



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH **natural resources district**

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Memorandum

Date: January 13, 2022

To: Each Director

From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager

RE: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Water Resources Subcommittee met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 via zoom. Subcommittee members participating included Larry Ruth, Chelsea Johnson, John Yoakum, Vern Barrett, Ken Vogel, and Gary Hellerich. Other Directors participating included Deborah Eagan. And others participating included Katie Cameron, Dick Ehrman, David Potter, Tracy Zayac, Mike Murren, Chris Witthuhn, Maclane Scott, and myself.

Chair Ruth opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. The first item on the agenda was consideration of Water Sustainability Fund Contract #5311 for the Lower Platte South NRD Three-Dimensional Hydrogeologic Framework Project. Ehrman first discussed the Water Sustainability Fund administered by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Ehrman then explained the project, see attached memo, and reported that if approved the District would then obtain professional services to help implement the project. It was moved by Barrett, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Water Sustainability Fund Contract #5311 to receive State funding of \$247,500 with \$165,000 LPSNRD matching funds.

The next items on the agenda were several actions related to the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA). A memo is attached that provides the background information on the "ENWRA" action items. Katie Cameron reviewed ENWRA's history and purpose. Cameron reported on the consideration of Water Sustainability Fund Contract #5312 for the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Groundwater Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessment Project (ENWRA memo Item #1a). It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Water Sustainability Fund Grant Contract #5312 on behalf of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment to receive the \$144,000.00 in state granted funds (60%) with \$96,000.00 local match funds (40%).

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey for assistance with the Groundwater Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessment Project. Cameron reviewed the agreement (ENWRA memo Item #1b). It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Yoakum, and

unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey cooperative agreement (\$89,000) for accomplishing the WSF Contract #5312 grant scope.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a U.S. Geologic Survey Joint Funding Agreement for assistance with the Groundwater Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessment Project. Cameron then reviewed the agreement (ENWRA memo Item 1c). It was moved by Barrett, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for accomplishing the WSF Contract #5312 grant scope (\$151,000 in ENWRA funds, \$74,000 in USGS cooperative dollars).

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a multi-NRD Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for the Nebraska GeoCloud (NGC) Project. Cameron reviewed the agreement (ENWRA memo item #2a) and the Subcommittee discussed the storage of information in the "cloud" and a desire to have the information based in the US. It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Nebraska GeoCloud Interlocal (\$115,000 in ENWRA funds) to provide \$115,000 for the Nebraska GeoCloud, pending completion of legal review.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of an Agreement with UNL Conservation & Survey Division for the Nebraska GeoCloud Project. Cameron reviewed the agreement (ENWRA memo item 2b). It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division (UNL CSD) subagreement (pending the execution of the interlocal) to provide the UNL CSD \$115,000 for the Nebraska GeoCloud, pending completion of legal review.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Interlocal Agreement #7. Cameron reported that this item (ENWRA memo item #3) would extend this interlocal agreement for an additional 5 years. It was moved by Barrett, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Interlocal Agreement Amendment #7 extending the ENWRA interlocal agreement 5 more Fiscal Years pending completion of legal review.

The next item on the agenda was the last ENWRA item. Cameron reported on the need to consider a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division for the ENWRA Coordinator Position (ENWRA memo item #4). This agreement includes the cost-share arrangement between UNL and ENWRA for the coordinator position. Many comments were made appreciative of the work done by Cameron. It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement providing the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey

Division (UNL CSD) 60 percent (%) of the salary and benefits plus operating costs for the ENWRA Coordinator Position for the next 5 Fiscal Years pending completion of legal review.

The next item on the agenda was to consider updates to our groundwater best management practice cost-share programs. Ehrman reported that we do this annually and staff is recommending we update the maximum cost for the Water Meter Cost-share Program (see attached memo) as the cost of meters have increased. Hellerich shared with the Subcommittee that there are also installation costs to the well owner. The Subcommittee asked staff to discuss this further with the Subcommittee at the next meeting. It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors increase the maximum limit of the Water Meter Cost-share Program from \$650 to \$750 beginning in calendar year 2022.**

The Subcommittee then heard several reports on work being done to update our groundwater Rules & Regulations, getting proposals to install a weather station in the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard area to assist with irrigation management decisions, the potential to receive grant funding to hire a drinking water protection specialist to work with Waverly and other communities in the NRD, and reported that staff is working on determining the steps needed in order to resume work on the permitting and completion of the Piening Dam just upstream of Pawnee Lake.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger