



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** June 15, 2018  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Mike Mascoe, Public Information Specialist  
**Subject:** I&E Subcommittee Meeting

The Information and Education Subcommittee met Thursday, June 14th at 4:00 PM at the NRD office. Subcommittee members present were Deborah Eagan (Chair), Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Mike DeKalb, Chelsea Johnson, Anthony Schutz and Dan Steinkruger. Two guest speakers, Board Chair Ray Stevens and staff members Paul Zillig, McKenzie Barry, and Mike Mascoe also attended.

Chair Eagan called the meeting to order. Barry summarized a request from the Lincoln Children's Zoo for the NRD to help sponsor the zoo's new Playful Stream exhibit at a cost of \$10,000 per year for five years. Zoo Executive Director John Chapo presented information about the role green practices play in providing Nebraska's third most visited attraction. He said the requested NRD sponsorship would not only help provide a place for many kids to learn about nature by playing, but would also increase awareness to LPSNRD's dedication to environmental education. Barry told the subcommittee the sponsorship is in the FY 2019 Budget Draft. **It was moved by DeKalb, seconded by Aldridge and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the request to sponsor the Playful Stream exhibit at the Lincoln Children's Zoo for five years at \$10,000 per year.**

Barry, then, outlined a request from Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) to cost-share on field trips to the Lincoln Children's Zoo for English Language Learner (ELL), Level 1 students and introduced LPS English Language Curriculum Specialist Kate Damgaard. Damgaard told the subcommittee there are 3,297 ELL students in LPS and 416 of those are considered at Level 1, of five. She explained Level 1 prepares ELL students to enter regular classrooms the following school year and field trips are a great way to help students interact and learn about animals and their habitats. Barry explained these students are not included in programs currently sponsored by the NRD, such as prairie immersion and earth wellness festival. The request is for \$1,100 per year and Barry said the funding is included in the FY 2019 Budget Draft. She also said the NRD will offer similar support to other school districts. **It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Barrett and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve cost-sharing with Lincoln Public Schools for English Language Learner, Level 1 field trips to the Lincoln Children's Zoo in the amount of \$1,100.**

Next on the agenda was an outdoor classroom grant request from St. John the Baptist School, in Plattsmouth. The grant would help provide perennials, bushes and trees for the second phase of work on an existing outdoor classroom. Barry said the initial phase was completed in 2017 and the school plans to begin additional work in July, with completion anticipated in late August. Other funding help includes \$1,500 from the school's PTO for an arbor and another \$4,200 in volunteer labor and materials for a concrete patio and brick pathway. It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Outdoor Classroom Program grant request from St. John the Baptist School, in Plattsmouth, in the amount of \$2,000.

The subcommittee also discussed content possibilities in one or more new television ads. The subcommittee decided, earlier this year, to cancel the NRD's spring TV campaign and, instead, use the money for producing a new ad(s). Staff will evaluate the discussion and approach the subcommittee with additional questions or proposals.

There being no further business, Chair Eagan adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

MM/mm