



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: April 12, 2023

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:31 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Gary Hellerich, Don Jacobson, John Yoakum, Stacie Sinclair, and Ray Stevens. Other attendees were Paul Zillig, David Potter, Jay Seaton, Ariana Kennedy, and Will Inselman.

The first item on the agenda was the third amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Salt Creek Levee Trail with the City of Lincoln. The City of Lincoln and LPSNRD have worked together to develop a recreational trail along the Salt Creek Levee system. Once the trails are constructed by LPSNRD, LPSNRD has historically transferred the trail to the City. From J Street to N. 27th Street, there are segments of the trail that have not been turned over to the City. In spring of 2020, the City of Lincoln and LPSNRD signed the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Salt Creek Levee Trail to allow for ongoing maintenance of the recreational trail until transfer occurs. The Agreement was amended and extended in May of 2021 (original amendment) and May of 2022 (Amendment No. 2).

LPSNRD wished to complete the Rosa Parks Way Trail project before transferring those segments. The Rosa Parks Way Trail project is finished however, the transfer will not occur prior to the expiration of Amendment No. 2 (May 11, 2023). Amendment No. 3 will extend the Agreement for another year (May 12, 2023, to May 11, 2024), or until such time as a permanent easement or long-term agreement is entered, whichever comes first. LPSNRD and the City have begun discussions on the transfer and are moving in the direction of LPSNRD granting an easement to the City for the trail portion. Amendment No. 3 is attached. Amendment No. 2, Amendment, Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Salt Creek Levee Trail, and map are attached for reference. Ultimately the plan would be to transfer all segments of the trail to the City of Lincoln. That is a process we hope to have complete within the next year.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Amendment No. 3 to extend the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Salt Creek Levee Trail between LPSNRD and the City of Lincoln, pending legal counsel review.**



Second on the agenda was the Windbreak Renovation Program discussion. The LPSNRD and Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) will look to cooperate on a program to provide financial and technical assistance to landowners in need of windbreak renovations. This is a new program that will be offered in our District. The program will provide 75% cost-share for windbreak renovation, with 25% of the 75% coming from LPSNRD. This program will be administered by our District Forester through NFS. NFS will then request reimbursement from LPSNRD once an application has been paid. The program's application packet, which includes the program guidelines, is below. LPSNRD would plan to commit \$30,000 towards this program. Staff explained that this is a new program and only a few projects have been completed across the state through this program, which was finalized in January. Staff thought that the funds offered by LPSNRD could service 2-3 windbreak projects depending on the size and scope. Staff will come back to the subcommittee in the following months with an agreement and program approval.

#### **NO ACTION**

Third on the agenda was the consideration of changes to the Community Forestry Program's guidelines. LPSNRD staff received input from Directors at the March RF&W subcommittee meeting on various options to explore to improve the acceptance/use of this program. Staff came up with three (3) options based on this input. Some of the options include cost share increases overall, increases for public land applications, or added cost share for tree removal. The Exhibit "A" document below provides the various options and cost breakdowns. Staff answered questions on the information provided and provided support for the option to increase cost-share incentives for public properties. The subcommittee thought this was a good first step in trying to make the program more appealing to rural villages/cities.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Hellerich and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the increase in cost-share amount for public land projects to 75% and remove language on the maximum allowed cost share for tree planting, pending legal counsel review.**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Fourth on the agenda was consideration of an application for the Community Forestry Program. The application brought forward was from the Stone Ridge Estates HOA. They are requesting \$4,500.00 from the NRD. Their plan is to plant 12 pine/spruce trees, 5 deciduous trees, and 5 plum/crabapple. The total project cost is anticipated to cost \$9,132.00. These groups are allowed to request up to 50% cost share of the total project cost from the NRD. The planting map of the area in question is provided below.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Community Forestry application from Stone Ridge Estates HOA with a total project cost of \$9,132.00, with the NRD share not to exceed \$4,500.00.**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Last on the agenda were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: Backyard Prairie Pollinator Program, Cottontail WMA grassland renovation project video, and property survey/staking at Wabash.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file