



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Adam Sutton, Environmental Educator  
**Subject:** I&E Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Information and Education Subcommittee met at 4:30pm Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, via Zoom. Subcommittee members present were Dave Landis (Chair), Susan Seacrest, Vern Barrett, Christine Lamberty, John Yoakum, Ray Stevens and Ken Vogel. Others present McKenzie Barry, Adam Sutton, Mike Mascoe, David Potter and Deborah Eagan.

Chair Landis called the meeting to order at 4:30. The first agenda item was consideration of the Prairie Immersion Program and School Tour Program Agreement with Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC).

The Prairie Immersion Program is for 4<sup>th</sup> graders from our District to go on a 3.5-hour field trip at PPNC to learn about prairies and Nebraska history. Pioneers Park Nature Center is requesting the NRD provide \$6.50/student not to exceed \$15,000/year for the Prairie Immersion Program for field trips. This includes a virtual Zoom option in cases of inclement weather or pandemic. The rate for a Zoom field trip is \$75/class not to exceed \$3000/year. Also included in this MOU is the School Tour Program that is offered to students from all grades in our NRD. For the School Tour Program, the NRD will provide \$3/student not to exceed \$25,000/year also with the option of doing Zoom field trips in cases of inclement weather or pandemic. The cost for Zoom field trips is \$50/class not to exceed \$3000/year. The total for both the Prairie Immersion Program and School Tour Program is not to exceed \$40,000 per year.

**It was moved by Director Stevens, seconded by Director Barrett, and unanimously approved that the Subcommittee recommend the Board of Directors accept the annual agreement with the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department for services in compensation for the Pioneers Park Nature Center's Prairie Immersion and School Tour Programs and authorize the General Manager to sign.**

Next on the agenda was subcommittee consideration from Spring Creek Prairie to financially support the Prairie Immersion Program, either in-person or via Zoom.

Schools participating in the Prairie Immersion Program go to either Pioneers Park Nature Center or Spring Creek Prairie. Spring Creek Prairie is also requesting financial support of \$6.50/student for

the 3.5-hour field trips, with the option for virtual Zoom field trips in cases of inclement weather or a pandemic. Virtual field trip costs would be \$75/class, not to exceed \$3000/year. For the Prairie Immersion Program at Spring Creek Prairie, the total reimbursement is not to exceed \$10,000 per fiscal year.

**It was moved by Director Barrett, seconded by Director Seacrest and unanimously approved that the Subcommittee recommend the Board of Directors authorize financial support to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center for assistance to provide in-person Field Trips or Zoom for the Prairie Immersion Program.**

The last item on the agenda was the subcommittee review of I&E Goals completed in FY21 and Proposed FY 2022 Goals.

**It was moved by Director Stevens, seconded by Director Yoakum and unanimously approved that the subcommittee recommend the Board of Directors to accept the FY 2022 measurable goals for the Information & Education Subcommittee and to submit the goals to the Finance & Planning Subcommittee for inclusion in the FY 2022 Long Range Implementation Plan.**

Director Yoakum suggested it would be great for the NRD to provide outreach and education at cultural events to reach a part of the District's population that might not be aware of the NRD.

Directors would like to discuss this more at the Director's Retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Landis at 5:00PM.

AS/as

## **AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF LINCOLN AND LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION.**

This agreement is between the City of Lincoln, Nebraska ("City"), on behalf of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department ("LPRD"), and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District ("LPSNRD"). Both parties recognize the importance of environmental education and agree upon the funding services as outlined below.

