




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: June 13, 2024
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Land Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. There were four items for consideration and one for discussion. Subcommittee members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Aldridge, Seth Hawkins, Gary Hellerich, Susan Seacrest, and Ken Vogel. Members absent included Tom Green and Chelsea Johnson. Staff present included Shaula Ross, Donna Reid and David Potter. Tom Cowan, NRCS District Conservationist was also in attendance. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., thanked members for attending, and reviewed the agenda.

The first item was **consideration of an Agreement between Cass County and Lower Platte South NRD to obtain digital map products for the areas of the county within LPSNRD**. This item is the second of four agreements identified in the LRIP under Land Resources – Updated Aerial Imagery Acquisitions. The first agreement with Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) was approved by the Board in March 2024. MAPA is the contracting agency working with the aerial imagery company Pictometry International Corp, dba EagleView. The agreement provided the District with aerial imagery for those portions of Butler, Otoe, and Saunders Counties that are within Lower Platte South NRD since those counties are not wanting the 6-inch resolution aerial imagery done at this time. Agreements with the City of Lincoln (for Lancaster County), Seward County, and Cass County will complete the aerial imagery for the entire District. These three counties are contracting either with MAPA or Pictometry directly to get imagery for the entire county and we have worked with counties in the past to get the imagery at a reduced rate

Ross stated that an agreement with Cass County is now being considered and will complete the 2024 aerial imagery for portions of the District located in Cass County. The LPSNRD cost to use the digital mapping is \$12,000 payable in two installments of \$6,000 invoiced to the District on November 30, 2024, for the first installment and on November 30, 2025, for the second installment. The proposed agreement with Cass County (attached) is for one flight and was provided to the subcommittee.

Potter and Ross answered questions on the proposed agreement and final product. Ross stated that flights have already been flown. She explained how the information will be received by the district and how the imagery will be used.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Seacrest, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Agreement between Cass County and LPSNRD for the use of digital map products for portions of LPSNRD located in Cass County.

The second item was **consideration of an Agreement between Seward County and Lower Platte South NRD to obtain digital map products for the areas of the county within LPSNRD**. This item is the third of four agreements identified in the LRIP under Land Resources – Updated Aerial Imagery Acquisitions. Ross stated this agreement being considered will complete the 2024 aerial imagery for portions of the District located in Seward County. The LPSNRD cost to use the digital mapping is \$4,000 payable in two installments of \$2,000 invoiced to the District on November 30, 2024, for the first installment and on November 30, 2025, for the second installment. The proposed agreement with Seward County (attached) is for one flight and was provided to the subcommittee. Ross answered questions on the proposed agreement and final product.

It was moved by Hawkins, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Agreement between Seward County and LPSNRD for the use of digital map products for portions of LPSNRD located in Seward County.

The next item was **consideration of an Agreement between the City of Lincoln and Lower Platte South NRD to obtain digital map products for the areas of Lancaster County within LPSNRD**. Potter informed the group that this item is the fourth of four agreements identified in the LRIP under Land Resources – Updated Aerial Imagery Acquisitions. The agreement with the City of Lincoln being considered will complete the 2024 aerial imagery for portions of the District located in Lancaster County. Ross explained that this agreement will also include the use of aerial imagery taken in 2026 and 2028. The LPSNRD cost to use the digital mapping is \$32,250 payable in six installments of \$5,375 invoiced to the District beginning on December 1, 2024, and on December 1 of each following year, ending on December 1, 2029. The proposed agreement with the City of Lincoln (attached) is for six years or three flights and was provided to the subcommittee.

It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Hawkins, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Agreement between the City of Lincoln and LPSNRD for the use of digital map products for portions of LPSNRD located in Lancaster County.

The fourth item was consideration of **Surface Water Quality Best Management Practices cost-share applications for summer work**. Donna Reid stated that two cost-share applications have been received for installing water quality improvement practices for the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and meet the program criteria. Both applications are for terraces and are in the Western Portion of the District, with one located within the SVL – Yankee Hill Lake targeted area. Potter discussed the increased cost-sharing of the Summer Conservation Program and stated the construction period for summer BMPs is between May 1st and September 15th. Tom Cowan also updated the subcommittee on project status and soil conditions throughout the District.

It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Hawkins, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the summer surface water quality BMP cost-share applications for Gary Snide and Paulsen Family Living Trust totaling an amount of \$30,315.

The last item was discussion of the **LPSNRD Filter Strip Program and a proposed Buffer Strip Program booster incentive**. Potter stated LPSNRD has a Filter Strip Program and administers the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. The NRD Filter Strip Program encourages landowners to establish bands of vegetation adjacent to

cropland. Vegetation will improve water quality downstream by filtering out sediment and associated pollutants. The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program offers the same benefits with similar requirements and now has greater incentives. Information on the LPSNRD Filter Strip Program and the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program was provided to the subcommittee. Potter informed the group that we have been promoting both programs, however the district has seen less and less interest in the Filter Strip Program. We have two contracts that expired this year, leaving only four active contracts. One of those will expire in 2025 and the other three will expire in 2026. The district has not received any new applications since 2017.

Staff has suggested eliminating the LPSNRD Filter Strip Program and working with the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program by creating a booster program like the CRP Booster Program that was approved in 2014. A draft of a possible Buffer Strip Booster Program was provided to the subcommittee for review. Such a program could add dollars to the annual payment contracted with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and/or provide for double payments the first or last year of the program. The District would close out the Filter Strip Program as the current contracts expire and not take any new applications if the booster program is developed and approved. Directors discussed the need to help persuade landowners to create more buffer strips on ground currently being row cropped.

Director Vogel recommended, and the subcommittee agreed that the District should continue the LPSNRD Filter Strip Program to honor and complete the current contracts but to not take any new applications. Landowner inquiries should be directed to NRCS and to the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Furthermore, the FY25 LRIP should be amended to include an action to develop a Buffer Strip Booster Program without any proposed expenditures and to consider funding in the FY26 budget if the program is approved.

There being no further business, Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.

Pc: File
Mike Sousek
Shaula Ross