



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: December 9, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Land Resources Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in the NRD Large Conference Room to discuss a number of items and take action on three of them. Subcommittee members present included Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Ron Nolte, Bruce Johnson, and Ken Vogel. Members absent included Mark Spangler, Anthony Schutz, and David Landis. Others present included Cory Schmidt, Donna Reid, Shaula Ross and David Potter. Director Hellerich called the meeting to order, gave a brief welcome, and reviewed the agenda.

a) The first item was to review and consider a Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Application. Donna Reid, District Office Secretary/Program Assistant stated that one additional cost-share application had been received by the District for Fall work. The application is located in the Eastern Portion of the District and will be part of a terrace system approved for fall work on adjacent land. According to the July 1, 2021 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget (which consists of FY'22 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and available funds), neither the eastern or western portion is over obligated and there is still available funds for conservation work. A map of the best management practice (terraces) location was provided and is attached.

The application is for:

- Keyes Enterprises Limited Partnership, W ½ SE ¼ 9-11-9 Cass Co., (60%) Terrace and Tile Outlet - \$5,625.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by B. Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the surface water quality cost-share application for Keyes Enterprises Limited Partnership in the amount of \$5,625.

b) The second item was consideration of the NRD/NSWCP 2022 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program. Potter and District Conservationist Cory Schmidt noted the practices or scenarios that are frequently used in our District and some average costs that were not correctly listed in the 2022 Regional Docket. The prepared NRD/NSWCP average costs with corrections for 2022 (attached) were presented. This one-page spreadsheet provides for the most common practices used in the District. A spreadsheet comparing the new cost share numbers with those approved for 2021 (attached) was also presented. Schmidt noted that the 2022 average costs were generally higher than last year's numbers. One noted change is the separation of PVC and dual wall tile pipe from PE pipe due to the higher cost of PVC. He also stated the benefit with the

NRD/NSWCP average costs being approved in December is that all new applications taken after the first of the year will operate off one docket.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by B. Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 2022 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-share Program.

c) The third action item was consideration of the Digital Map Products Agreement with Cass County. Shaula Ross, GIS Specialist informed subcommittee members that LPSNRD has also been entering into an agreement with Cass County every three years which provides the District the right to use the digital aerial mapping of the County for District purposes. This proposed agreement extends until June 30, 2024 and provides for joint use of the digital orthophotos (imagery) and other information or data rather than having them done twice for an additional cost. The total cost to the District for the project is \$12,000 for one flight, payable in equal installments of \$4,000 per year for three years. The proposed agreement (attached) was provided to the subcommittee.

It was moved by B. Johnson, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Digital Map Products Agreement with Cass County, subject to legal counsel review.

d) The subcommittee then discussed the NRCS Watershed Funding/Program. Information on the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was provided. A recent Wallace Farmer article (attached) which identifies NRCS water quality funded projects in Iowa was discussed. There has been some Director interest to look at NRCS programs and partnerships for water quality and flood management in areas of our District, in particular the Salt Creek Watershed. Cory Schmidt presented some information (see attached technical guide) on the program, identified some current projects in the state, and discussed what areas might be eligible. Staff will continue to do research on the program.

e) Updates on projects and programs

- Staff provided an update on the current land treatment cost-share projects. Producers and contractors have taken advantage of the warm dry weather this fall to get conservation on the ground, even after a somewhat late harvest. Several land treatment projects have been completed and many others are well-underway. The construction deadline for fall work is February 1st.
- The status of the District's Cover Crop Program and number of applicants was provided. The district currently has 51 approved cover crop cost-share applications for a total amount of \$103,385. With a later harvest season this year due to weather and increased yields, staff expects a few cancellations with producers not being able to get cover crop in the ground by the November 1st deadline. Resources Technicians will be inspecting the cover crop BMPs throughout the winter making sure they were seeded and are growing and then verifying termination of the crop in the Spring. Based on the current Program, cost-share payments are not made until the cover crop is terminated. Potter said staff continues to promote the cover crop program through brochures, website, social media, newspaper, NRCS promotion, and direct mailings. He reminded the subcommittee the Board approved a change in the Program's eligible areas this year by including all of the Salt Creek Watershed upstream of Lincoln. The District continues to see an increased interest in the program since it began in 2018 with only three applications.

- The last update was on the Twin Lakes 319 Project. The District-wide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) approved in 2019 identified the Twin Lakes Watershed as one of our priority areas. The WQMP plan can be found at <https://www.lpsnrd.org/publications/lpsnrd-plans>. The District worked with Nebraska Game and Parks and with Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to prepare and submit a 319 project implementation plan (PIP) and funding request to EPA for the Twin Lakes Watershed. In June, 2021 the District was notified by NDEE that EPA approved the Twin Lakes Watershed PIP. The LPSNRD Board approved the project agreement in July. Potter stated that since approving the agreement, staff has mailed a flyer to all of the property owners in the watershed, launched a watershed website (<https://www.lpsnrd.org/programs/landowner-cost-share/twin-lakes-watershed>), received and approved three cost-share applications (one cover crop and two terrace BMPs), ordered project recognition signs, and recently held an open house in Pleasant Dale to provide additional information. Potter also stated Tracy Zayac, Stormwater/Watershed Specialist, has been running the project and has been working with Seward County NRCS to promote the various BMPs. The Twin Lakes 319 Project is a three-year grant and upon completion, the District will consider keeping the Twin Lakes Watershed as one of our identified targeted areas within the Salt creek Watershed.

There being no further business, Hellerich adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

DP/dp

cc: Cory Schmidt, NRCS

Encl. 10 pgs