




# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581  
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### Memorandum

**Date:** August 19, 2020  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager   
**RE:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Water Resources Subcommittee met via video/teleconference at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Subcommittee members participating included Bob Andersen, Chelsea Johnson, Karen Amen, David Landis, Vern Barrett, and Dan Steinkruger. Others accessing the meeting included Larry Ruth, Quentin Vandal of Ash Grove Cement and Karen Griffin of Olsson, Nathan Kuhlman, Tracy Zayac, Dick Ehrman, Dan Schulz, Mike Murren, David Potter, and myself.

Chair Andersen opened the meeting, welcomed those in attendance, and moved to the first item. Ehrman reported that the current agreement with UNL to do the Vadose Zone Study was approved last fall and was to be completed this year. Due to the Covid-19 situation the University was shutdown, all work was stopped, and additional time will be needed to complete the work. It is proposed to extend the agreement one year to Sept 30, 2021 (see attached memo and agreement). It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Amen, and unanimously approved by those Directors present (Amen, Andersen, Barrett, C. Johnson, & Steinkruger), to **recommend the Board of Directors approve Amendment #1 To Cost Reimbursable Standard Research Agreement #132270, for the UNL Vadose Study.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider approving a professional services agreement for the review of the reports submitted by Monolith Nebraska for a proposed well at their plant near Hallam. The Subcommittee reviewed the status of the project, the qualifications of LRE Water, the uncertainty over what will be submitted by Monolith, and an overall concern about the proposed Monolith water use plan. The Subcommittee requested that staff provide information to them on the "report" requirements, their review of the reports, we need to consider possibly doing our own testing and analysis, the timeline for taking final action on the permit, and the appropriate regulatory considerations by the NRD.

It was moved by Amen to recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposal from LRE Water for Hydrogeologic Consulting Services for the Review of Aquifer Pumping Test Analyses and Groundwater Modeling for the Monolith Project in Hallam, NE, pending legal counsel review. This motion died for a lack of a second.

The next item on the agenda was consideration of a request from Ash Grove Cement for the NRD to purchase AEM Data for portions of Cass County in the Louisville/Weeping Water area. Griffin thanked the NRD for all the AEM data that they have made available to the public. She reported that this information has been beneficial to many individuals, including Ash Grove Cement.

Griffin reported that Ash Grove will be flying some additional AEM flights to assist in their efforts to find “Dakota clay” for use at their Louisville plant. The additional flights will cost \$50,000 and Ash Grove is requesting 50% cost-share if the NRD desires to have access to the data. Staff reported that the areas to be flown have very limited groundwater resources and that staff does not see much public benefit from purchasing this data. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to direct staff to inform Ash Grove Cement that the NRD will not purchase the Ash Grove Cement AEM Data at this time.

The Subcommittee agreed to defer the discussion on irrigating from NRD dams to a future meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a report by Potter on the FY 20 Measurable Goals and Accomplishments and the proposed FY 21 Measurable Goals (attached). It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to accept the FY 21 Goals for the Water Resources Subcommittee and submit the Goals to the Finance & Planning Subcommittee for inclusion in the FY 21 Long Range Implementation Plan.

The final item was a report by Murren on the status of the Oak-Middle 82-B Watershed Rehab project. Murren reported that the work is only approximately 50% completed while the project was scheduled to be completed earlier this month. Staff will be notifying the contractor that unless progress improves the Board will need to consider declaring the contractor in default.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

PDZ/pz


cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger



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**TO:** Water Resources Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Dick Ehrman, Water Resources Specialist   
**DATE:** August 7, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Request for No-Cost Extension of “Characterization of Vadose Zone Transport and Groundwater Nitrate Attenuation” (Research Agreement # 132270) Between LPSNRD and UNL

