



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Agenda Item #8

Memorandum

Date: August 21, 2026
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, General Manager 
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Land Resources Subcommittee met on Thursday, August 20, 2026. There were two items for consideration and two for discussion. Subcommittee members present included Ken Vogel, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Gary Hellerich, David Landis, Lisa Lewis, and Suzanne Mealer. Members absent included Susan Seacrest. Staff present included Donna Reid, Bridget McKinley, and David Potter. Director Bob Andersen and Tom Cowan, NRCS District Conservationist, were also in attendance. Director Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

The first action item was **consideration of an amendment to the LPSNRD Cover Crop Program to allow district-wide eligibility**. Potter provided a history of the Cover Crop Program and the suggested change. The cover crop pilot program was approved in 2017 with priority given to locations with existing groundwater, vadose zone, and soil sampling data. LPSNRD then developed the permanent cost-share program in 2018. The applications have increased each year and recommendations to the program have been noted. Although there are many benefits resulting from planting cover crops, LPSNRD's program was developed with water quality in mind and continues today with that as a primary goal. As such, the District identified eligible areas being the targeted watersheds. CWSPAs (wellhead protection areas), Groundwater Management Phase II or III Areas, and fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program are also eligible. With water quality in mind, a change in 2021 included the Salt Creek Watershed Upstream of Lincoln as an eligible area. Other changes throughout the program history included an increase to the payment rate, payment limit, minimum acres, and prioritization of applications.

During the Long Range Implementation Plan meetings, the subcommittee discussed and directed staff to consider opening up the LPSNRD Cover Crop Program district wide. The change was discussed at that time since the proposed expenditures in the LRIP were based on the suggested program changes. No additional changes were recommended. A redline version of the program with changes was provided. Potter, McKinley, and Cowan answered questions of the subcommittee. Cowan went over the proposed inspection changes. It was suggested that a note be made on the application that periodic inspections will be conducted. It was also suggested by the subcommittee to publicize the change quickly if the amendment is approved.

It was moved by Landis, seconded by Hellerich, and approved 6-1 by the Subcommittee (with Aldridge voting no) to recommend the Board of Directors approve the amendment to the LPSNRD Cover Crop Program to allow district-wide eligibility.

The subcommittee then reviewed and **discussed the 2027 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program Budget**. The land resources subcommittee was provided the proposed 2027 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program Budget consisting of the FY'27 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, the available funds, and the prioritization commonly used. It's important to note that FY2027 cost-share program budgets also take into account those payments made in FY2027 for jobs completed in the previous fiscal year (none this year), the summer applications that were approved for this year, and the fall applications. The District has \$136,049 in obligated funds, which includes unconstructed and/or unpaid summer applications. Obligated funds and those 2027 fall cost-share applications total \$373,817. The program budget indicates funds are still available with the applications received thus far and that prioritization is not currently needed.

The second action item was **consideration of surface water quality BMP Fall Cost Share Applications**. The District received a total of 17 fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for conservation work and FY'27 NRD funds. Applications were divided into the Eastern and Western areas. Due to the limited number of applications, the Review Groups did not meet. The cost-share applications for consideration include four District-wide Western, one SVL targeted, one Twin Lakes Watershed, and 11 District-wide Eastern totaling an amount of \$237,768 (District-wide west \$53,174; SVL \$10,391, Stevens Creek \$0; Twin Lakes \$30,225; Turkey Creek \$0; District-wide east \$143,978). A spreadsheet and map of the cost-share applications were provided.

It was moved by Lewis, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 17 identified cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$237,768.

The last item on the agenda was review and **discussion of the proposed FY27 Measurable Goals**. As directed in the LPSNRD 2019 Master Plan, a list of measurable goals is to be developed for each subcommittee for the fiscal year and then those goals are to be reviewed each year to see what has been accomplished. The subcommittee reviewed the proposed measurable goals for the three programs under land resources and recommended they be included in the FY27 Long Range Implementation Plan.

