



# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

## natural resources district

Item #8

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## Memorandum

**Date:** January 17, 2018  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager  
**Subject:** Executive Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in the NRD Office. Subcommittee members present included Ray Stevens, Milt Schmidt, Deborah Eagan, Jeremie Kerkman, Larry Ruth, and Greg Osborn. Others present included Cory Schmidt – NRCS, Steve Seglin, Al Langdale, David Potter, and myself.

Chair Stevens opened the meeting and Langdale reported on the two Correctional Services Work Crews utilized by the NRD and the need to enter into a new 2018 Work Crew Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, additional information can be found in the January 12<sup>th</sup> memo to the Board. Seglin discussed his review of the agreement. The Subcommittee agreed that legal counsel needs to discuss several points with Correctional Services legal counsel and make the appropriate changes to the agreement.

It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Eagan, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee **recommend the Board of Directors approve a Work Crew Agreement with Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, pending legal counsel review.**

The next item on the agenda was an update on the status of a funding agreement with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for hiring a technician to assist with conservation efforts. I reported that, last month, the Board authorized the hiring of a third Conservation Technician upon receiving approval of the NACD Technical Assistance Grant. I reported that NACD has provided us with an “Initial Transaction Agreement” which requests the first \$5,000, with the understanding that there will be a more formal agreement to be signed before the remaining funds are available (total funds requested \$51,600).

The Subcommittee discussed the situation and their desire to not move forward with hiring an additional technician until a more formal agreement is approved with NACD. The Subcommittee felt that the Board should approve the initial transaction agreement at this time. It was moved by Ruth, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the NACD Technical Assistance Grant – Initial Transaction Agreement.**



Stevens reported on the 2018 Legislative Session and how the NRD can best provide input on proposed legislation. Stevens reported that Thursday is the last day that bills can be introduced and the Executive Subcommittee plans to then meet prior to the NARD Legislative Conference to review the bills of interest and discuss potential positions on the bills. Shortly after the NARD Legislative Conference the NRD needs to be in position to inform our Senators of the NRD's position on the bills of interest to the NRD. This would require the Board to authorize the Executive Subcommittee to establish positions on the bills, with the understanding that those positions could be changed at the February Board Meeting, this is the same process that was followed last year.

The Subcommittee discussed the process and felt that it worked good last year. It was moved by Kerkman, seconded by Osborn, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Subcommittee to establish the NRD's position on the Legislative Bills.**

The subcommittee then heard reports a lawsuit update from Seglin, the proposed schedule to close the neighboring fire station in the spring of 2019, the NARD Basin tour will likely be held in LPS/NNRD on June 11/12, we will review vacation/sick leave and other benefits this spring, and the GM performance evaluation will be sent out this week.

I then reported on the Water Sustainability Fund and a proposed rule change to require all permits to be acquired prior to submitting an application for WSF assistance. The Subcommittee discussed concerns that all pre-application costs are not eligible for WSF cost-share which in this case would include most of the engineering and permitting expenses, requiring permits to be obtained prior to the WSF application would only further delay the project, and in most cases knowing that you will receive WSF assistance is critical in deciding if you want to proceed with the project. The Subcommittee was not in favor of the rule change and felt there should be some other solution to the problem.

It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to direct the General Manager to submit written testimony to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission in opposition to the proposed rule change to require all permits be obtained prior to submitting an application for WSF assistance (Title 261, Chapter 2, Rule 009.02).

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

PDZ/pz

pc: Steve Seglin