



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: November 19, 2024
To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors
From: Jodi Delozier, Communications Coordinator
Subject: Minutes for Information and Education Subcommittee Meeting

The Information and Education (I&E) Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 12, at 5:00 PM, in the large conference room. Subcommittee members present were Ken Vogel (Chair), Tom Green, Gary Aldridge, John Yoakum, Ray Stevens, Susan Seacrest, and Lisa Lewis. Others in attendance included staff members Mike Sousek, Jodi Delozier, Sam Elofson, and Adam Sutton. I&E Subcommittee member Melissa Baker was not present. There was one item on the agenda for consideration.

The sole agenda item was the review of an updated website development proposal.

It was moved by Chair Vogel and seconded by Director Yoakum to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Website Development Proposal submitted by Unanimous to rebuild, upgrade, host, and maintain the website platform using Drupal 10 at a cost of \$25,000.

Following the second, the floor was opened for discussion. Delozier summarized the need for an updated website and outlined specifics pertaining to a website rebuild.

The current website, built by Unanimous and launched in 2018, operates on Drupal 7 as its content management system. However, Drupal 7 is set to reach its end of life in 2025, which means it will no longer receive official community security support. The proposal outlines a transition from version 7 to version 10, requiring a full website rebuild to integrate with the latest platform. While staff has arranged for continued support of Drupal 7 through a Pantheon-powered hosting platform, the upgrade remains essential for several reasons. An unsupported website is vulnerable to security breaches and cyberattacks, making it crucial to protect both District data and user information. Compatibility issues could disrupt website functionality, leading to broken features and poor user experience. Additionally, the current platform is outdated, making it difficult for users to navigate and find information efficiently.

Staff confirmed that seven years between updates is a significant span in the digital world. The updated version will streamline navigation and allow future updates (e.g., version 10 to 11) to be implemented without requiring a complete rebuild. The timeline for completion is four to six months. During the process, a staging area will be created to host the website for testing, ensuring the current website remains functional for the District throughout the rebuild.

Staff confirmed that the website rebuild can be funded through the I&E General Awareness budget. Legal counsel has reviewed the proposal and raised no objections to proceeding.

Calling for and hearing no more discussion, Chair Vogel called for a vote.

Motion passed: 6 (Aldridge voting present)

There being no further business, Chair Vogel adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

PC: I&E subcommittee file