



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: September 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, September 11, 2023, at 6:12 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Small Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Gary Hellerich, Christine Lamberty, Don Jacobson, John Yoakum, and Ray Stevens. Other attendees Mike Sousek, David Potter, Ariana Kennedy, and Will Inselman.

The first item on the agenda was the MoPac/Homestead Trail bank stabilization project. There are five locations on Homestead Trail (3) and Mopac Trail (2) for this project. These projects were grouped together due to their similarities in work and the need for Section 404 permits. Homestead Trail has two areas for bank stabilization work and gabion baskets, Bridge #11 will require bank stabilization, channel realignment, and rip rap. MoPac Trail has one site in need of bank stabilization and gabion baskets, as well as a failing culvert to be removed and replaced. Five (5) bids were received and opened on Thursday, September 7. Gana Trucking & Excavating had the low bid of \$470,330.13. Olsson is the engineer on the project and recommends Gana Trucking & Excavating be awarded the project. Olsson's letter, bid tab, and two maps showing the locations of the project are attached to this memo. The project is expected to be completed this winter.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid from Gana Trucking & Excavating in the amount of \$470,330.13 for the MoPac Trail and Homestead Trail bank stabilization project.**

Contractor	Bid Amount
Gana Trucking and Excavation	\$470,330.13
Van Dorn Valley Construction, LLC	\$559,694.00
MC Wells	\$736,410.00
Nebraska Digging Services, LLC	\$998,814.55
HR Bookstrom	\$1,600,713.00

Second on the agenda was the Red Cedar Wildlife Management Area (WMA) grassland/oak savannah restoration project. Staff received bids to conduct ~29 acres of invasive tree removal, primarily eastern redcedar and autumn olive, on Red Cedar WMA. Some areas will remove other non-desirable hardwood species to create



an oak savannah extending from existing high quality oak woodlands. Bid packets were sent to six (6) contractors, but only one bid was received. That bid was for \$17,000.00 (\$586.20/acre) from Midwest Tree Cutters, Inc. Staff have worked with this company in the past and have had a very positive experience. Staff recommended accepting this bid. Director Hellerich wanted to add an additional area to the project to remove trees located below the east parking lot adjacent to the lake. This would open more shoreline area for angler access. Staff agreed that this would be a good idea and would work this out with the contractor.

**It was moved by Schutz and seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid from Midwest Tree Cutters, Inc. in the amount of \$17,000.00 for the Red Cedar WMA Grassland and Oak Woodland Restoration Project and an additional \$1,000 for additional tree removal at the site.**

Contractor	Bid Amount
Midwest Tree Cutters, Inc.	\$17,000.00
Uncle Loyd's Tree Shearing	No Bid
MRT Sales and Service, LLC	No Bid
Benzinger Pasture Clearing	No Bid
Cedar Wrangler Forestry Services	No Bid
Bohemian Lumberjack Company, LLC	No Bid

Third on the agenda was the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Lincoln to proceed with acquiring a conservation easement from Audubon on their newly acquired 310-acre property, formally known as the Boman property. Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) and Lincoln Parks and Recreation had agreed to help fund the acquisition, and in return for their contributions, would receive a conservation easement on the new property at a value of \$700,000. This MOU would serve as the legal document to allow Lincoln Parks and Rec to transfer \$200,000 to LPSNRD to add to LPSNRD's commitment of \$500,000. This document serves as the conduit for the City's funds to be transferred to LPSNRD for the purchase of the conservation easement.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the memorandum of understanding between the Lower Platte South NRD and the City of Lincoln for the purposes of acquiring a conservation easement from The National Audubon Society.**

**Motion Passed: 5-1 (Hellerich voting NO)**

Fourth on the agenda was a request by LPSNRD staff to begin the LPSNRD's acquisition process to acquire a conservation easement on Audubon's new 310-acre property that is adjacent to the north boundary of Spring Creek Prairie. This would allow staff to begin the LPSNRD's formal process for acquisition. LPSNRD and Lincoln Parks and Recreation have agreed to commit a combined total of \$700,000 towards this acquisition. The next steps would be to formalize the conservation easement language to initiate an appraisal.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend District staff to begin the conservation easement acquisition process with The National Audubon Society.**

Fifth on the agenda was a request from LPSNRD staff to begin the LPSNRD's acquisition process to acquire a conservation easement on the Next to Nine Mile Prairie, LLC property in NW Lincoln. Staff have been in contact with the Oberg family for nearly a year and have completed an appraisal of the property. A few months ago, staff had applied for an NRCS grant to help offset the cost of the easement. The NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) program provides up to 50% cost-share on conservation easements. LPSNRD was successful in its application and was awarded 50% cost-share

(\$304,500.00) to purchase this conservation easement. Staff fielded questions on the value of the easement and questions on neighboring properties. Discussion was had on the future of this area for development and designation of this property in Lincoln's 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

**It was moved by Yoakum and 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 negotiate and acquire a conservation easement on the Next to Nine Mile Prairie, LLC. property.**

Sixth on the agenda was a request by the Lancaster County Engineering Department to purchase a permanent easement on LPSNRD's Honvlez Prairie property for the replacement of the bridge on SW 91<sup>st</sup> Street south of Denton. This area has received a lot of attention over the past few months regarding the bridge replacement and the future of SW 91<sup>st</sup> Street. At this time the County is proceeding with the bridge replacement and in order to do so will need access to our property to replace the bridge. The County has requested 0.48 acres to be purchased at a value of \$7,200 (90% of value at \$8,000/acre). The LPSNRD would receive \$3,511.00 from the County.

**It was moved by Hellerich and seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved to authorize the General Manager to sign the Lancaster County Engineering Department Right-Of-Way Contract for the purchase of a permanent easement of 0.48 acres on the Honvlez Prairie to replace a bridge on SW 91st Street, pending legal counsel review.**

Last on the agenda were staff updates. Reports/updates: Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum trails plan assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file