



# OTOC's Environmental Sustainability Action Team says **Vote NO**" on the Papio-Missouri River NRD Bond and Tax Levy proposal on the Tuesday May 10 Ballot

Tuesday's primary election has a Special Issues Ticket that involves authority for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District (NRD) to issue bonds to pay for a series of dams for the alleged purpose of flood control. A vote in favor would also allow the NRD to increase its tax levy to pay for the bonds.

The Environmental and Sustainability Committee recommends a vote **AGAINST** the bonds and tax. According to the Omaha World-Herald the new dams and reservoirs would cost nearly \$100 million.

## **Many Questions Need to be Answered before supporting bonds**

- There are many questions surrounding the practice of using the dams for flood control instead of other greenway designs to meet flood risk reduction targets.
- The need for the dams is based on a 1997 study. A new, independent study is needed.
- A recent study by UNO research staff questions NRD's assertion that a major rain event would cause major property damage in Papillion and Bellevue. This research suggests that NRD's damage claims are significantly exaggerated. This needs to be resolved.
- NRD has been criticized for not encouraging conservation practices such as rain gardens and retention ponds that could stop runoff from new developments and lessen the need for the dams.
- Many believe that building new dams stimulates new housing and commercial developments on the lakes that are created. This contributes to urban sprawl and negative impacts on our environment.

## **Why are we voting on up to \$100 million in bonds with so little discussion and education?**

- Questions have also been raised about why the vote is on a primary ballot when turnout will be much lower than in a general election.
- OTOC believes there hasn't been enough public discussion about the precise need for the dams and the accelerated time schedule for installing the dams that the NRD desires to undertake.
- Four members of the NRD board have come out against the need for the bonds at this time.
- **OTOC believes there must be more public discussion about less costly alternatives and more environmentally sound options before any new dams are built.**

When you see the special issues ticket on your primary ballot, **OTOC's Environmental and Sustainability Committee recommends a vote NO-- AGAINST the bonds and taxes that would be approved for the Papio-Missouri River NRD.**