Marlin Petermann, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Former Assistant General Manager

Marlin Petermann (1949 – 2021) worked for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District for 47 years, the majority as Assistant General Manager. His career spanned nearly the entire 50-year history of Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska.

To say Marlin was passionate about his job is a vast understatement. His degrees in civil and agricultural engineering and his work at the Papio NRD enabled him to combine his love of problem-solving with nature.

Marlin had an important job that directly impacted our communities on many levels, especially public safety. He was an institution in Nebraska's flood mitigation efforts and his expertise during the flood of 2019 was a perfect illustration. Marlin, his team, and our various emergency management partners made critical decisions before, during, and after the flood that helped minimized the immediate destruction and put in motion strategies that would further reduce damage to vital infrastructure and communities, such as Offutt Air Force Base and the City of Bellevue.

For decades, he worked tirelessly with local, county, state, and federal governments and created countless public/private partnerships that not only made our communities safer but enhanced our quality of life through his work with many District programs, such as flood mitigation, trails, recreation, and land conservation efforts.

Marlin received countless awards and recognitions. In 2022, the Nebraska Legislature adopted LR297 to honor Marlin for his dedication to the practice of engineering, passion for natural resources management, and role in public safety. He also earned the American Public Works Association Nebraska Chapter's 2019 Leader of the Year Award. Marlin served as Chapter and State President of the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers and President of Engineers Club of Omaha.

Marlin was well known and highly respected by all who worked with him. Although many of our constituents may not have known him personally, his profound impact on their lives and communities will continue to be felt. Marlin embodied the Papio NRD's mission of protecting those we and the natural resources that surround us.

Marlin's contributions are countless, and his legacy leaves a deep and enduring imprint on the District.