



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** January 10, 2025  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** David Potter, Assistant General Manager   
**RE:** Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Land Resources Subcommittee met virtually at 12:00 pm on Friday, January 10, 2025, to take action on one item and discuss another. Subcommittee members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Seth Hawkins, Gary Hellerich, Susan Seacrest, and Ken Vogel. Others present included Tom Cowan, John Albert, Donna Reid, Mike Sousek, and David Potter. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order, gave a brief welcome, and reviewed the agenda.

The first item was consideration of the NRD/NSWCP 2025 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program. Potter stated NRCS received the DNR NSWCP Payment Schedule in mid-December but some of the NRCS staff have been out of the office and so internal review had been delayed. The payment schedule is an NRCS regional docket that identifies all the possible practices and recommended unit prices. These unit prices are not always indicative of what we are seeing within LPSNRD so each year we prepare the annual LPSNRD Docket that identifies the most common practices and scenarios used within our District with our recommended cost-unit rate. Tom Cowan, District Conservationist met with our resources technicians to discuss the average costs listed in the 2025 Docket. Cowan discussed his spreadsheet comparing the new 2025 cost-share numbers with those approved for the 2024 Docket (attached). It was noted that some unit costs have gone up while others have decreased. In review of the 2025 NSWCP Payment Schedule, our technicians noted that the 2024 LPSNRD cost-share docket was more representative of our District than the new 2025 numbers for those common scenarios or practices, except for four of them. These 2024-unit cost numbers and the suggested four changes were more reflective of what we have been seeing from contractors. It was discussed and recommended to keep the unit cost the same as they were in 2024 except to increase the unit costs for two practices under code 378 (pond-embankment) and two practices under code 410 (grade stabilization structure-embankment). The revised draft of the 2025 LPSNRD Average Costs / Docket based on those discussions and input was presented to the subcommittee and is attached. It was also noted that if an uncommon project scenario that's not on the LPSNRD Docket would occur, then the unit price listed on the DNR NSWCP Payment Schedule would be used. The entire 2025 NSWCP Payment Schedule (long list) was also provided to the subcommittee.

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 2025 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-share Program.**

The next agenda item was discussion or update of the extension of the Fall cost-share construction deadline. The construction deadline for fall cost-share applications is February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. This date has been established to give the district an opportunity to evaluate the number of cost-share projects during the construction

period with the remaining budgeted funds. For most years, this set date has worked well and prevents projects from being dragged out. With some projects not completed or started due to the drought and construction restriction by NRCS and with money still in the budget, staff has extended that deadline to April 30, 2025. The District's Summer Conservation Program construction period begins May 1<sup>st</sup>, so this would complete those fall applications before the start of that program. Even if all the work is done with the outstanding applications, the district will still be within budget. This has been extended in past years when the current budget allows us to get more conservation practices completed. We extended the construction deadline last year to April 30th and it worked well.

There being no further business, Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.