



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: August 15, 2025
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 14, 2025. Subcommittee members present included Ken Vogel, Gary Aldridge, Gary Hellerich, Dave Landis, Lisa Lewis, and Suzanne Mealer. Members absent were Tom Green and Susan Seacrest. Others in attendance were Bob Anderson, David Potter, Donna Reid, and Drew Ratkovec with the NRD, and Tom Cowan with NRCS. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vogel at 5:06 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 20 fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for conservation work and FY'26 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 Thursday, August 7th at 11:45 a.m. to review the 14 fall applications received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2025 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'26 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, Ken Vogel, Susan Seacrest, Dave Landis, and Tom Green. Others present included David Potter and Carla Grahm with LPSNRD and Tom Cowan and Devin Heusinkvelt with NRCS. It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Landis and unanimously approved to recommend approval of the 14 Eastern Portion applications to the Land Resources Subcommittee totaling the amount presented in the program budget of \$175,704.

The Western NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met via Zoom on Thursday, August 7th at 12:30 p.m. to review the six fall applications (3 Twin Lakes, 3 district-wide) received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2025 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'26 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, Lisa Lewis, and Suzanne Mealer. Directors not able to attend were Don Jacobson. Others present included John Albert, Bridget McKinley, and David Potter with LPSNRD and Tom Cowan with NRCS. It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Mealer and unanimously approved to recommend approval of the six Western Portion and Twin Lakes applications to the Land Resources Subcommittee totaling the amount presented in the program budget of \$112,496.

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 FY2026 cost-share program budgets also consider those payments made in FY2026 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 20 District cost-share applications for consideration, including 3 District-wide Western, 3 Twin Lakes Watershed, and 14 District-wide Eastern totaling an amount of \$288,200 (District-wide west \$45,000; SVL \$0, Stevens Creek \$0; Twin Lakes \$67,496; Turkey Creek \$0; District-wide east \$175,400). The applications were identified on the spreadsheets and maps provided to the subcommittee. As shown on the program budget, the District has \$241,668 in obligated funds, which includes unconstructed and/or unpaid summer applications. Obligated funds and those recommended 2025 fall cost-share applications total \$529,868.

Potter stated that 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. The welcomed summer precipitation will hopefully trigger an interest in getting more best management practices constructed.

It was moved by Landis, seconded by Lewis, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 20 identified cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$288,200.

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 FY25 measurable goals and the proposed goals for FY26 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 Lewis, seconded by Mealer, and approved (with Aldridge voting present and others voting yes), to approve the identified measurable goals and recommend them to the Finance and Planning Subcommittee for inclusion in the FY26 Long Range Implementation Plan.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.