

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2020

Media Contact: Kyle Hauschild
Phone: 402-364-2145
Email: khauschild@littlebluenrd.org

Project Contact: Brooke Seachord
Phone: 402-474-8741
Email: bseachord@jeo.com

WORK TO UPDATE MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN BEGINNING

Effort Being Led by the Little Blue Natural Resources District and Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District

Davenport, Nebraska – For every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation, \$6 in post storm cleanup and rebuilding is saved, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Institute of National Building Scientists. Proactive hazard mitigation planning allows a community to take actions to reduce or eliminate threats from natural and man-made disasters. To help guide future hazard mitigation projects, the Little Blue NRD and Lower Big Blue NRD are undertaking an effort to update their current Hazard Mitigation Plan, originally approved by FEMA in 2016. Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) are a requirement of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, administered by FEMA, and once a community, county, or other eligible jurisdiction is part of an approved plan they become eligible for up to a 75% cost share for a wide variety of projects listed in the plan. Hazard Mitigation Plans are required to be updated on a five-year cycle and the NRD's HMP will expire in spring 2021.

A hazard mitigation plan is a publicly guided document that identifies vulnerability to natural disasters such as flood, drought, wildfire, winter storms, tornado/high winds, dam failure, etc. The plan sets goals, establishes mitigation alternatives, and prioritizes projects which may alleviate potential damages to property and provide protection when future disasters occur.

This planning effort is being guided by regional and local planning teams consisting of representatives from the NRD; county emergency management; community officials; and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Public input will be gathered throughout the duration of the plan development through online tools and public meetings. All communities, counties, school districts, and taxing authorities within Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Nuckolls, Saline, Thayer and Webster counties are eligible to participate.

The NRD has hired JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (JEO) to assist with the plan development over the next 12 to 18 months. This hazard mitigation plan update is funded by a FEMA planning grant. The cost is shared 75% through federal funding and 25% through a local match. For this plan update the Little Blue NRD, Lower Big Blue NRD, and local county emergency managers providing the 25% local match through a combination of funding and tracked labor.

For more information on this planning effort see the project website at <https://jeo.com/blues-hmp> or contact Brooke Seachord, JEO project coordinator, at 402-474-8741 or by email at bseachord@jeo.com or the NRD contact Kyle Hauschild at 402-364-2145 or by email at khauschild@littlebluenrd.org.