

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...and I wanted the body to be aware of that and I wondered if you had the figures that you had.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, the last figures I had was that they could do it for around \$5,000 with their current staff. And I don't know if that's updated, the updates or...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I have some updated figures and I think I ought to call the attention of the body because of the...it's a little more, it's a little broader. Maybe \$20,000 more the first year and 25 to 50 the second year. And I, whatever the figures are, are you assuming in time we would have to appropriate money to the Natural Resources Commission to fund that, that they could not absorb this. Would that be your thought?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I have to say I'm uncertain at the moment. I need to...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Alright. It's my understanding they probably could not. I don't want to trap you, but I wanted to make the body aware that...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Pass on whatever information you have then, Senator, and we'll deal with it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yeah, I have done that at this point. I thought you might have more information, perhaps, than I did about the possible cost. I'm not sure what to do on this in terms of whether this is the appropriate time to move ahead with this. Natural resource districts have worked well in Nebraska. Certainly if there's a proposal to merge, they can, but we already have had two. Senator Beutler, is that not true? We've had two merge in Nebraska now, the Lower Platte North and...or Papio, I should say, Papio and Lower Missouri, one on the Missouri have merged? That capability is there now if they...

SENATOR BEUTLER: The capability is there now, Senator, yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And so we wouldn't necessarily have to have a study for some that are quite obvious that they could merge. Do you have any philosophy on that? Or do you want to do it on your own time because that's what I'm struggling with, what's necessary to go ahead and do this, spend money for a study when