



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: August 8, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Land Resources Subcommittee met virtually on Monday, August 7, 2023. Subcommittee members present were Mark Spangler, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Chelsea Johnson, Lisa Lewis, Anthony Schutz, and Ken Vogel. Members absent was Ron Nolte. Others in attendance were David Potter, Donna Reid, Lesli Lair, and Tom Cowan. The meeting was called to order by Chair Spangler at 5:33 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 41 fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for conservation work and FY'24 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 at the NRCS Weeping Water Field Office on Thursday, July 27th at 9:00 a.m. to review the 20 fall applications received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2023 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'24 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 was not needed. Review group members attending included Mark Spangler, Tom Green, Chelsea Johnson, Ron Nolte, and Ken Vogel. Others present included Jan Kush, Lesli Lair, Mike Sousek, Donna Reid, Tyler Benal, and David Potter with LPSNRD; and Cole Johnson, Tom Cowan, James Conradi, Devin Heusinkvelt, and Samantha Ziph with NRCS. It was moved by Nolte, seconded by Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend approval of the 20 Eastern Portion applications totaling the amount presented in the program budget (\$216,227).

The Western NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met at the LPSNRD office on Friday, July 28th at 9:00 a.m. to review the 21 fall applications (10 targeted, 11 district-wide) received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2023 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'24 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 was not needed. Review group members in attendance included Gary Hellerich, Lisa Lewis, and Bob Andersen. Directors not able to attend were Gary Aldridge and Anthony Schutz. Others present included John Albert, Sean Loken, Donna Reid, Mike Sousek, Tyler Benal, and David Potter with LPSNRD; and Cole Johnson with NRCS. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Lewis

and unanimously approved to recommend approval of the 21 Western Portion, SVL, Stevens Creek, and Twin Lakes applications totaling the amount presented in the program budget (\$470,673).

Potter stated that the District's Surface Water Quality Program funding budget and prioritization commonly used were provided to the subcommittee. It was noted the FY2024 cost-share program budget also takes into account those payments made in FY2024 for jobs completed in the previous fiscal year (none this year), the summer applications that were approved for this year, and the current fall applications. In summary, there are 41 District cost-share applications for consideration, including 11 District-wide Western, 10 Targeted, and 20 District-wide Eastern totaling an amount of \$686,900 (District-wide west \$131,656; Salt Valley Lakes \$31,190; Stevens Creek \$42,462; Twin Lakes \$265,365; District-wide east \$216,227). The applications were identified on the spreadsheets and maps provided to the subcommittee. As shown on the program budget, the District has \$139,307 in obligated funds, which includes summer applications. Obligated funds and those recommended 2023 fall cost-share applications total \$826,207. Potter stated that there was \$400K reduced from Surface Water Quality Practices in the District's FY24 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 directed the resources technicians to seek additional applications. 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 Lewis, and unanimously approved, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 41 identified fall cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$686,900.

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 FY23 measurable goals and the proposed goals for FY24 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, including increasing maximum cost-share amounts, cost-share percentages, advertisements, etc.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Lewis, and unanimously approved, to recommend the Finance and Planning Subcommittee include the identified measurable goals as part of the FY24 Long Range Implementation Plan.

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