




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors
DATE: December 17, 2019
FROM: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
SUBJECT: Integrated Management Subcommittee meeting minutes.

The Integrated Management Subcommittee met on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the NRD Office in Lincoln. Members present included Sarah Wilson, Bob Andersen, Gary Hellerich, Bruce Johnson, Greg Osborn, and Luke Peterson. Members absent included Chelsea Johnson and Mark Spangler. Others present were Larry Ruth, Don Jacobson, Deborah Eagan, Paul Zillig, David Potter, Dan Schulz, Dick Ehrman, and John Engel (HDR).

The only agenda item was consideration of the Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan. 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 study the long-term water supplies available to the Lower Platte River sub-basin to enhance stream flows or aquifer storage to support during times of drought. Members of the Consortium recently amended the duration of the agreement from three (3) years to four (4) years, now ending September 27, 2020.

The study conducted by the Consortium has led to the development of a Drought Contingency Plan. As of September 30, 2019, the Draft Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan has been approved by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) as a requirement of their Water Smart Grand funding. Funding was also obtained through the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF). See attached Executive Summary of the Plan. The complete Plan can be found on the LPSNRD website at <https://www.lpsnrd.org/lower-platte-river-consortium>. The cost of the plan has been funded as follows:

Agency or Grant	Total Contribution
LPSNRD	\$26,000
LPNNRD	\$26,000
PMRNRD	\$26,000
City of Lincoln	\$26,000
MUD	\$26,000
NeDNR	\$26,000
Agreement Sub-Total	\$156,000
BOR Grant	\$200,000
WSF Grant	\$195,000
TOTAL	\$551,000

The next steps in the continuation of the Consortium is for each entity to adopt the Drought Contingency Plan through their respective Boards. If adopted, implementation of the plan only requires the District to participate in annual drought monitoring meetings or phone calls and to share available data on drought conditions. While the plan does evaluate several drought mitigation actions and projects, it does not recommend that any potential/particular project or action be implemented. The plan allows that these projects may be further studied as the Consortium members decide and that they be eligible for future funding. The Consortium is also interested in conducting a drought table top exercise early in 2020.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson. David Potter provided a brief introduction of the plan and introduced John Engel with HDR. Engel gave a presentation on the Drought Contingency Plan, the Consortium, the Planning Process, and the anticipated next steps. Discussion was held on the plan.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by B. Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors adopt the Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan, dated October 2019.

The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.