

STATE OF NEBRASKA
COUNTY OF KEITH

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Keith County, Nebraska, held at the Keith County Courthouse on March 17, 2021, there were present:

Chairman Corey Crandall, Lane Anderson, Toney Krajewski, Joan Ervin and Dale Schroeder

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 23
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND
PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, Keith County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska for which the Board of County Commissioners: Chairman Corey Crandall, Lane Anderson, Toney Krajewski, Joan Ervin and Dale Schroeder are authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Keith County containing about 1,760,640 acres of land situated in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns approximately 1.1 acres of the land(United States Post Office and WAPA Substation)within the County, and no Federal Land Management Agencies.; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,723,357 acres (nearly 97%) of privately owned land in Keith County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, Central Nebraska Public Power leases to the Nebraska Game and Parks approximately 34,720 acres which includes Clear Creek Wildlife along with Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala. *EXHIBIT A*; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wild land, wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of Keith County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including farming, ranching, recreational industries, hunting, and fishing;

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Nebraska economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Keith County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Nebraska, and in particular rural counties such as Keith County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Keith County as expressed in Keith Counties Comprehensive Plan, adopted March 23, 2003 which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Keith County. *EXHIBIT B*; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Keith County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Keith County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.

4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of Nebraska's Constitution Article XV-5 and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Nebraska law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Keith County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

DATED this 17th day of March, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KEITH COUNTY, STATE OF NEBRASKA

By: Corey Crandall Corey Crandall, Chairman
Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

Lane Anderson
Lane Anderson

Toney Krajewski
Toney Krajewski

Joan Ervin
Joan Ervin

Dale Schroeder
Dale Schroeder

ATTEST:

