



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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TO: Board of Directors
DATE: April 18, 2017
FROM: David Potter, Assistant General Manager *DP*
SUBJECT: Integrated Management Subcommittee meeting minutes

The Integrated Management Subcommittee met on Monday, April 17th at 5:30 PM in the NRD Board room in Lincoln. Members present included Larry Ruth, Gary Hellerich, Dave Landis, Greg Osborn, Ron Svoboda, Sarah Wilson, and Larry Zimmerman. Absent was Mark Spangler. Others present were Paul Zillig, David Potter, Dan Schulz, Dick Ehrman, Vicki Twerdochlib (HDR), Jeff Henson (JEO), Marc Groff (The Flatwater Group), Brian Dunnigan (OA), and Jim Schneider (OA).

Chairman Ruth called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and the agenda was reviewed. With new members on the subcommittee, Chairman Ruth asked that some background be given on the development of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and studies undertaken so far. Zillig and Potter provided some information. Brian Dunnigan, who was serving as Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at the time that LPSNRD started the voluntary IMP, gave a background to why the NRDs have undertaken integrated management planning and the importance of the plans. Lower Platte South was the first NRD to begin a voluntary IMP and was the second to adopt a voluntary plan. The LPSNRD IMP was adopted in 2014. All 23 NRDs have either a mandatory or voluntary IMP or are currently in the process of preparing one.

The first item on the agenda was an update report and draft of the HDR project pertaining to the Additional IMP Planning Components – Amendment No. 1. The draft report was distributed to the subcommittee prior to the committee and Vicki Twerdochlib presented a summary of what's in the draft. HDR was contracted to conduct a series of analyses to understand available data, review the current GIS data availability, and impacts to water supply as one of the first steps in implementing the IMP. These analyses formed the November 2015 LPSNRD IMP Planning Methodology Report. In 2016 LPS NRD again contracted with the HRD Team (consisting of JEO and the Flatwater Group) to perform additional services associated with the District's IMP planning components. The current project is the Lower Platte South NRD Additional IMP Planning Components – Amendment No. 1. The purpose of this project is to further help implement the IMP. These will continue to help the district to observe, quantify, and manage the water resources within the District's boundary. Specifically, the methodologies being developed as part of this project include the following:

- Implement the GIS database recommendations made during the first phase of this project
- Review and analyze drought response plans of the Public Water Suppliers within the district
- Research conservation programs for water use management
- Develop science-based protocols for estimating unmeasured water uses

A proposed schedule for review and completion was also presented and discussed.



The second item was consideration of the Conjunctive Management Analysis Tool (CMAT) financing. Brian Dunnigan and Jim Schneider presented some background and information on the tool. They described this as a tool to help implement the information found in the studies such as the IMP Planning Components and the Drought Contingency Plan.

CMAT is a proposal from OA & FYRA to develop a super computer program that can process models and other base information to quickly determine impacts to streamflow. The cost is around \$1M and the NRD's are being offered ownership for funding assistance. A proposed fee schedule has been drafted and LPSNRD's share is \$118,000. All 23 NRDs are considering their interest in the project. To date, about one half of the NRDs have provided a response with 1/3 of those in favor of participating. The cost is based on the District's valuation with P-MR NRD having the largest cost.

Because each NRD will have unlimited access to CMAT, the NRDs will be able to utilize CMAT for any query they have and may share their login with their consultants or other interested parties or individuals as each NRD board deems appropriate. Regardless of who uses CMAT, only the user who makes the query request can review the results from that query. This keeps the requests confidential. The NRDs would be paying the CMAT development team to develop and provide access to CMAT, which would involve hosting a website.

Additional information (fact sheet and power point presentation) was distributed to the subcommittee prior to the meeting. After much discussion, **it was moved by Wilson, seconded by Osborn and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors to support the CMAT Project and participate in the project at the point it is cost effective depending on involvement of other NRDs.**

The final item was an update of the Lower Platte River Consortium Drought Contingency Plan. Zillig gave a power point presentation and provided information on the project. The Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan (LPRDCP) is a collaborative project among six water management agencies (collectively referred to as the Lower Platte River Consortium) and funding with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Water Sustainability Fund. The six water management agencies include The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD), Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD), Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (LPNNRD), Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD), Lincoln Water System (LWS), and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR).

The Consortium contracted with the HDR Team April 2016 to develop a Drought Contingency Plan. The primary focus of the LPRDCP will be to further refine the Consortium's collective understanding of drought vulnerabilities, while developing more robust monitoring and forecasting tools coupled with timely triggers, new mitigation strategies and responsive actions to create a sound operational framework and improve critical water supply needs of the area through drought periods. The Consortium last met on March 27th and will meet again on May 2nd. A workshop for Consortium board members and appropriate technical staff is scheduled for May 16th at the LPS NRD to identify mitigation/response actions (both existing and new).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.