There being no further business, Vogel adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pc: File

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Cover Crop Program

Purpose: Reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, capture and recycle nutrients, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture, and minimize/reduce soil compaction by utilizing cover crops within ~~selected~~ areas of the LPSNRD.

Eligibility: Land shall be located in the ~~Salt Creek Watershed upstream of Lincoln, a Community Water System Protection Area (CWSPA), a Targeted Watershed, or a Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area and within LPSNRD (see Cover Crop Cost Share Areas map), or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle~~ Lower Platte South NRD. Cover crops may be established on Highly Erodible (HEL) and Non-Highly Erodible (NHEL) land that is currently in a continuous no-till cropping system. HEL fields where corn has been cut for silage are not eligible, per NRCS. Cover crops in the program shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed, to maximize the water quality benefit. Each participant will enroll a total of 20–80 acres, and may be allowed down to 10 acres, provided it is a complete field.

Procedure: Producer will contact their local NRCS Field Office to determine land eligibility and prepare an application prior to October 1st. Applications will be reviewed by NRD staff and approved by the General Manager.

How To Apply:

1. Contact your County NRCS Office
2. Meet with NRCS/NRD Personnel to complete application
3. Submit application to NRCS (NRCS will forward completed application to NRD).
4. Applicant may be the producer (either landowner or operator) with corresponding social security number or tax id number, but the application must have the signature of the landowner, or legal representative of the landowner.

Priority: Priority will be given based on the date application is received. The earliest applications will be approved up to the District's budgeted amount of the current fiscal year. Once the budgeted amount is reached, applications will not be approved. Furthermore, applications received prior to September 1st for CWSPAs, targeted watersheds, groundwater management Phase II or III areas, or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle will be given priority over other eligible areas.

Terms:

- Cover crop options include: #1 – rye only; #2 – rye/rape/radish; or #3 – “deluxe cocktail” mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acres: Single species \$30/acre; multiple species \$35/acre.
- Annual Payment Limit of \$2,500 per producer.
- All Cover Crops must be planted prior to October 1st for aerial application and November 1st for drilling.
- NRCS will certify successful completion to the NRD upon termination of cover crop per NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, without inversion tillage. The NRD will make payment to the producer after certification by NRCS.
- The program will also comply with NRCS Code 340 - Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standards that may be found at <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

July 2021 August 2026

EAST APPLICATIONS

Applicant	SEC	TWN	RNG	County	Practice	Amount	Targeted Area
Charles McNew	35	12	10	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
BSD Farms LLC	23	12	12	Cass	Terraces / Grassed Waterways	\$15,000.00	
Andrew Murphy	12	11	11	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Mark Spangler	15	11	13	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Kenneth Ahrens	32	12	12	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Mark Meisinger	20	12	13	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Jim McLaughlin	20	10	10	Cass	Terraces	\$4,645.00	
Luetchens Family LLC	17	11	11	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Davis Family Trust	20	12	12	Cass	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Voelker Farms LLC	10	9	13	Otoe	Terraces	\$5,891.00	
Bonnie Barrett Trust	32	10	13	Cass	Terraces	\$13,442.00	

