



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

natural resources district

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## Memorandum

**Date:** October 10, 2024

**To:** Water Resources Subcommittee

**From:** Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator 

**Subject:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – October 2024

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on October 9, 2024, at the NRD office, at 5:30 pm to discuss one item and take action on 5 items. Subcommittee members who participated included Susan Seacrest- committee chair, Bob Andersen, Melissa Baker, Deborah Eagan, Gary Hellerich, Luke Petersen, and Larry Ruth. Director Greg Osborn was in attendance. Others participating included NRD Staff Mike Sousek, Dick Ehrman, and Drew Ratkovec. Katie Cameron from ENWRA was also in attendance. Director Seacrest called the meeting to order at 5:29 am. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **A. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Update [Discussion]–**

Katie Cameron, ENWRA Projects Coordinator presented an update on the ENWRA website and walked through the AEM data for the district. She gave an update on the water quality and quantity monitoring, ENWRA recharge, ENWRA Archive, test hole drilling, and old AEM projects. The next part of the presentation was to discuss upcoming projects and presentations to showcase information from the website. The Mesonet website has been updated and it is in the NRD LRIP to acquire another weather station. Questions were answered throughout.

### **B. Consideration of the Joint Funding Agreement between the LPSNRD and USGS [ACTION]–**

Cameron discussed that the Joint Funding Agreement for the ENWRA recharge and focus area projects ends October 30, 2024, and must be extended. This is a no-cost modification that extends the agreement to June 30, 2025. The extension's purpose is to complete the final report by USGS.

- Work Type: Water Resources Investigations/Study
- Funding: ENWRA
- Completion: June 30, 2025
- Payers, Players, & Partners: ENWRA, USGS, NRD
- Deliverables: USGS publication and associated online interactive map with high, moderate, and low recharge areas for the top 50 feet as well as focus area boundaries, bedrock, contours, and example visual cross-sections for alluvial, paleochannel, and other identified units/features

**It was moved by Eagan, seconded by Ruth, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve for the General Manager to sign the Joint Funding Agreement on behalf of ENWRA.**

**C. Consideration of the Annual Streamgage Operation Agreement with the United States Geologic Survey Division. [ACTION]–**

Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator gave background on the annual streamgage agreement with USGS. 15 of these gages are used to monitor water levels and precipitation and are an important tool for the district's flood alert procedures. The total amount of the agreement is \$174,135 or \$46,920 for USGS and \$127,215 for LPSNRD. Six of the gages are part of the flood warning system with the City of Lincoln reimbursing the LPSNRD 50% through the Stormwater Interlocal Agreement. The new agreement was sent out only days before the last agreement expired, which is why the motion is to ratify the signature. General Manager Sousek needed to sign the new agreement and return it to USGS for them to continue their work.

- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD/City of Lincoln
- Proposal: \$127,215.00
- Completion: September 30, 2025
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, USGS, City of Lincoln
- Deliverables: Operation and maintenance of streamgages

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Andersen, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve to ratify the signature for the Annual Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for the operation of 15 streamgages for \$127,215.00.**

**D. Consideration of Piening Water Quality Basin Flood Pool Easement-Robotham [ACTION]–**

Ratkovec gave a brief update on the coordination of the Piening Water Quality Basin. 2024 precipitation data increased the flood pool for the Piening Water Quality Basin and additional easement area needed to be acquired. David Robotham, a landowner north of the Piening structure has agreed to grant the additional acres for a consideration of \$4,000.00. There would be a total of 0.5 acres of flood pool easement on the property.

- Work Type: Perpetual Easement for Piening Water Quality Basin
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Proposal: \$4,000.00
- Start: Upon Board Approval
- Access: No Concerns
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Landowner
- Legal Counsel Review: Yes

**It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Peterson, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Piening Flood Control Structure Easement with David Robotham for \$4,000.00, pending Legal Counsel Review.**

**E. Consideration of Piening Water Quality Basin Flood Pool Easement-Piening [ACTION]–**

Ratkovec gave a brief update on the coordination of the Piening Water Quality Basin. Additional easement area is needed for the flood pool as well as what DNR is requiring the LPSNRD to acquire for the construction of the Piening Water Quality Basin. This easement is granted for the purpose of and in connection with the construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, repair, and inspection of the flood control structure. Orell and Jane Piening are willing to grant this easement to the LPSNRD for consideration of \$1.00.

- Work Type: Perpetual Easement for Piening Water Quality Basin
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Start: Upon Board Approval

- Access: No Concerns
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Orell/Jane Piening
- Legal Counsel Review: Yes

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Andersen, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Piening Flood Control Structure Easement with Orell and Jane Piening for \$1.00, pending Legal Counsel Review.**

**F. Consideration of Piening Water Quality Basin Temporary Construction Easement [ACTION]–**

Ratkovec gave a brief update on the coordination of the Piening Water Quality Basin. A temporary construction easement will need to be acquired for the construction, staging, operating, and parking of construction equipment, and the temporary storage of construction materials. Orell and Jane Piening are willing to grant this easement to the LPSNRD for consideration of \$1.00.

- Work Type: Temporary Construction Easement
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Start: Upon Board Approval
- Completion: End of FY25/Upon Construction Completion
- Access: No Concerns
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Orell/Jane Piening
- Legal Counsel Review: Yes

**It was moved by Baker, seconded by Eagan, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Piening Flood Control Structure Temporary Construction Easement with Orell and Jane Piening for \$1.00, pending Legal Counsel Review.**

**Updates:** Larry Ruth gave an update on the Nebraska Water Conference and directors discussed cover crops, the District's rolling allocation for pumping groundwater, and community engagement. The meeting ended with a discussion about an NRD flood control structure.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Enclosures.

cc: Dave Landis  
Corey Wasserburger