



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 12, 2024

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 Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at 5:32 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Christine Lamberty – Chair, Mark Spangler, Seth Hawkins, Don Jacobson, and Ray Stevens. Other attendees were Mike Sousek, David Potter, and Will Inselman.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of the conservation easement acquisition from the National Audubon Society at the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Staff discussed that we are at the final phases of acquiring the conservation easement. The easement would provide for a trail easement and conservation easement so that the native property is protected, and a trail would be able to be built for the Prairie Corridor project. The contribution towards the purchase of the conservation easement would be from both the Lower Platte South NRD and the City of Lincoln. The Lower Platte South NRD would pay \$700,000 for the conservation easement and would be reimbursed \$200,000 from the City of Lincoln. The NRD Board passed a resolution in September 2023 to accept their \$200,000 contribution towards this purchase. The conservation easement would be acquired on half of the property, approximately 160 acres. The appraisal represents the value on the entire property. The attached easement deed language was updated to include map documents and is the final draft. This document has been reviewed by NRD and Audubon legal counsel. A public hearing was held on Thursday April 11th and a report will be provided to the Directors.

It was moved by Lamberty, seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the appraised value and authorize District staff to acquire a conservation easement from the National Audubon Society, Inc.

Last on the agenda were staff updates. Reports/updates: Stats from the Backyard Prairie Pollinator Program, final tree seedling sales numbers, finished landowner crossing on Oak Creek Trail, and introduction of new staff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file

