




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: May 16, 2025
To: Water Resources Subcommittee
From: Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator 
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – May 2025

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on May 14, 2025, at the NRD office, at 5:00 pm to take action on 2 items. Subcommittee members who participated included Don Jacobson- committee chair, Melissa Baker, Gary Hellerich, and Anthony Schutz. Others participating included Board Chair Bob Andersen, Director Gary Aldridge, NRD Staff Dick Ehrman, Mike Sousek, David Potter, Katie Cameron (ENWRA), and Drew Ratkovec. Ryan Winkel from Houston Engineering was also in attendance. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. A quorum was not present for the meeting.

A. Consideration of Amendment #2 to the Cooperative Agreement between LPSNRD and UNL-CSD [ACTION]–

Katie Cameron, ENWRA Project Coordinator provided background information on Amendment #2 to the Cooperative Agreement signed May 28, 2020, between LPSNRD and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln through its Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources (UNL-CSD) This agreement is up for renewal June 30, 2025. Questions and discussion followed about public engagement and access to the data being collected.

- Work Type: Test-hole drilling, geophysical measurements, and/or other hydrogeologic services
- Budget: Included
- Funding: NRD
- Cost: \$15,000 per year (\$45,000 total over three years)
 - ENWRA reimbursement in FY27 or FY28 for \$9,150.00
- Start: Upon Board Approval (June 2025)
- Completion: June 30, 2028
- Delays: N/A
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, ENWRA, UNL-CSD

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Hellerich, and approved (3-0) by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey cooperative agreement Amendment #2 (\$45,000) for accomplishing test-hole drilling, geophysical measurements, and/or other hydrogeologic services.

B. Consideration of a Professional Agreement with Houston Engineering for the Janssen Road Structure Spillway Replacement [ACTION]–

Ratkovec provided background information for the professional agreement with Houston Engineering. The Janssen Road Structure is located in Seward County, south of Garland. In the 2025 annual inspection, it was found to have a separated pipe structure. NRD staff met with Seward County officials and discussed a plan

moving forward. Staff from both agencies agree this pipe needs to be fixed as quickly as possible and have signed a supplement agreement identifying the project and responsibilities.

Houston Engineering, who is currently working on a dam rehabilitation and has completed several dam rehabilitation projects in the past for the LPSNRD, was asked to investigate the pipe. Houston used a rover camera to drive through the pipe and discovered it had several issues. Not only does the pipe have a separation, but it also has corrosion and small to large holes throughout. It was Houston's recommendation to replace the entire pipe structure. NRD and Seward County staff agree with Houston's recommendation. Due to the nature of the pipe, dirt erosion through the structure creating large holes in the embankment, and for the safety of the road, both parties agreed that this should be fixed right away. Houston provided a professional agreement for project management, design, permitting, bidding, and construction observation. Discussion followed about the agreement between the District and County, as well as this project being included in the FY 26 Budget.

- Work Type: Professional Agreement for Engineering & Design
- Deliverables: Project Management, Design, Permitting, Bidding, Construction Observation
- Permits: USACE 404 Nationwide, NDNR Permit
- Funding: 75% NRD & 25% Seward County
- Proposal: \$43,785.00
- Bid Using Budget/List of Consultants Hourly Rates & Tasks
- Budget: Included in FY 26
- Access: No Concerns
- Start: Upon Board Approval/June 2025
- Completion: July 2026
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Seward County, Houston
- Legal Counsel Review: Yes

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Schutz, and approved (4 -0) by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering for the Janssen Road Structure Spillway Replacement for \$43,785.00.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20

Enclosures:

Cc: Bob Andersen

Corey Wasserburger