In February, 2020, LPSNRD signed the above referenced cost reimbursable agreement with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the amount of \$44,663 to provide sampling and analysis services for the District’s vadose zone program. The original intent was to perform the vadose zone sampling before the 2020 cropping season (most of the selected sites are on crop ground), and then complete the analysis and reporting of those results by September 30, 2020. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, UNL was essentially shut down in early March for approximately 3-4 months, and the UNL field crew was unable to collect the samples as envisioned. Therefore, UNL is requesting a no-cost extension of that project for one year, until September 30, 2021. This should allow ample time after the 2020 harvest and before the 2021 cropping season to complete the sampling, analysis and reporting. Again, this request is only for a time extension; no additional funds other than those already approved by the District are requested.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED MOTION:** The Water Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the request for a no-cost extension of “Characterization of Vadose Zone Transport and Groundwater Nitrate Attenuation” (Research Agreement # 132270) Between LPSNRD and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2021.

AMENDMENT #1 TO COST REIMBURSABLE STANDARD RESEARCH AGREEMENT #132270

This Amendment made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, 2020; by and between the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln;

RECITALS

This amendment is entered into pursuant to the Cost Reimbursable Agreement for the project entitled, "Characterization of Vadose Zone Transport and Groundwater Nitrate Attenuation" (Research Agreement # 132270), entered into by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District on February 18, 2020, for the purposes outlined in that Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by the parties hereto to amend the Agreement as follows:

1. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: The Research shall be conducted during the period of 11/01/2019 (the "Effective Date") through 09/30/2020 (the "Completion Date").  
The date of completion is hereby extended to September 30, 2021.

Executed by the parties the day and year first written above.

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## FY 2020 - Measurable Goals or Outcomes 12-Month Review (June 30, 2020)

As directed in the LPSNRD 2019 Master Plan, a list of measurable goals or outcomes was identified for each standing and ad hoc subcommittee. In preparation for the following year's LRIP, these identified goals or outcomes should be rated on progress being made. It's important to note that these goals or outcomes are guidance for the staff, subcommittees and Board, and do not represent all of the possible goals or outcomes, nor does it indicate any error or false information on behalf of the staff, subcommittees and Board if they are not achieved.

### Water Resources

#### *Flood Control Dams and Road Structures*

- Complete the Oak-Middle 82-B Watershed Rehabilitation Project – Project underway but going slow. Contract is with Goes Construction. Project completion is scheduled for end of August 2020.

#### *Ground Water Management*

- Approve 10 water well permits – approved seven well permits
- Approve 55 chemigation permits – approved 58 permits
- Cost-share on 2 water meters – none
- Decommission 25 inactive wells – 23 wells decommissioned
- Sample 150 wells for water quality – sampled 225 wells
- Install 2 dedicated monitoring wells - Installed seven wells
- Cost-share on 12 fertilizer meters – cost-shared on eight
- Cost-share on 3 irrigation management practices – none
- Cost-share on 30 vadose zone hole sampling – No vadose zone sampling in FY'20
- Cost-share on 9 soil sampling projects – cost-shared on three soil sampling practices
- Cost-share on 3 SNAP approvals – cost-shared on seven SNAP approvals

## FY 2021 - Measurable Goals or Outcomes

As directed in the LPSNRD 2019 Master Plan, a list of measurable goals or outcomes was identified for each standing and ad hoc subcommittee. In preparation for the following year's LRIP, these identified goals or outcomes should be rated on progress being made. It's important to note that these goals or outcomes are guidance for the staff, subcommittees and Board, and do not represent all of the possible goals or outcomes, nor does it indicate any error or false information on behalf of the staff, subcommittees and Board if they are not achieved.

### Water Resources

#### *Flood Control Dams and Road Structures*

- Complete the Oak-Middle 82-B Watershed Rehabilitation Project
- Complete the Upper-Salt 3-A Watershed Rehabilitation Project

#### *Ground Water Management*

- Approve 10 water well permits
- Approve 55 chemigation permits
- Cost-share on 2 water meters
- Decommission 25 inactive wells
- Sample 150 wells for water quality
- Install 2 dedicated monitoring wells
- Cost-share on 12 fertilizer meters
- Cost-share on 2 irrigation management practices
- Cost-share on 10 vadose zone hole sampling
- Cost-share on 5 soil sampling projects
- Cost-share on 3 SNAP approvals