

STATEMENT AT DEDICATION OF POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED

GARNETT, KANSAS

APRIL 10, 1976

SENATOR BOB DOLE

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION OF THE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PERSONS HERE TODAY WHO CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROJECT, AND I WANT TO COMPLIMENT THE STATE AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE STAFF, AS WELL AS THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND STATE WATER RESOURCES BOARD FOR THEIR FINE EFFORTS IN BRINGING IT ALL TO FRUITION. AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE WAS PLAYED BY LOCAL LANDOWNERS WHO CONTRIBUTED BOTH THEIR TIME AND THEIR RESOURCES TO THIS VALUABLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF ALL INVOLVED, AT BOTH THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL, THAT WE ARE ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF LAUNCHING THIS IRRIGATION AND FLOOD-CONTROL PROJECT.

Handwritten notes:
Dole
10/10/76
Pottawatomie Creek Watershed
Dedication
Garnett, Kansas
April 10, 1976
Senator Bob Dole

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LOCAL INTEREST ENCOURAGING

IT IS ENCOURAGING TO ME, AS YOUR SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON, TO SEE SUCH A BROAD EXPRESSION OF LOCAL INTEREST IN LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS. THE CONSERVATION OF THESE RESOURCES, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES, HAVE LONG BEEN MATTERS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, AND I HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE YEARS TO FACILITATE THIS AND SIMILAR PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS. OUR STATE, WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES, HAS SEEN TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THESE AREAS IN THE PAST. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION, AND TO FURTHER RESOURCE PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT, IN YEARS AHEAD.

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FUNDING COOPERATION VALUABLE

THE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED IS AMONG THE FIRST IN KANSAS TO UTILIZE A GENERAL PLAN BY WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE SMALL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES ARE TO BE FINANCED THROUGH A COST-SHARING PROCEDURE REFLECTING FEDERAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, 70% FINANCING IS PROVIDED BY THE A.S.C.S., 20% COMES THROUGH THE WATERSHED DISTRICT ITSELF, AND 10% IS FUNDED BY THE LOCAL BENEFITING LANDOWNERS. THE STRUCTURE WE ARE HERE TO DEDICATE TODAY IS THE LARGEST IN THE GENERAL PLAN, CONTAINING ABOUT 41 SURFACE ACRES OF PERMANENT POOL IMPOUNDED BY EARTHEN FILL. IT WILL CONTROL FLOODING FROM 4,057 ACRES. CONSIDERING THE TOTAL COST OF THE STRUCTURE -- ABOUT \$130,000 -- IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS COST-SHARING PROGRAM HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

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BY THE TIME THE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED IS COMPLETED, MORE THAN 130 FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES WILL BE BUILT, RANGING IN SIZE FROM 3 TO 57 SURFACE ACRES OF IMPOUNDED WATER PLUS FLOOD CONTROL STORAGE AREA. TOTAL COST FOR CONSTRUCTING THE ENTIRE PLAN HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT \$3,847,000, WITH A FEDERAL COST-SHARE EXCEEDING \$2.5 MILLION. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL LARGER STRUCTURES WILL BE COMPLETED AT A LATER DATE UTILIZING THE POPULAR "P.L. 566" FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAM WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLOOD CONTROL TO DOWNSTREAM AREAS, AND I INTEND TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE WATERSHED OFFICERS TO SECURE THE NECESSARY APPROVAL AND FUNDING FOR THAT PURPOSE.

I HAVE REALLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOUR WATERSHED OFFICERS DURING THE COURSE OF DEVELOPING THE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK PROJECT, AND SPECIAL CREDIT SHOULD GO TO TOM BENTON, PROJECT PRESIDENT, AND DALE FOOSHEE, PROJECT SECRETARY, FOR THEIR UNFAILING EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS OBJECTIVE A SUCCESS.

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DEVELOPMENT MUST PROCEED

GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE IN OUR STATE WITH SEASONAL FLOODING AND IRRIGATION NEEDS, IT IS CLEAR THAT DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL WATERSHEDS SUCH AS THIS ONE MUST PROCEED AT AN UNINTERRUPTED PACE IN KANSAS. IN AN AREA WHICH EXPERIENCES SEVERE DROUGHTS AS WELL AS PERIODIC FLOODING, SUCH PROJECTS HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE OF IMMEASURABLE AID AT PRESENT, AND VALUABLE INSURANCE AGAINST EVEN MORE COSTLY LOSSES IN THE FUTURE. CLEARLY, THEY ARE SOUND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS FOR FEDERAL AND LOCAL DOLLARS. I BELIEVE THAT PROGRAMS LIKE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED WILL REFLECT THE WISDOM OF THIS INVESTMENT BOTH NOW AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WATERSHED PLAN

Total Cost: (134 structures; 1972 projection) \$ 3,847,000.

Federal Share: (70%; to be obligated on an
item-by-item basis as each
structure becomes ready
for construction) \$ 2,637,000.

District Share: (20%) \$ 833,000.

Local Landowners' share: (10%) \$ 377,000.

To date, three structures have been completed.

Source: Dale Fooshee