Sandra K. Olson Sandra K Olson
Keith County Clerk

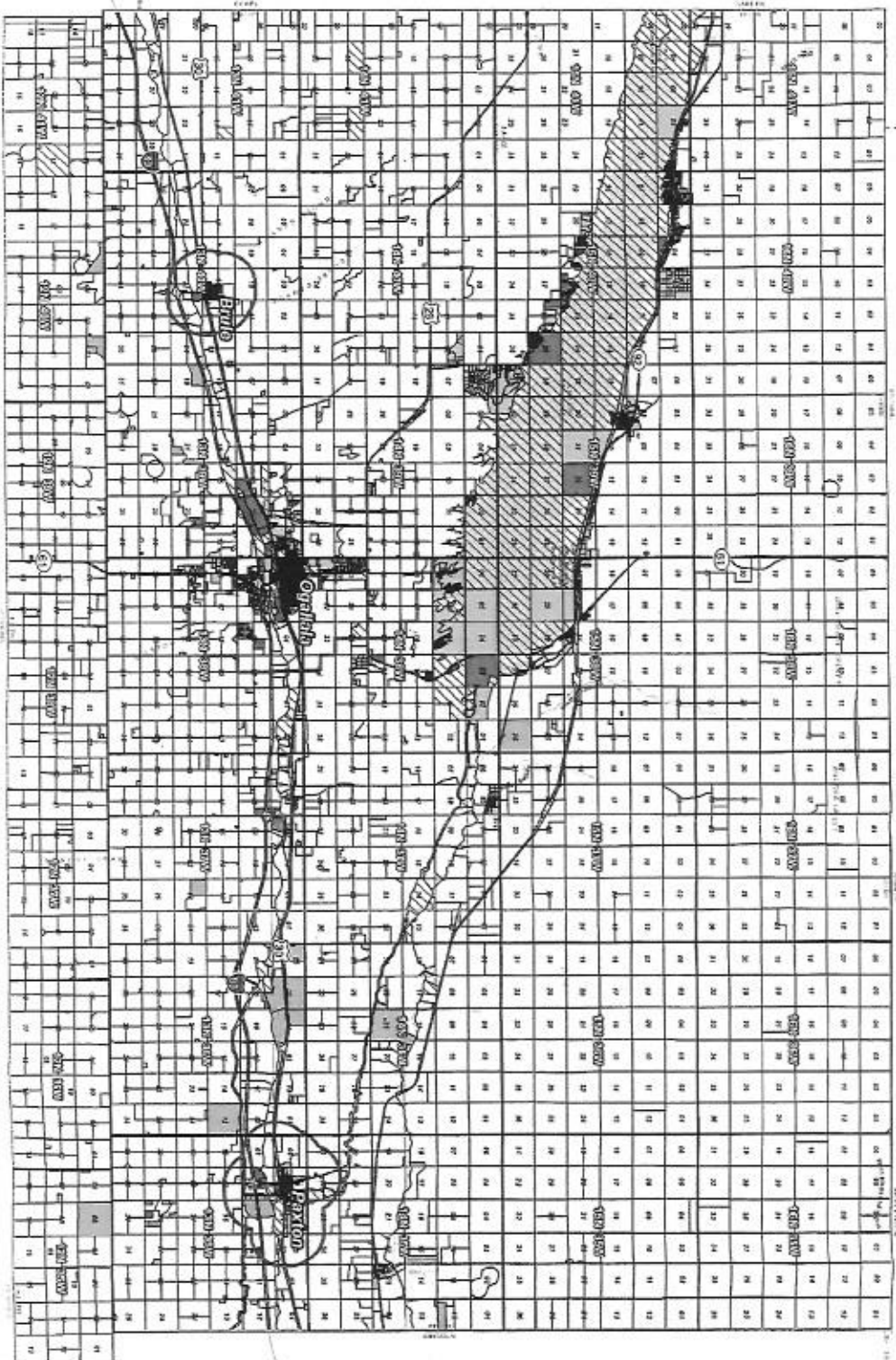
Exhibit A

EXISTING LAND USE

KEITH COUNTY, NEBRASKA

FIGURE 4-1

- Legend**
- City/Town
 - Extrajurisdictional Jurisdiction
 - Parcel
 - County Boundary
 - Existing Land Use
 - Agricultural
 - Commercial
 - Example
 - Feed Lot
 - Game & Parks
 - Permission
 - Residential
 - TIF Project



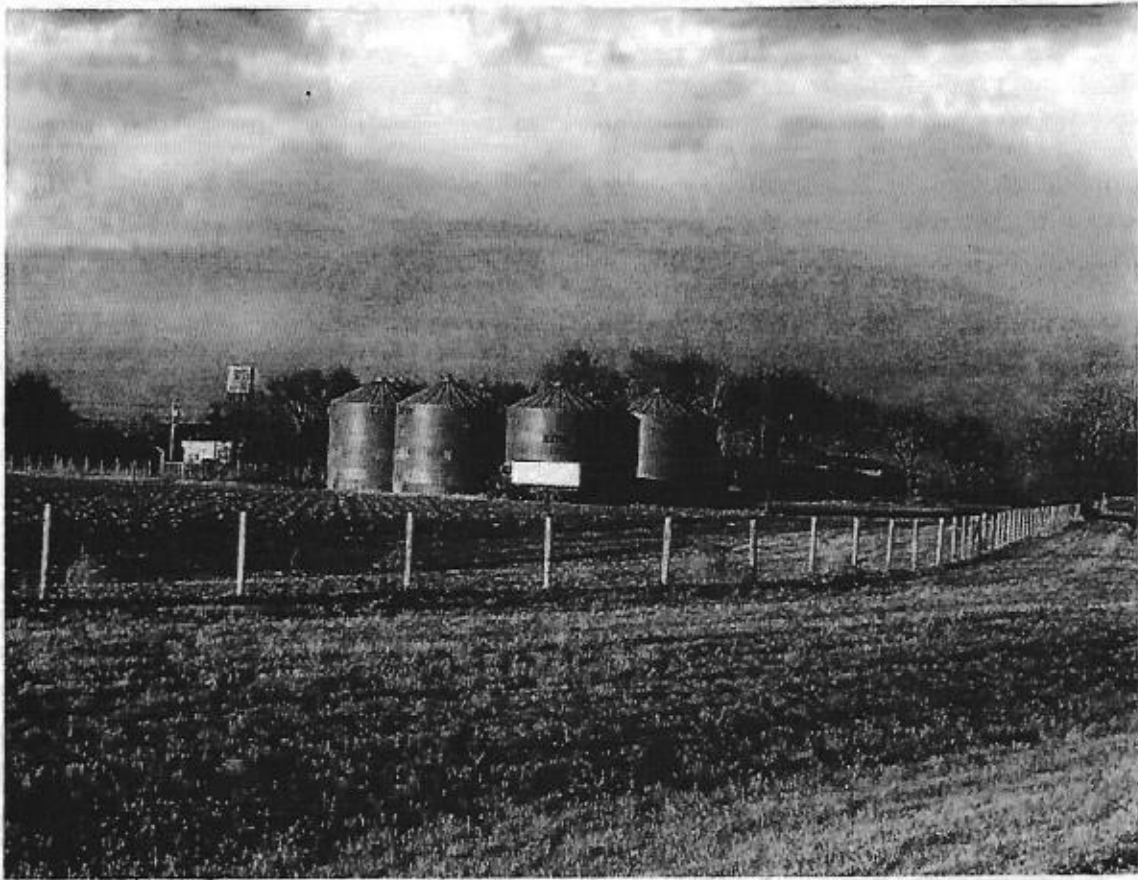
MPG
MAPPING & PLANNING CONSULTANTS
PROJECTION: NAD 83
DATUM: NAD 83
DATE: 09/09/08

