



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 18, 2023

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WT*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 4:38 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Luke Peterson, John Yoakum, Christine Lamberty, Tom Green, and Ray Stevens. Other attendees were Paul Zillig, David Potter, and Will Inselman.

First item on the agenda was the Safety Corners Pollinator Program agreement with Pheasants Forever (PF). This program would be available to residents in our District and offers incentives to landowners who wish to establish pollinator friendly wildlife habitat at rural intersections where traditional cropping would obstruct the views of approaching traffic. Participants plant a native mix of short to mid-height grasses and wildflowers on 1-3 acres adjacent to an intersection. The agreement with PF would be a 50/50 cost share and enrollment would be on a first come, first served basis, with a cap of 37 acres total enrollment. This program requires a 5-year contract and landowners receive a one-time upfront payment of \$1,250.00/acre. For this fiscal year, the NRD has budgeted \$25,000.00 towards this program. This program will put native prairie habitat back on the ground while increasing visual safety and rural intersections. Currently, Papio-Missouri NRD is the only NRD participating in this program and have had some success getting acres enrolled (15 active projects totaling 46 acres).

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the agreement with Pheasants Forever for the Safety Corners Pollinator program and authorize the General Manger to approve program applications.

Second on the agenda, was the bid for the Bobcat Prairie Seed and Seeding Project to restore 115 acres of grassland on the property, currently dominated by a non-native, invasive grass. Bids requests we sent to three companies that can provide the specific services required of this planting. The low bid was received from Diversity Farms, Inc. of Dedham, Iowa. Staff then presented information regarding the project, the goals for the property, and how it ties in to the larger Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch project. This restoration project is part of a larger partnership team of experts from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Pheasants Forever, and the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. Staff and the members of this team have worked with this provider in the past and have no concerns on the ability of this contractor to do the work as required. Staff recommended awarding the low bid to Diversity Farms, Inc. at a total project cost of \$36,464.40. As a reminder, per the agreement approved by the LPSNRD Board in November with the USFWS,

LPSNRD will provide \$25,000.00 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide the remainder, \$11,464.40 towards the total project cost.

It was moved by Green and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid from Diversity Farms, Inc. of \$36,464.40 for the Prairie Corridor at Haines Branch Bobcat Prairie WMA Grassland Restoration Seeding Project.

Last on the agenda, were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch status update, goals, and objectives, and recently completed invasive tree removal projects.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.