



## Memorandum

**Date:** August 26, 2020  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** McKenzie Barry, Environmental Education & Communications Coordinator  
**Subject:** I&E Subcommittee Meeting

The Information and Education Subcommittee met via video teleconference Tuesday, August 25 at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members present were Greg Osborn (Chair), Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Tom Green, Luke Peterson, Milt Schmidt, Mike Dekalb and Ray Stevens. Others present were Board Chair Larry Ruth and staff members Paul Zillig, David Potter, McKenzie Barry, Adam Sutton, and Mike Mascoe. Additionally Andrea Faas from Pioneers Park Nature Center and Brittney Albin from Lincoln Public Schools joined the meeting.

Chair Osborn called the meeting to order. Barry discussed the Prairie Immersion program. It is geared towards 4<sup>th</sup> graders when they study prairies and Nebraska History and is open to all students and schools in Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD) to attend. Schools either attend this field trip at Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) or Spring Creek Prairie (SCP).

Since 2018, the NRD has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pioneers Park Nature Center/City of Lincoln to pay \$6.50/student, not to exceed \$12,000 a year. And a letter of understanding with Spring Creek Prairie for the same amount per student.

This year, with the ongoing pandemic, many schools will not be doing in person field trips, and the agreement needs to be modified to include virtual experiences and zooms. Students will watch a pre-recorded video series to learn all about the prairie and then will zoom as a classroom with Staff.

In the MOU renewal PPNC is requesting the NRD pay \$75 for each classroom zoom they facilitate with students, not to exceed \$6,000. For any school wishing to attend in person, the \$6.50/student rate still applies, not to exceed \$3,000.

SCP is also requesting the NRD pay \$75 for each classroom zoom, not to exceed \$5,000, and the \$6.50 rate per student for in person.

**It was moved by Dekalb seconded by Barrett and unanimously approved to approve the rate of \$75 per zoom/class participating in the Prairie Immersion Program with Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) or Spring Creek Prairie and authorize the General Manager to sign the amended renewal for PPNC reflecting these changes, pending review by legal counsel.**

Barry then discussed the School Tour Program. The NRD has had an MOU with PPNC/City of Lincoln to cost-share on grades K-3 Discovery Habitat Hikes for the past 9 years. These hikes are 1.5 hours long and are available for all students and schools in LPSNRD to attend. Total cost for the hikes is \$4.50/student. The NRD cost-shares on these and pays \$3/student, not to exceed \$22,000 a year to help support these hikes. The additional \$1.50/student is paid for by the Friends of Wilderness Park.

This year, with the ongoing pandemic, many schools will not be doing in person field trips, and the agreement needs to be modified to include virtual experiences and zooms. Students will watch a pre-recorded video then will zoom as a classroom with Staff. In the MOU renewal PPNC is requesting the NRD pay \$50 for each classroom zoom they facilitate with students not to exceed \$10,000. For any school wishing to attend in person, the \$3 /student cost-share rate still applies, not to exceed \$5,000.

**It was moved by Schmidt and seconded by Dekalb and unanimously approved to approve the rate of \$50 per zoom/class participating in the School Tour with Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) and to authorize the General Manager to sign the amended renewal for PPNC reflecting these changes, pending review by legal counsel.**

Next to be considered on the Agenda was the request from Lincoln Public Schools. The Subcommittee heard a presentation from Brittney Albin, Lincoln Public Schools Sustainability Coordinator about the project.

Two new High Schools sites are being constructed by Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) over the next few years. The one in Northwest Lincoln opens in 2022 and the Southeast site opens 2023. LPS is adding many green features to these sites as they are constructed. These include: permeable pavement, bio-retention cells, wetland enhancements, native plantings/prairie areas, a greenhouse, garden infrastructure and some outdoor classroom space.

LPS is preparing a grant application for the Nebraska Environmental Trust and is asking the NRD to consider obligating funds to help with the outdoor classroom areas at these schools. They are requesting \$10,000 a year for 3 years, a total of \$30,000 towards the project. \$15,000 of NRD money will be used at each High School site to help fund the Outdoor Classroom plantings.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Schmidt and unanimously approved to approve the request from Lincoln Public Schools and support an NET application to obligate \$30,000 in funds for the Outdoor Classrooms at the new High Schools in the amount of \$10,000 a year, beginning in FY 2022.**

Staff also reviewed with the subcommittee the 12 month review of FY20 completed goals and proposed FY21 Goals. Barry noted that the FY20 completed goals for Environmental Education were affected by the pandemic due to school closures. However she felt they were able to adjust, get creative and still deliver some programming.

**It was moved by Osborn and seconded by Dekalb and approved to accept the FY 2021 measurable goals for the Information & Education Subcommittee and to submit the goals to the Finance & Planning Subcommittee for inclusion in the FY 2021 Long Range Implementation Plan with Osborne, Dekalb, Peterson, Green, Stevens, Schmidt and Barrett voting yes and Aldridge not voting.**

There being no further business, Chair Osborn adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.



# Lincoln Public Schools

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August 17, 2020

Lower Platte South NRD  
3125 Portia Street  
Lincoln, NE 68521

**SUBJECT: New High School Outdoor Classrooms**

Dear Lower Platte South NRD,

Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) is currently designing two new high schools in order to accommodate growth in the community. One school will open in August 2022 and the other will open in August of 2023. In conjunction with the construction of these schools, LPS is proposing a \$1.2 million, 3-year project to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) that is titled “School Campus as a Teaching Tool – LPS New High Schools”. Our district has a strong history of building innovative and efficient schools that reduce their impact on the environment, and these campuses present a unique opportunity to take that commitment further.

