman

cc: J. W. Simmons, Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners
Jack Spratt, Chairman, Sedgewick County Board of Commissioners
Charles Benjamin, Harvey County Board of Commissioners
Tom Scott, Sedgewick County Board of Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Gamel, Chief Engineering Division, Army Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 61,
Tulsa, OK 74121

bcc: Doug Hahn, Director, Sedgewick County Environmental Resources

Read Lewo

WICHITA - SEDGWICK COUNTY



METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING
COMMISSION

CITY HALL - TENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 258-4561

November 8, 1982

Dr. Donald Craybill
Deputy Associate Director
of Natural Resources
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dr. Craybill:

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) was asked by the Chairman of the Butler County Commission to comment on the proposed Douglass Reservoir. The MAPC supports the conduct of a feasibility study for the potential reservoir.

The provision of adequate amounts of good quality water has become an increasingly important issue in Sedgwick and Butler Counties. Use of available local groundwater resources has been allocated among municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users. Given the relatively flat terrain of Kansas, there are few local sites suitable for reservoirs. One of the few local sites where a sizeable reservoir could be built is near Douglass, Ks. in Butler County.

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Sincerely,

Dave Bayouth, Chairman

DB:CEL:rh

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Jack Spratt, Chairman, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
Don Gragg, Sedgwick County Commissioners
Tom Scott, Sedgwick County Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Gamel, Chief, Engineering Division, Army Corps of Engineers,
P. O. Box 61, Tulsa, OK 74121

Carl

WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY

DATE 10/28/82

METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
FROM Robert A. Lakin, Director of Planning
SUBJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED DOUGLAS RESERVOIR

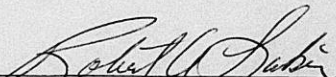
Butler County has requested that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct a feasibility study for the proposed Douglas Reservoir. The request was directed to Dr. Donald Craybill, Deputy Associate Director of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget and the study would cost \$200,000. J. W. Simmons, Chairman of the Butler County Commission, has asked that the MAPC approve a letter of support for the feasibility study.

The proposed Douglas Reservoir would be located in the southwest corner of Butler County on the Little Walnut and Hickory Creeks. The reservoir would not supply water for Wichita; too little water would be available to justify building the transmission pipeline. Water could be supplied to Rural Water District #3 in southeast Sedgwick County, Rose Hill and Andover. Wichita currently supplies treated water to these water systems.

The Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners has sent a letter of support (attached). On October 18 the Advance Plans Committee reviewed and approved a draft letter of support for the conduct of a feasibility study (attached).

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chairman to execute a letter in support of conducting a feasibility study for the proposed Douglas Reservoir.


Robert A. Lakin, Director of Planning

RAL:CEL:rh
Attachments

WICHITA - SEDGWICK COUNTY



METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL - TENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 268-4561

October 22, 1982

Dr. Donald Craybill
Deputy Associate Director
of Natural Resources
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dr. Craybill:

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) was asked by the Chairman of the Butler County Commission to comment on the proposed Douglas Reservoir. The MAPC supports the conduct of a feasibility study for the potential reservoir.

The provision of adequate amounts of good quality water has become an increasingly important issue in Sedgwick and Butler Counties. Use of available local groundwater resources has been allocated among municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users. Given the relatively flat terrain of Kansas, there are few local sites suitable for reservoirs. One of the few local sites where a sizeable reservoir could be built is near Douglas, Ks. in Butler County.

The costs of building Douglas Reservoir are not known. Good estimates of those costs are needed to help the area determine the best ways to meet its water needs. The conduct of a feasibility study now may help both the federal government and local governments to identify the lowest cost way to satisfy water needs in Sedgwick and Butler Counties.

Sincerely,

Dave Bayouth, Chairman

DB:CEL:rh

cc: J. W. Simmons, Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners
Jack Spratt, Chairman, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
Don Gragg, Sedgwick County Commissioners
Tom Scott, Sedgwick County Commissioners
E. H. Denton, City Manager, City of Wichita
Weldon Gamel, Chief, Engineering Division, Army Corps of Engineers,
P. O. Box 61, Tulsa, OK 74121



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS *file*

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COUNTY COURTHOUSE • SUITE 320 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 • TELEPHONE (316) 268-2411

October 4, 1982

Board of County Commissioners,
Butler County
P.O. Box 792
El Dorado, KS 67042

Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal support and I believe the consensus support of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, to your proposal for the development of a reservoir near Douglas, Kansas in Butler County.

In these days of population growth and dwindling natural resources, it is imperative that we wisely and efficiently manage our water resources to the extent of our capabilities. Your project exemplifies the commitment on the part of local government to manage local resources for the future.

If I can be of any assistance to you in this project, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Jack Spratt
Jack Spratt

JS/dlh
cc:
Board of County Commissioners
Tim Witsman, County Administrator