



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** April 7, 2017  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager   
**Subject:** Executive Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

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The Executive Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 in the NRD Conference Room in Lincoln. Subcommittee members present included Ray Stevens, Deborah Eagan, Greg Osborn, Jeremie Kerkman, Milt Schmidt, and Larry Ruth. Others present included Cody Unstad & Tony Baumert of Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), Mike Mascoe, Dan Schulz, Dave Potter, and myself.

Chair Stevens opened the meeting and the Subcommittee was updated on the NRD's Blue Heron Wetland Bank, the approximate 4.697 acres of credits in the wetland bank, and the NRD's approved Administration Procedure for selling the credits (attached). Cody Unstad of FHU (representing Saunders County) reviewed his memo explaining Saunders County's bridge replacement project located just south of Prague, NE and their options to mitigate for wetland impacts to "palustrine emergent temporarily or seasonally flooded wetlands (PEMA/PEMC) and palustrine forested temporarily flooded wetlands (PFOA)". Unstad reported that Saunders County is requesting to purchase 0.2736 total credits (0.2646 PEMA/PEMC and 0.0090 PFOA) for \$20,000, as per the NRD's Administration Procedure.

Schulz reviewed the NRD's involvement in the Blue Heron Wetland Bank from development by the landowner to now where the NRD owns the land and wetland bank credits. Schulz reviewed the previous sale of credits from the wetland bank. The Subcommittee discussed Saunders County's situation and the large amount of credits in the bank, compared to the amount being requested to be purchased. It was then moved by Osborn, seconded by Kerkman, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize selling 0.2736 total credits from the NRD's Blue Heron Wetland Bank for \$20,000 to Saunders County for the Prague South Bridge Replacement Project, dependent upon legal counsel review.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider obligating NRD funds to the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (NARD) for the 2020 North American Envirothon to be held in Lincoln. The Subcommittee reviewed the updated financing proposal from

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NARD that is included in the attached email from NARD. It is being proposed that the NRD contribute \$5,761 for 3 years for a total of \$17,283. They discussed the benefits of the Envirothon and the cost of hosting the event, Mascoe reported that Nebraska hosted the national competition back in 1996. In addition to the approximate \$400,000 cost there will be the need for many hours of time to plan and hold the event. The subcommittee reviewed the budget in the attached NARD materials and the income from registration in addition to the NRD contributions. The Subcommittee discussed the need to commit to holding the event, obligating funds, and also obtaining private funding to help offset the NRD's contribution.

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Osborn, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve supporting the 2020 North American Envirothon and contribute three annual payments to NARD, not to exceed a total of \$17,300.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance staffing situation and funding for the Coordinator position. I reported that in addition to the input from the Planning Retreat, representatives from the three NRDs had a chance for some discussions on the LPRCA during the NARD Conference in DC. A new draft Interlocal Agreement is being prepared and should be ready for NRD consideration in May. Ruth, Potter and myself reported on the desire to improve communication and the decision making process of the LPRCA.

The next item on the agenda was to report that the Subdistrict 8 Director vacancy has been announced, public notice is being given for 3 weeks in the Lincoln Journal Star, past candidates have been notified, and applications are being accepted thru Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. At that point, I'll report that information to Chair Stevens and the Executive Subcommittee so the remaining process (interviews?) to recommend a filling the vacancy can be determined. I reported that it's likely a recommendation will be considered at the May Board Meeting.

A brief Legislative update was given. I reported that the main NRD bill being considered was LB 98 (authorizes extending the 3 cent additional taxing authority for water management in NRDs that are either fully or over appropriated – not LPSNRD). Efforts have not been successful to advance the bill, additional efforts are being considered.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

cc: Steve Seglin