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 Kilometers

NOTES: The legend, symbols, names, etc. and the information on this map are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a warranty or representation of any kind. The user of this map assumes all liability for any use of the map. The user of this map assumes all liability for any use of the map.

INTRODUCTION



THE KEITH COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Exhibit B

INTRODUCTION

Keith County, Nebraska includes approximately 1,110 square miles of a dramatic and diverse landscape, featuring rolling sand hills, rich farm land, and Lake McConaughy, Nebraska's "inland sea." Its three incorporated communities include Ogallala, the largest city and county seat, Paxton and Brule. The county's unincorporated communities include Keystone, Lemoyne, Roscoe, and Sarben. Lake McConaughy, the largest body of water in Nebraska, is an oasis in the plains that provides a haven to year-round and seasonal residents, as well as visitors to the county.

This comprehensive plan is designed to help define the character of county growth, recommend policies to preserve vital environmental resources and agricultural lands, and minimize conflicts caused by development in rural areas. The plan is designed to help the county and its policy makers manage economic and environmental change. For example, while agriculture continues as the dominant force in the county's economy, the growing lake area residential and recreation economy creates new retail and service business opportunities. Lake McConaughy's attraction has influenced population change during the 1990's, with substantial growth in areas surrounding the lake and losses in most of the county's communities. This lake-related growth in turn affects development demand on highway corridors serving the lake. As a result, this plan includes a specific section on land use and development policy for the lake corridors.

EARLY HISTORY OF KEITH COUNTY

Keith County, named for Morrill C. Keith of North Platte, was established in 1873. The county's early development depended on transportation and westward movement along the Platte River Road. Early settlers arrived to provide assistance to emigrants traveling along the Oregon and Mormon Trails, establishing facilities such as the Beauvais Trading Post, three miles west of present-day Brule at the Oregon Trail crossing of the South Platte River. After crossing the river, travelers made their way up California Hill where ruts from the wagons are still visible today. The county also was the location of Pony Express stations including Diamond Springs near Brule.

The county prospered with the extension of the railroad and expansion of the cattle pens and loading chutes by Union Pacific Railroad. This helped Ogallala, the county seat, become a boomtown as cattle were herded north from Texas. Despite the end the "long drive" in the 1880's, expanded agriculture, encouraged by excellent rainfalls, encouraged the continued growth of settlement in the county. As years went by, the Lincoln Highway (US Highway 30) and Interstate 80 maintained the Platte River corridor's historical role as a principal transcontinental transportation route.

