



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581 | P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)

### MEMORANDUM

Date: July 11, 2025

To: Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors

From: Eric Zach, Resources Conservationist *EZ*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife Subcommittee met in the NRD large conference room. Subcommittee members present: Seth Hawkins- Chair, Anthony Schutz, Don Jacobson, Stephanie Matejka, Suzanne Mealer, and Mark Spangler. Director Bob Anderson was also present. Subcommittee members not present: Melissa Baker and Christine Lamberty. Other attendees were Dave Potter, Dick Ehrman, Steve Herdzina, and Eric Zach. There were two items on the agenda for consideration.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of bids for the installation of livestock and monitoring wells. On Monday, June 30, 2025, at 2:00 PM, District staff held a bid opening for the project to install two monitoring wells in the Ashland CWSPA, repair one existing well in the Dwight Valparaiso Brainard Ground Water Reservoir and one in the Ceresco CWSPA and install three livestock wells on two Prairie Corridor properties. District staff contacted approximately 15 contractors, and only one bid was received. Sargent Drilling Company of Geneva, NE submitted the only bid of \$148,465. The bids were solicited using unit costs (i.e., per linear foot for test hole drilling, monitoring well drilling, per pump for pump installation, etc.). Therefore, the above total is a general estimate as to final costs. The bid package included elements related to both the Water Resources and Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife Subcommittees, but it was brought before the latter due to the solar livestock wells constituting 68% of the overall project cost. Staff answered questions about whether the bid was in line with estimates and what happens if the final costs far exceed the bid. Comments were made that the monitoring well work was in line with estimates and that solar well costs were higher than expected due to an increase in cost for solar pump components. Staff commented that they used their knowledge of the area and geology to estimate depth of wells and are confident in the costs.

**It was moved by Matejka, seconded by Mealer, and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid of \$148,465.00 from Sargent Drilling**



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### **Company for the installation and repair of District monitoring wells and the installation of livestock wells on NRD properties in the Prairie Corridor.**

#### **Motion Passed: 6-0**

The second item on the agenda was the consideration of a cost-share agreement with NE Game and Parks for woody vegetation removal at Timber Point WMA. District staff have made plans to restore approximately 31 acres of grasslands on Timber Point WMA this next FY in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). NGPC, using federal Pittman-Robertson funds, will provide 75% cost-share on the projects. The project will remove all invasive woody vegetation with mechanical and chemical treatment. The woody vegetation removal portions of the project would be completed by April 15, 2026, with herbicide follow-up treatments in 2026 and 2027. In the last three years, the District has initiated and executed four of these agreements on other properties. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has been a great partner in helping the District manage woody encroachment on its grasslands. Staff fielded questions about alternatives to burning tree piles and previous management on the area. Comments were made about other methods of getting rid of tree piles being cost-prohibitive and that staff will maintain these areas with prescribed fire, haying, and other methods as necessary.

**It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Matejka, and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the Assistant General Manager to sign the agreement between the Lower Platte South NRD and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for a grassland enhancement project on Timber Point WMA, with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission providing 75% cost-share on the total project cost, up to \$29,760.00.**

#### **Motion Passed: 6-0**

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

#### **Attachments**

PC: RF&W subcommittee file  
Bob Andersen