### **2. SERVICES AND COMPENSATION.**

#### **a. Pioneers Park Nature Center School Prairie Immersion Program:**

- i. LPSNRD shall provide reimbursement up to \$15,000 (including Zoom class funding as provided below) per fiscal year, dependent on LPSNRD funding (LPSNRD Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30), to support the Pioneers Park Nature Center School Prairie Immersion Program ("Prairie Immersion") during the 2021-2022 school year. LPSNRD shall provide funding for schools in the amount of \$6.50 per student for fourth grade students who attend the 3.5hour long Prairie Immersion program within LPSNRD's area of taxing authority. Eligible schools shall include public, parochial, and home schools. Field trip sites will include the Nature Center or other mutually agreeable sites. City shall bill LPSNRD quarterly for Prairie Immersion programs given to schools that are within LPSNRD's taxing authority. City shall also provide a list to LPSNRD with the names of the schools, the names of the teachers, grades, and number of students participating in the Tours. LPSNRD will provide materials to the City acknowledging sponsorship of the Tours for attending schools, and City shall work with LPSNRD to provide materials to schools acknowledging sponsorship of the Tours for attending schools.
- ii. If in-person Prairie Immersion field trips are not feasible due to inclement weather or a pandemic, the LPSNRD shall provide funding for schools in the amount of \$75.00 per Zoom class, not to exceed \$3,000 per year.

#### **b. Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Program:**

- i. LPSNRD shall provide reimbursement up to \$25,000 (including Zoom class funding as provided below) per fiscal year, dependent on LPSNRD funding (LPSNRD Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30), to support the Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Program ("Tours") during the 2021-2022 school year. LPSNRD shall provide funding for schools in the amount of \$3 per student for schools that attend the 1.5 – 4hour field trips within LPSNRD's area of taxing authority. Eligible schools shall include public, parochial, and home schools. Tour sites will include the Nature Center, Wilderness Park, and/or Nine Mile Prairie or other mutually agreeable sites. City shall bill LPSNRD quarterly for Tours given to schools that are within LPSNRD's taxing authority. City shall also provide a list to LPSNRD

with the names of the schools, the names of the teachers, grades, and number of students participating in the Tours. LPSNRD will provide materials to the City acknowledging sponsorship of the Tours for attending schools, and City shall work with LPSNRD to provide materials to schools acknowledging sponsorship of the Tours for attending schools.

ii. If in-person Tours are not feasible due to inclement weather or a pandemic, LPSNRD shall provide funding for schools in the amount of \$50 per Zoom class, not to exceed \$3,000 per year.

3. **TERM.**

The term of this Agreement shall commence on August 1, 2021 and shall continue until completion of all of the obligations of this Agreement, but in no event longer than July 31, 2022.

4. **TERMINATION FOR BREACH.**

Either party has the right to terminate this Agreement if the other party fails to perform as required in this Agreement. Termination rights under this section may be exercised only after the non-breaching party notifies the breaching party of the failure to perform in writing upon giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice.

5. **NEBRASKA LAW.**

This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted by the Laws of the State of Nebraska without reference to the principals of conflicts of law.

6. **INTEGRATION, AMENDMENTS, ASSIGNMENT.**

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties and all prior negotiations and representations are hereby expressly excluded from this Agreement. This Agreement may be amended only by written agreement of both parties. This Agreement may not be assigned without the prior written consent of the other party.

7. **SEVERABILITY & SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

Each section and each subdivision of a section of this Agreement is hereby declared to be independent of every other section or subdivision of a section so far as inducement for the acceptance of this Agreement and invalidity of any section or subdivision of a section of this Agreement shall not invalidate any other section or subdivision of a section thereof.

8. **CAPACITY.**

The undersigned person representing LPSNRD and City does hereby agree and represent that he or she is legally capable to sign this Agreement and to lawfully bind their respective parties to this Agreement.

9. **LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION.**

LPSNRD shall have no liability with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury or property damage, sickness and disease, **including COVID-19 or novel coronavirus**, caused out of or in connection with this Agreement. City agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless LPSNRD for bodily injury, personal injury or property damage

caused out of or in connection with this Agreement. City is not required to indemnify or hold harmless LPSNRD for any claims or damages arising out of or resulting from the sole negligent or intentional acts of LPSNRD in connection with this Agreement. Neither party waives its governmental immunity by entering into this Agreement and fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law. This section survives any termination of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and City do hereby execute this Agreement.