Lake McConaughy is probably Keith County's most distinctive environmental feature and its most notable visitor attraction. C.W. McConaughy, Mayor of Holdrege, first proposed the idea of a giant irrigation and power reservoir in 1913. In 1933, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District was formed to manage and harness the water supply of the region. Central's network of facilities includes Kinglsey Dam and Lake McConaughy, several diversion dams, the 75-mile Tri-County Supply Canal with more than 20 small lakes, three hydroelectric plants, and miles of irrigation canals and laterals in seven Nebraska counties.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

This comprehensive plan for Keith County is based on the following basic principles:

- *The planning jurisdiction of Keith County contains unique environmental resources and features that should be recognized and preserved. These features include Lake McConaughy, the scenic Platte River valley, numerous creeks and streams, prime farming and grazing lands, and overall good air and water quality.*

- *Planning efforts should recognize that agriculture and agricultural related industries will remain an important economic force within the community along with a growing retail environment. Agriculture will continue to be the county's primary land use and economic activity; however, retail and recreational components are likely to assume an expanded role. Retail and consumer service development could expand beyond its traditional concentration in Ogallala to provide local service to the lake area. As such, planning policy should recognize the potential of these sectors and explore opportunities to strengthen it.*

- *Land use planning in Keith County should integrate the needs of development and the need for resource and open space conservation. Development pressures within the county have grown as more permanent and seasonal residents are attracted to lake-related homes. In the past this residential development has focused on the north side of the lake; but, more recently, the south side has also been opened to development. Management of this growth is necessary to prevent the erosion of the open character of the rural landscape. The county plan should promote development patterns that accommodate appropriate development while preserving the rural character of the land.*

- *Development and land use in the planning jurisdiction should be related to the natural features and capacity of the land. Factors such as topography, drainage, vegetation, soil*



characteristics, the presence of wetlands, and crop suitability, influence the type of development that is most appropriate for a given area. A significant portion of the I-80 corridor is located in the 100-year floodplain, generally less suitable for conventional residential development and confined animal feeding operations. Lake McConaughy, makes up a significant amount of northern Keith County. Land use policies should be sympathetic to the areas landforms and scenic vistas.

GOALS FOR KEITH COUNTY

An important part of the planning process for Keith County was the definition of county goals and priorities through a strategic planning process. This process assessed county features and defined goals for the twenty-year planning period. A broadly representative steering committee, representing a variety of interests in the county, was the driving force behind this strategic planning process. The process included:

- An environmental scan survey, completed by committee members to help define specific development issues.
- Division of the steering committee into working groups, organized around specific issues.
- Development of policy goals and priorities through public meetings, conducted by the Keith County Planning Commission.

The specific area plans for the lake corridors were also completed through parallel processes, involving property owners, potential developers, and other stakeholders in the process of developing land use and regulatory concepts for these key areas.

The Environmental Scan

The Environmental Scan Survey asked steering committee members to rank key features and characteristics of the county, assess strengths and weaknesses, and define significant planning issues. The survey asked participants to rank various county features on a "5" to "1" scale, from highest to lowest rating. Figure 1-1 illustrates the results of this portion of the environmental scan. Generally, a rating above 3.5 indicates that many respondents ranked the system above average (giving it a rating of 4 or 5), while a rating below 3.0 suggests that a significant number of respondents considered the system to be below average (giving it a rating of 1 or 2).

In addition to these ratings, the survey included open-ended questions to assess county strengths, weaknesses, and issues. Based on survey responses, major county strengths include:

- Recreational trails and potential for future trail development
- Prospects for future growth
- Keith County's people
- Overall quality of life
- Park and recreation resources
- Family friendliness
- Public safety systems
- Highway and interstate access
- Lake McConaughy

Significant community weaknesses include:

- Retaining young people
- Growth management
- Highway 61 corridor development
- Tax levels
- Business climate
- Job creation and growth
- Highway 92 corridor development
- Economic development efforts

