




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors
DATE: October 9, 2023
FROM: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
SUBJECT: Integrated Management Subcommittee meeting minutes.

The Integrated Management Subcommittee met on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Hellerich, Ken Vogel, and John Yoakum. Members absent included Bob Andersen, Luke Peterson, Anthony Schutz, and Mark Spangler. Others present were Dick Ehrman, Steve Herdzina, and David Potter. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chair Jacobson.

The only action item was consideration of the Amended Lower Platte River Consortium Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. In August 2016, the District entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, City of Lincoln-water, Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD), and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) to form the Lower Platte River Consortium. The agreed upon purpose of the Consortium is to (1) evaluate long-term water supplies available to the Lower Platte River sub-basin for enhancing stream flows or aquifer storage to support sustainable public water systems and (2) to implement the Drought Plan. The duration of the agreement was for three (3) years beginning September 27, 2016. In 2019 the agreement was amended to extend the duration to September 27, 2020. In 2020 the agreement was amended to extend it for one more year. In October 2021 it was again amended to extend it to 2022. It was most recently amended in December 2022 to extend it to December 2023. With more work planned by the Consortium, the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement was updated for another year. The Consortium voting members recommended approval of the 2023 Agreement and recommended all participating agencies to formally adopt the agreement. The duration of the new or amended agreement will be for one year from the execution date by the last party and may be extended for successive one-year terms by the mutual agreement of all parties, up to ten additional terms. There are no dues associated with the agreement and no other financial obligations are identified at this time. The Consortium has discussed to extend the agreement for a three-year period at the end of this one-year agreement, which will end November 2024.

The study conducted by the Consortium has led to the development of a Drought Contingency Plan. The Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan was approved by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on September 30, 2019 as a requirement of their Water Smart Grand funding and approved by LPSNRD on December 18, 2019 on behalf of the Consortium. Funding was also obtained through the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF). The complete Plan can be found on the LPSNRD website at <https://www.lpsnrd.org/lower-platte-river-consortium>. A tabletop exercise (drought workshop) was held on August 24, 2021. The Consortium continues to implement the Drought Contingency Plan and provide a framework for coordination and communication addressing drought situations. The Consortium holds regular meetings to discuss drought conditions and possible actions. The last Consortium meeting was held via Zoom on September 7, 2023, and the next meeting is planned for October 17th.

The amended interlocal cooperative agreement was provided to the subcommittee. Terms of the interlocal agreement and updates of the Consortium were discussed. **It was moved by Vogel, seconded Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve the amended Lower Platte River Consortium Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between LPSNRD, LPNNRD, PMRNRD, City of Lincoln, MUD, and NeDNR.**

Next on the agenda was an update on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition. Dick Ehrman provided the subcommittee with the history and current workings of the Coalition.

Discussion was also had on NeDNR's voluntary surface water use reporting in our District as reported in the Integrated Management Plan Annual Report and whether it can be a requirement.

With no further business, the subcommittee meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.