



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors
DATE: May 13, 2022
FROM: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
SUBJECT: Integrated Management Subcommittee meeting minutes.

The Integrated Management Subcommittee met virtually (via Zoom) on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Members present included Lisa Lewis, Bob Andersen, Gary Hellerich, Bruce Johnson, Anthony Schutz, Mark Spangler (arrived late) and Ken Vogel. Members absent included Don Jacobson. Others present were Paul Zillig, Dick Ehrman, and David Potter. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Lewis.

In 2009, LPSNRD adopted rules and regulations for the management of ground and surface water in what is known as the hydrologically connected area (HCA). The HCA was delineated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) based upon the likelihood of hydrologic connection between surface water and shallow ground water. For LPSNRD, this area consists of all or parts of about 70 sections along both sides of Salt Creek roughly between Waverly and Ashland, and then along the south side of the Platte River from Ashland to Plattsmouth.

As a natural extension of the above activities, LPSNRD developed its voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in conjunction with NeDNR. Following approval by both LPSNRD and NeDNR, the IMP became effective on May 15, 2014. As part of the effort toward a more comprehensive management strategy, LPSNRD joined six other NRDs (LLNRD, LPNNRD, LENRD, PMRNRD, ULNRD and UENRD) and NeDNR to form the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition (Coalition) to jointly develop a water management plan for the entire Lower Platte River basin. The intent of the basin-wide plan is to inform and provide consistency for the individual NRD IMPs. As of early 2018, all seven participating NRD Boards and NDNR had approved the Interlocal Agreement that continues the Coalition and adopted the first five-year (increment) plan. Directors Jacobson and Hellerich are the LPSNRD current representatives on the Coalition. The Coalition Board met on April 19th at the NARD office to discuss and take action on a number of items. A memo from Directors Hellerich and Jacobson and a copy of the draft Coalition Board minutes are attached. Hellerich briefed the subcommittee on the recent Board meeting.

The first agenda item was consideration of the Lower Platte River Coalition Interlocal Cooperation Agreement No. 3. The current Interlocal Agreement for the Lower Platte River Coalition is requiring an update. The Lower Platte River Coalition Board met on April 19th and voted to approve the Lower Platte River Coalition Interlocal Cooperation Agreement No. 3. The Agreement is attached. Staff answered questions of the subcommittee regarding the interlocal and the Basin Coalition.

It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by B. Johnson and approved (six voting yes and Spangler not present) to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Lower Platte River Coalition Interlocal Cooperation Agreement No. 3.

The second agenda item was consideration of the Basin Water Management Plan – Second Increment (2022-2026) of Plan Implementation. At the January 19th LPSNRD Board meeting we had a presentation by John Engel from HDR pertaining to the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition (seven NRDs) and the five-year increment plan of the joint water management plan of the entire Lower Platte River Basin. The first five-year increment allowable depletion period/plan is coming to an end and the second five-year increment is needed. Engel provided information on the first increment and the method of dividing up excess water development in the Platte among the NRDs, identified the benefits of the plan, what is proposed for the second increment, and answered questions from the Board. The following recommendations from the Lower Platte River Basin Management Committee were highlighted:

- Continue doing a 5-year review to update the calculations/depletions. Consider other triggers for doing future reviews based on drought conditions/changes.
- Continue to allow NRDs to keep any unallocated “carryover”.
- Continue to use a 25-year period of record and 10% allowable depletions. (the less changes at this point the better for several NRDs. A longer period of record (33 years) was less beneficial due to the impact of other changes on the conditions in the model. Recognize that NRD’s will need to consider and work on drought management planning as continuing to use up an additional 10% each period will not be sustainable).

The Lower Platte River Coalition Board met on April 19th and voted to approve the Second Increment (2022-2026) of Plan Implementation as recommended by the Basin Management Committee. Although the Coalition Board officially approved the Second Increment as authorized under the Lower Platte River Coalition Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, it is recommended that LPSNRD also take action to confirm. The Second Increment is attached. Staff answered questions of the subcommittee regarding the Second Increment, including purpose, 25-year period, allowable depletions, and carryovers.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Vogel and approved (six voting yes and Spangler not voting) to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Basin Water Management Plan – Second Increment (2022-2026) of Plan Implementation.

With no further business, Lewis adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 5:52 p.m.