



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: August 16, 2024
 To: Board of Directors
 From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager *DP*
 RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Land Resources Subcommittee met at the NRD office on Thursday, August 15, 2024. Subcommittee members present were Don Jacobson, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Seth Hawkins, Gary Hellerich, Chelsea Johnson, Susan Seacrest, and Ken Vogel. Others in attendance were Dave Landis, David Potter, and Donna Reid with the NRD, and Tom Cowan (by phone) with NRCS. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobson at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda was reviewed.

a) Surface Water Quality Cost-Share Applications.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of the surface water quality applications. Potter stated the district received a total of 23 fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for conservation work and FY'25 NRD funds. Applications were divided into the Eastern and Western areas and submitted to those appropriate Review Groups for consideration. Minutes from those review groups are provided herein.

The Eastern NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met via Zoom on Friday, August 2nd at 9:00 a.m. to review the nine fall applications received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2024 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'25 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and the available funds. Staff noted the program budget indicates funds are still available with the presented applications and that prioritization is not needed. Review group members attending included Seth Hawkins, Anthony Schutz, and Susan Seacrest. Members not able to attend the meeting but provided a favorable recommendation included Ken Vogel and Chelsea Johnson. Others present included David Potter with LPSNRD and Tom Cowan, James Conradi, and Devin Heusinkvelt with NRCS. It was moved by Schutz, seconded by Seacrest and unanimously approved to recommend approval of the nine Eastern Portion applications to the Land Resources Subcommittee totaling the amount presented in the program budget of \$133,212.

The Western NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met via Zoom on Friday, August 2nd at 12:00 p.m. to review the 14 fall applications (3 targeted, 11 district-wide) received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2024 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'25 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and the available funds. Staff noted the program budget indicates funds are still available with the presented applications and that prioritization is not needed. Review group members in attendance included Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, and Bob Andersen. Directors not able to attend were Don Jacobson and Tom Green. Others present included John Albert and David Potter with LPSNRD and Tom Cowan and Cole Johnson with NRCS. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Hellerich and unanimously approved to

recommend approval of the 14 Western Portion, SVL, and Twin Lakes applications to the Land Resources Subcommittee totaling the amount presented in the program budget of \$214,146.

Potter stated that the District's Surface Water Quality Program funding budget and prioritization commonly used were provided to the subcommittee. It was noted that the FY2025 cost-share program budgets also consider those payments made in FY2025 for jobs completed in the previous fiscal year (none this year), the summer applications that were approved for this year, and the fall applications. In summary, there are 23 District cost-share applications for consideration, including 11 District-wide Western, 3 Targeted, and 9 District-wide Eastern totaling an amount of \$347,358 (District-wide west \$157,745; Salt Valley Lakes \$15,000; Stevens Creek \$0; Twin Lakes \$41,401; District-wide east \$133,212). The applications were identified on the spreadsheets and maps provided to the subcommittee. As shown on the program budget, the District has \$285,070 in obligated funds, which includes unconstructed and/or unpaid summer applications. Obligated funds and those recommended 2024 fall cost-share applications total \$632,428.

Potter stated that there was \$100K reduced from District-wide Surface Water Quality Practices in the District's FY25 Budget this year based on number of applications received and obligated. Even with the reduction, there are funds still available based on the program budget. Staff have directed the resources technicians to seek additional applications. Mailings and press releases are planned to be sent out. The subcommittee and staff discussed reasons why cost-share applications were down this year and what might be done to encourage more.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Hellerich, and approved (with Aldridge voting present and others voting yes), to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 23 identified cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$347,358.

b) Measurable Goals.

As directed in the LPSNRD 2019 Master Plan, a list of measurable goals is to be developed for each subcommittee for the fiscal year and then those goals are to be reviewed each year to see what has been accomplished. The 12-month review of the FY24 measurable goals and the proposed goals for FY25 for the Land Resources Subcommittee were provided to the subcommittee and Potter described each in detail. Discussion was had by the subcommittee on what can be done to promote the cost-share program and get more conservation on the ground.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Seacrest, and approved (with Aldridge voting present and others voting yes), to recommend the Finance and Planning Subcommittee include the identified measurable goals as part of the FY25 Long Range Implementation Plan.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.