



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: November 8, 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 

RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Nov. 7th Meeting Minutes.

The Land Resources Subcommittee met on Thursday, November 7, 2024. There were two items for consideration. Subcommittee members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Seth Hawkins, Gary Hellerich, Chelsea Johnson, Susan Seacrest, and Ken Vogel. Others present were David Potter-staff, Adam Rupe-JEO Consulting Group, and Samuel and Isaac Thomas-guests. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

Potter introduced Adam Rupe with JEO Consulting Group who assisted in revisions to the WQMP and who helped develop the original plan. Ken Vogel introduced his two grandsons.

The first item was **consideration of the LPSNRD District-wide Water Quality Management Plan 2024-2029 Revision**. Potter and Rupe explained that in order to secure future 319 project funds for priority area projects and best management practices, a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) first needs to be approved. LPSNRD's first District-Wide WQMP was developed through use of Section 319 grant funds, pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and the Nebraska Nonpoint Source Management Plan, which was made available to NDEQ (now NDEE) through the Region VII Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The District entered into an agreement with NDEQ to develop said plan and received \$150,000 in 319 Program Funds. The remaining \$100,000 of the project cost (60-40 cost share) was provided by the District. The District hired JEO Consulting Group to help write the plan and the LPSNRD District-wide WQMP was approved by EPA in May 2019 and by the LPSNRD Board of Directors in June 2019.

The main purposes for having a WQMP is to provide a concise summary of the condition of water resources in LPSNRD and to provide direction and a coordinated approach for addressing nonpoint source pollution. The WQMP provides one overarching plan that identifies and focuses on district-wide priorities. With the approved plan, efforts can be directed to project development and funding acquisition. District-wide plans provide numerous benefits including allowing access to Section 319 funding for groundwater and surface water projects, enhancing project buy-in and grant funding potential by integrating LPSNRD, agency, and community priorities, providing supporting

information for project and grant application development, aiding in LPSNRD and agency budget planning, and allowing for more effective leveraging of funds for projects and activities.

The WQMP and the 2024-2029 Revision document a list of projects and practices aimed at improving water quality and removing impaired waters from the 303(d) list and provides specific project plans for implementation over the next 3-5 years. The WQMP area includes watersheds on a HUC8 scale within the district boundary, which include the Salt Creek watershed, Lower Platte watershed, and Keg-Weeping Water watershed. For each watershed on the HUC8 scale in the district, the WQMP identifies pollutant sources, pollutant loads, pollutant load reductions, an implementation strategy, schedule and monitoring.

The WQMP requires an update every five (5) years, therefore the format takes this into consideration, and it was designed to be dynamic rather than fixed, allowing for minimal updating effort. Future updates will include a revised assessment of water quality data as compared to WQMP criteria and a determination of whether the current strategy is on track to meet plan goals and, if needed, new nonpoint source load estimates, revision of goals and objectives, updated management strategies and priorities, and updates to the resource and budget needs. When the plan is revised in five years, new areas may be targeted.

Specifically, the WQMP addresses the following 9-elements, as defined in Appendix C of EPA's Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories (issued 04/12/2013), for both surface water and groundwater resources:

1. Identification of pollutant sources;
2. Estimation of pollutant loads collectively or for separate identified water bodies or sub-basins and expected load reductions from management measures;
3. Identification of management practices appropriate to address resource threats or impairments;
4. An outreach strategy to educate and engage residents in protection and conserving water resources in the District;
5. A schedule for implementing activities to address identified resource threats or impairments;
6. Milestones to assess effective progress in implementing components of the WQMP;
7. Evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness of actions taken to implement the WQMP;
8. A monitoring strategy to assess the impact of actions taken in implementing the WQMP;
9. Estimate needed technical and financial assistance, associated costs, and the sources and authorities that will be relied upon to implement the WQMP.

The WQMP was up for review and revision this year. The District again hired JEO Consulting Group to assist in the update. The recommended revisions were not substantial. The update did not provide for any new priority areas or water quality goals due to insignificant overall change in the LPSNRD watersheds and no new BMPs were identified. A summary of the revision can be found in the copy of

EPA's acceptance and checklist. The prepared update was sent to NDEE and then to the EPA for review. The 2024-2029 Revision was accepted by NDEE and EPA on October 24, 2024. With its approval, the WQMP will continue to be the guiding document for water quality management in the District. The 2024-2029 Revision is provided and the 2019 District-wide WQMP is available on the LPSNRD website at: <https://www.lpsnrd.org/publications/lpsnrd-plans>

Potter and Rupe answered questions of the subcommittee and described in detail what revisions were made.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Green, and approved (with Hellerich voting no) to recommend the Board of Directors approve the LPSNRD District-wide Water Quality Management Plan 2024-2029 Revision.

The second item was **consideration of Surface Water Quality Cost-Share Applications**. The District received four applications for cost-share that qualify for Fall work. Three are in the district-wide program (which provides 60% of the average LPSNRD cost or 75% of the actual cost, whichever is less, up to \$15,000) and one is in a targeted area (which provides for 75% of the average LPSNRD cost and 75% of the actual cost, whichever is less, up to \$20,000). One application is in the eastern portion of the district and three are in the western portion. Funding for the four applications will come from the FY25 budget.

The applications include:

- Drake – \$2,849 for terraces, 16-11-11, Cass County
- Acre Management LLC – \$3,013 for grassed waterways, 10-8-5, Lancaster County
- Timothy Benes – \$6,192 for terraces, 9-12-6, Lancaster County
- St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Bee - \$11,131 for terraces, 23-12-4, Seward County, SVL Targeted

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Seacrest, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the four identified cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$23,185.

There being no further business, Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 5:57 pm.

Pc: File