MEMORANDUM

DATE: Feb. 24, 2003

FROM: TERRY BLAU

TO: ALLEN D. MERRITT

SUBJECT: Elkhorn pond and stream permit 37-S-1120, 1120A

This memo is being written as per your request, after receiving the Feb. 19, 2003 letter from J. Evan Robertson.

In June of 2000 a permit was issued to the Wood River Land Trust fill in approx. 6000 sq. ft. of the stagnant area of the pond adjacent to the Sunrise subdivision, to build a small peninsula to direct flow into the remaining portion of the pond and to construct a cobble rock riffle designed to reactivate a historic channel of Elkhorn Creek. In September of 2000 an Application for an Addendum 37-S-1120A was received to use a suction dredge to remove accumulated sediments from the remaining portion of the pond. A copy of the Applications was sent to the Lane Ranch Homeowners Assoc. no comments were received. That application was permitted in October 2000. The purposes of these alterations were to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and aesthetics.
The cobble riffle was designed to only divert water into the historic channel during high flows until the channel stabilized and then gradually increase flows until it was carrying the low flow and the current channel along the roadway only carried high flows. The downstream movement of beaver in the system has accelerated the timetable due to the construction of a dam immediately above the riffle causing a larger percentage of the flow to go down the historic channel. As part of the project, a measuring device was placed just downstream of where the two channels come together. Due to beaver activity, this device has been rendered ineffective. To my knowledge all beaver activity is naturally occurring and has not been promoted by the project.

It is difficult to visually ascertain a difference in flow from above the project to the amount exiting the Lane Ranch Pond. If measurements are taken I would recommend that one be taken above the altered pond and another just prior to any consumptive use by Lane Ranch Homeowners.