TOTAL EAST \$143,978.00

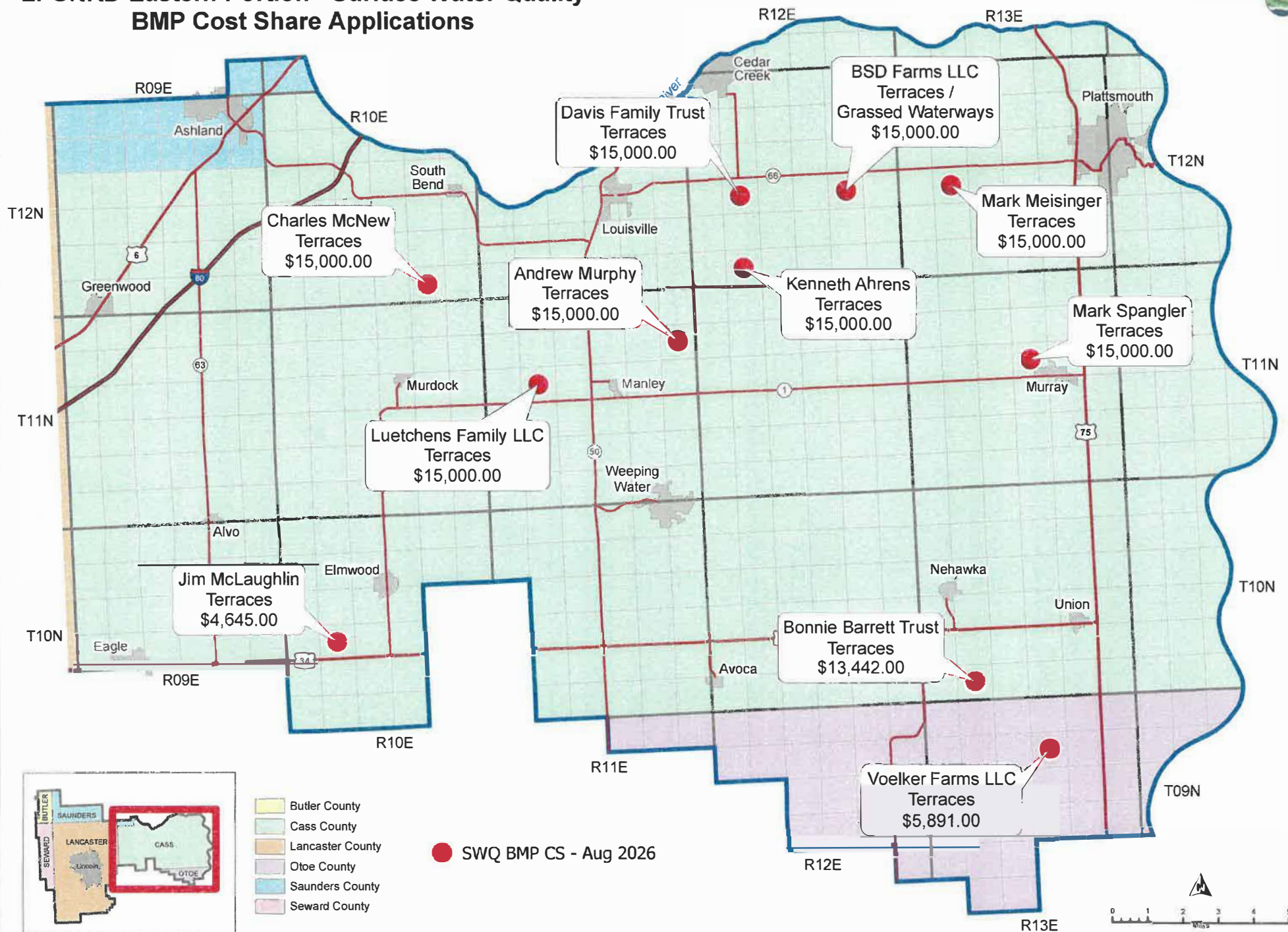
WEST APPLICATIONS

Applicant	SEC	TWN	RNG	County	Practice	Amount	Targeted Area
Nancy Kunz	20	8	5	Lancaster	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Richard & Geraldine Benes Trust	17	12	6	Lancaster	Terraces	\$15,000.00	
Kevin Benes	17	12	6	Lancaster	Terraces	\$10,000.00	
Joyce Howlett	17	8	6	Lancaster	Terraces / Grassed Waterways	\$10,391.00	SVL - Cottontail
Grant Fiedler	14	13	6	Saunders	Terraces	\$13,174.00	
Deanna Pulse	11	10	4	Seward	Terraces	\$30,225.00	Twin Lakes

TOTAL WEST \$93,790.00

TOTAL COST-SHARE \$237,768.00

LPSNRD Eastern Portion - Surface Water Quality BMP Cost Share Applications





LPSNRD Western Portion Surface Water Quality BMP Cost Share Applications

● SWQ BMP CS - Aug 2026

