



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

Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Mike Murren Projects Coordinator ~~MM~~
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee meeting minutes

The Water Resource Subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday April 11, 2023, at NRD office, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members present included Larry Ruth, Melissia Baker, Luke Peterson, Don Jacobson, Gary Hellerich, and Bob Andersen. Others present were Paul Zillig, Dave Potter, Dick Ehrman, Drew Ratkovec, Maclane Scott, Chris Withuhn, Mike Sousek, and Mike Murren all with the LPSNRD. Jon Mohr from LRE and Jason Lenkau with the Village of Malcolm were also in attendance. There were five agenda items the Subcommittee acted on and heard five reports.

9A. Water Well Permit Study Assistance Program

This topic has been discussed at the previous meetings. Director Hellerich has decided to place his request on hold.

9B. NDEE/319 Drinking Water Specialist Position Agreement (Attachment) (Document pages 4-31)

Dick Ehrman gave an update on the agreement with NDEE. This agreement will commit \$205,000 for a three-year grant cycle to hire a drinking water specialist to work with the City of Waverly and other communities within our district. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Jacobson to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the finalized Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and LPSNRD for implementation of the Waverly Wellhead Protection Project/Drinking Water Protection Specialist position, pending legal counsel review. All present voting Aye

9C. Consideration of the First Amendment to the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (attachment) (Document Pages 32-34)

The first amendment to this agreement is a result of a WSF (Water Sustainability Fund) grant application. All three sponsors will have an increase of \$8,225.00 from the original agreement, which brings the three-year total commitment of \$71,091.67 per NRD. This grant will help develop

the baseline sub regional groundwater flow model of the Lower Platte River Basin. It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Jacobson to recommend the Board of Directors approve the First Amendment to the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-Regional Groundwater Monitoring Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. All present voting Aye.

9D. Report on Upper Salt 1-A &76-A easement encroachment, will be submitted to the Executive Subcommittee - Paul Zillig (attachment) (Document pages 35-40)

There are two dam locations where the property owner has encroached upon our easement. Zillig was present to explain each case. Zillig told the subcommittee that this matter will be taken up by the Executive subcommittee.

9E. Discussion and possible action to increase the cost share on the LPSNRD Well Decommissioning Program (attachment) (Document Page 41).

Staff has reviewed the well decommissioning cost share program. Maclane Scott reported that costs for labor and equipment costs have grown in the past few years and needs to be updated. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Baker to recommend the Board of Directors authorize a rate increase for the water well decommissioning program “well casing/pit removal” cost-share amount from \$195 to \$500. All present voting Aye.

9F. Update on Lincoln’s 2nd Water Source (permitting & regional interest) Zillig (attachment) (Document page 42-44).

Zillig gave an update the on the status of Lincoln’s second water source. The map provided showed the route and approximate location of the new well field. Ehrman provided the subcommittee state statute 46-655.01 that outlines the process of approval of the permits.

9G. Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard Special Management Area (DVB SMA) allocation pumping report Ehrman (attachment) (Document Page 45).

Dick Ehrman gave an update on the 2022 pumping report in the DVB SMA. The report showed the average pumped on forty-two wells in the West Block was 5.48 inches with only 3.12 inches of rainfall reported. The East Block had an average of 4.44 pumped on twenty-four wells with the same rainfall. Ehrman was very pleased with the irrigators in the DVB SMA and how they have adapted to the water allocations that are in place.

9H. PFAS Update- Water Strategies memo report (Attachment) (Document Page 46-47)

Ehrman reviewed the memo from Water Strategies LLC regarding PFAS, which is a class of about three hundred chemicals used for such things as fire suppression foam, anti-stick compounds like Teflon, Gore-Tex, etc. These compounds are extremely persistent and so are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals.” He overviewed some of the concerns regarding sampling and analysis of

the compounds (a single analysis is about \$200; detections are typically quantified in parts per trillion). Zillig noted that these compounds, though pervasive and persistent, may not be able to be classified as nonpoint source contaminants, which would mean that NRDs would have little or no authority over them. This issue will continue to develop in the future and the Board will be updated periodically.

9I. Malcolm Aquifer Analysis -Action (attachment) (Document Page 48-51)

Jon Mohr from LRE Water and Jason Lemkau from Village of Malcolm was present to request assistance of \$6,500.00 to develop their wellhead protection plan. The Village is looking at the possibility of future development and want to take a proactive approach to the water needs for the area. The Village of Malcolm is submitting a grant to NDEE Source Water Protection Program Grant to assist with their project It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Peterson to recommend the Board of Directors authorize cost-share up to \$6,500 of LPSNRD funds to support the Malcolm Aquifer Analysis Project, specifically development and implementation of Malcolm's Wellhead Protection Plan. All present voting aye.

9J. Representative from WRS to serve on the Salt Creek Flood Resiliency Subcommittee

At the April special board meeting Chair Landis had asked for one representative from the WRS to be on the Salt Creek Flood Resiliency committee. Ruth opened the floor to who is interested on serving on this subcommittee. Director Hellerich and Luke Peterson expressed interest, and each gave their reasons. Peterson pointed out he is on the F&P subcommittee and would have an opportunity to serve from that subcommittee. Andersen also pointed out it would be good to have some agricultural background on the subcommittee. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Peterson to elect Hellerich to represent the WRS on the Salt Creek Flood Resiliency Subcommittee. All present voting aye with Hellerich abstaining.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Enc.

Cc: Steve Seglin

Corey Wasserburger

Dave Landis