LPS is proposing that their new campuses be developed as teaching tools that allow students, staff, and visitors to interact and engage with a wide variety of environmental sustainability features that will be incorporated into the design of the buildings and sites. The proposed project will (1) design and construct two innovative and environmentally sustainable campuses and (2) develop displays, online dashboards, and lesson plans to ensure that all students, staff, and visitors are able to understand and interact with those sustainable features. Some highlights from the design include renewable energy, vegetative roof, greenhouse and outdoor classroom, bioretention cells, LED lighting, and an online interactive building performance dashboard.

These schools are being designed for 1,000 students and over 200 staff, in addition to the many families and other visitors that will be there for activities. Using our existing high schools as an example, these campuses will be a hub of community activity for many decades, which gives us all the more reason to start them off as schools that have clear connections to the environment and natural resources around them.

LPS is seeking the support of the Lower Platte South NRD for the outdoor classroom space on each campus. We would like to formally request that the board obligate funds to this project in the amount of \$10,000 over a 3 year period, for a total project contribution of \$30,000. This funding will contribute to the construction of an outdoor classroom that will serve as the campus hub for outdoor learning and environmental education. Some features of this area will include tiered seating for a large teaching space and a garden of raised beds. This financial contribution



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from the LPSNRD would be an important addition to funding being requested from NET and provided by LPS.

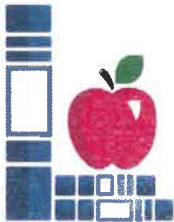
LPSNRD has a long history as a valuable partner and environmental education expert for the Lincoln Community and Lincoln Public Schools. We look forward to this opportunity to enhance that collaboration through this exciting project that will impact the community for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please contact us if you would like any additional information to help with your decision.

Sincerely,

Scott Wieskamp  
Director of Operations

# Northwest High School Site



Bioretention Cells

Enhanced Wetlands

Preserved Wetlands

Bioretention Cells

Greenhouse & Garden Classroom

Photovoltaic Cells

Bioretention Cells

Vegetative Roof w/ Cistern

Outdoor Classroom

Permeable Pavers

Bioretention Cells



## **Lincoln Public Schools**

### **Project: Schools Campus as a Teaching Tool – LPS New High Schools**

#### **Energy**

- 25 kw photovoltaic installation
- 10 Kilowatt wind turbine
- LED Lighting
- Daylight harvesting – lighting controls and solatubes
- Advanced metering of electric and water utilities
- Geothermal wellfield and heat pumps
- Dual port EV charging stations

#### **Waste Reduction & Diversion**

- Recycling containers and waste sorting stations
- Milk dispenser
- Possible city recycling collection site

#### **Site**

- Native landscaping
- Permeable pavers
- Bioretention cells
- Wetlands enhancement
- Garden classroom
- Greenhouse
- Multiple outdoor learning spaces
- 1,500 square foot vegetative roof and garden

#### **Education**

- Environmental graphics
- Online building performance dashboard
- Curriculum development

## **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.

### ***Environmental Education***

- \*Host seven Nature Nights (budgeted for 8) – hosted four in fall; four scheduled for spring but cancelled due to School Closures.
- \*Co-sponsor Earth Wellness Festival (EWF) educating 3,500 students – 3,700 registered; Event cancelled due to School Closures.
- \* Assist with Arbor Day activities at 15 schools – Distributed 580 trees to schools w/Tree Ed brochure.
- \*Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Hikes for 6,000 students -6,400 anticipated –cancelled due to School Closures.
- \* Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Immersion field trips for 1,500 students – SCP 1255 + 1846 PPNC = 3101

### ***General Awareness***

- \*Produce two new promotional drone videos – Nacho ride MoPac East. Marsh Wren
- \* Produce two new social media videos and two new television ads – Social media videos included ground water sampling, trees, and DART. The Conservation Coach television ads were delayed due to Covid-19.
- \*Publish 120 posts per year on the NRD FB page – 214 posts through June 30.
- \* Publish 160 post/year to the NRD Instagram – 210 posts through June 30.
- \* Produce and promote two new podcasts – Done Ice monitoring, Salt Creek Levee repairs.
- \* Host at least 7,000 visitors to LPSNRD.org per quarter –  
July 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2019 = 8,661  
Oct. 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019 = 8,659  
Jan. 1, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2020 = 11,193  
April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020 = 15,970

### ***Programs and Projects***

- \* Hold two Test Your Well nights – Four hosted Hickman/Norris (October) Waverly, Raymond and Ashland-Greenwood (January - February).

## FY 2021 Proposed Goals or Outcomes

### **Information & Education**

#### *Environmental Education*

- Host four Nature Nights.
- Co-sponsor Earth Wellness Festival (EWF) educating 3,500 students.
- Assist with Arbor Day activities at 15 schools.
- Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Hikes for 6,000 students.
- Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Immersion field trips for 1,500 students.
  
- *Programs and Projects*
- Develop informational signs for NRD wetlands.

#### *General Awareness*

- Produce two new promotional videos featuring NRD areas or programs/projects.
- Produce two new social media videos and two new television ads.
- Publish 120 posts per year on the NRD FB page.
- Publish 160 post/year to the NRD Instagram.
- Produce and promote two new podcasts.
- Host at least 7,000 visitors to LPSNRD.org per quarter.