LPSNRD General Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Execution: \_\_\_\_\_

LPRD Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Execution: \_\_\_\_\_

July 15, 2021

McKenzie Barry  
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District  
3125 Portia Street  
PO Box 83581  
Lincoln, NE 68501

Dear Ms. Barry:

I am writing to request consideration of a change to our letter of understanding with the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Prairie Immersion Program.

The Prairie Immersion program was developed in partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) to support Nebraska's curricula for fourth-grade science and social studies. The program, normally conducted as field trips to Spring Creek Prairie, provides high-quality, highly rated, inquiry-based encounters with the tallgrass prairie, eastern Nebraska's native landscape.

This year, our hope is for our program to be provided to LPS students similar to years previous to 2020, providing in-person, onsite, and hands-on field trips. But, we feel it is important to also plan for the ability to provide for virtual programming via ZOOM in case in-person field trips are not available yet this fall of 2021.

To help support our costs for staff time dedicated to either in-person field trips or ZOOM virtual field trips, SCPAC respectfully requests LPSNRD to provide reimbursement of \$6.50/student for in person Prairie Immersion Program field trips. If in person field trips are not feasible due to inclement weather or COVID19 safety issues, LPS NRD would provide funding to SCPAC in the amount of \$75/class for ZOOM virtual field trips – not to exceed \$3,000/year. Reimbursement from LPSNRD between in person and zoom field trips shall not exceed \$10,000 per fiscal year.

We remain grateful for the District's long time and amazing support for the Prairie Immersion program and greatly appreciate the consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Meghan Sittler, Center Director

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

## FY 2021 - Measurable Goals or Outcomes 12-Month Review (June 30, 2021)

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.

### Information & Education

#### *Environmental Education*

- Host four Nature Nights - Nature Nights for this spring postponed to fall 2021 or spring of 2022 due to pandemic.
- Co-sponsor Earth Wellness Festival (EWF) educating 3,500 students - Held Virtually for 3,800 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (6<sup>th</sup> grade for those who missed it last year since it was cancelled).
- Assist with Arbor Day activities at 15 schools - Virtual activities hosted for 1,077 students, 13 schools.
- Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center School Tour Hikes for 6,000 students - Hosted 207 in the fall; Spring – 38 virtual (950 students), four in-person (100 students).
- Provide assistance for Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Immersion field trips for 1,500 students - Hosted virtually for 1,969 students.

#### *General Awareness*

- Produce two new promotional videos featuring NRD areas or programs/projects - LPSNRD Careers and Summer Wildwood Time-lapse.
- Produce two new social media videos and two new television ads - No new video production possible due to pandemic. \$20,000 in LRIP spent on television air time to air Conservation Coach ads again, which first aired in 2019.
- Publish 120 posts per year on the NRD FB page - As of June 30 – 196 posts.
- Publish 160 post/year to the NRD Instagram - As of June 30 – 208 posts.
- Produce and promote two new podcasts - GIS & Maintenance podcasts.
- Host at least 7,000 visitors to LPSNRD.org per quarter - Q1 -July 2020 through September 2020 = 12,246; Q2 - October 2020 through December 2020 = 12,817; Q3 - January 2021 through March 29, 2021 = 13,021; Q4 April 1 – June 30, 2021 = 12,702

#### *Programs and Projects*

- Develop informational signs for NRD wetlands - Done for Marsh Wren, Lincoln Saline Nature Wetland & Little Salt Fork.

## **FY 2022 - Measurable Goals or Outcomes (Proposed)**

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.

### **Information & Education**

#### ***Environmental Education***

- Host four (virtual and/or in-person) Nature Nights
- Co-sponsor Earth Wellness Festival (EWF) educating 3,500 students
- Assist with Arbor Day activities at 15 schools
- Facilitate Field Trips for 2,000 High School Biology and 7th grade Env. Science students
- 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

#### ***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 10,000 visitors to LPSNRD.org per quarter

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

- Develop site specific informational signs for NRD wetlands (Marsh Wren, Lincoln Saline Nature Wetland, Little Salt Fork)
- Host one Test Your Well Night