



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: June 16, 2023
To: Each Director
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager
Subject: Finance & Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Finance & Planning Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, in the NRD Office. Subcommittee members in attendance included Chelsea Johnson, Ray Stevens, Christine Lamberty, Deborah Eagan, Melissa Baker, Luke Peterson Bob Andersen and Ken Vogel. Others attending included David Landis, David Potter, Mike Sousek, Kristin Buntemeyer and myself.

Johnson opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. The first agenda item was to consider a budget overrun on Wetland Operation & Maintenance. I reported that budget code 469041 includes expenditures for wetland maintenance on the NRD's wetland properties. The Schleich Wetland Headcut Repair project was estimated and budgeted a year ago to cost \$50,000, upon completion of the design the estimated cost increased substantially and then the bids were then in line with the updated estimated cost (\$125,000). This then resulted in the actual expenses for budget code 469041 increasing to \$168,712 (\$150,000 budgeted).

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee (7 "yes", Peterson had not yet arrived) to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the budget overrun in budget code 469041 Wetlands Operation & Maintenance.**

The next item on the agenda was to review Draft #1 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 LPSNRD Budget. Attached is an email summarizing the current status and a list of some of the major projects and expenditures included in Draft #1. I reminded the Subcommittee that this draft of the budget includes all of the requests from each of the NRD Subcommittees and the process has been to present this to the full Board and public, update the budget as of the end of the fiscal year, and then in July this Subcommittee would begin the process to prepare a balanced budget for Board consideration. The Subcommittee discussed property tax, previous tax levies, and projected valuations.

The Subcommittee then began a line-by-line review of the proposed budget. Good discussion was shared on observations, questions, the rational of some of the programs, projects and costs, and priorities. The Subcommittee discussed the larger than normal gap between revenue and expenditures and the challenge for the Subcommittee when they meet in July (the Subcommittee

felt they need to wait until the end of the fiscal year before they begin their work on balancing the budget in early July). It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee (8-0) to submit Draft #1 of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to the Board for review and public comment at the June Board Meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a report on Nebraska CLASS and the LPSNRD investment options. I reviewed the attached table showing the daily yield, for May and June, for Nebraska CLASS and NPAIT. The Subcommittee discussed last month's action to become a participant in Nebraska CLASS. There was some discussion on whether any additional Board action is required, it was decided that the Subcommittee should report to the Board that the Treasurer should consider investing some funds with Nebraska CLASS. It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to support the investment of NRD funds in Nebraska CLASS starting in FY'24.

The next item on the agenda was an update on a possible solution for the NRD's storage and maintenance yard needs. I reported that a 20-acre acreage located 1.5 miles north of the I-80 27th Street exit was for sale (see attached maps), this area is also adjacent to Arbor Lake. The property has two storage buildings that would fit the NRD's short-term storage needs but would need to be supplemented. The Subcommittee agreed that the property fits the NRD's needs and the NRD should consider purchasing the property. The Subcommittee discussed the need to bring this to the Board next week and decided that they should make a motion to get it on the agenda and then the Board can get updated and discuss it further on the 21st.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Stevens, an unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to negotiate the purchase of a storage property with joint authority for purchase granted to the General Manager, Board Chair and Board Treasurer of the LPSNRD, pending legal counsel approval.**

The final item on the agenda was an update on conservation easement interest in the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor. Several landowners have expressed interest and staff anticipates that the RF&W Subcommittee will be bringing a recommendation to the Board in July.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

PDZ/pz

Encl. 5

pc: Steve Seglin
Corey Wasserburger