




# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

## natural resources district

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## Memorandum

Date: August 12, 2022  
To: Board of Directors  
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager   
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

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The Land Resources Subcommittee met Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at the NRD Office in Lincoln. Subcommittee members present were Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Bruce Johnson, Anthony Schutz, Mark Spangler, and Ken Vogel. Members absent was Ron Nolte. Others in attendance were David Potter, Donna Reid, Cole Johnson, Cory Schmidt, and Tammy Timms with NRCS. The meeting was called to order by Chair Hellerich at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda was reviewed.

### (a) Surface Water Quality Cost-Share Applications. *[Action]*

The first item on the agenda was consideration of the surface water quality applications. Potter stated the district received a total of 50 fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for Fall conservation work and FY'23 NRD funds. Applications were divided into the Eastern and Western areas and submitted to those appropriate Review Groups for consideration. Minutes from those review groups are provided herein.

The Eastern NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met virtually Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom to review the 26 fall applications received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2022 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'23 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and the available funds. Staff noted the program budget indicated funds still available with the presented applications and prioritization is not needed. Review group members attending included Mark Spangler, Dave Landis, Ron Nolte, and Ken Vogel. Director Bruce Johnson was not able to attend. Others present included Jan Kush, Cole Johnson, Cory Schmidt, James Conradi, Devin Heusinkvelt, Samantha Ziph, Donna Reid and David Potter. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Vogel and unanimously approved to recommend approval of those Eastern Portion applications totaling the amount presented in the program budget (\$299,679).

The Western NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group met virtually Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom to review the 24 fall applications (8 targeted, 16 district-wide) received. The group also reviewed the proposed 2022 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget consisting of the FY'23 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and the available funds. Staff noted the program budget indicated funds still available with the presented applications and prioritization is not needed. Review group members participating included Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Anthony Schutz, and Bob Andersen. Others present included John Albert, Evan Sisel, Cory Schmidt, Connie Hansen, Trevor Hinn, Scott Mathine, Laura Henery, Donna Reid and David Potter. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Barrett and unanimously approved to recommend approval of those Western Portion, SVL, Stevens Creek, and Twin Lakes applications totaling the amount presented in the program budget (\$490,641).

Potter stated that the District's program funding budgets and prioritization commonly used were provided to the subcommittee. It was noted that the FY2023 cost-share program budgets also take into account those payments made in FY2023 for jobs completed in the previous fiscal year (none this year), the summer applications that were approved for this year, and the fall applications. In summary, there are 50 District cost-share applications for consideration, including 16 District-wide Western, 8 Targeted (6 in Twin Lakes), and 26 District-wide Eastern totaling an amount of \$790,320 (District-wide west \$196,150; Targeted \$294,491; District-wide east \$299,679). The applications were identified on spreadsheets and maps and were provided to the subcommittee. As shown on the program budget, the District has \$193,976 in obligated funds, which includes summer applications. Obligated funds and those recommended fall cost-share applications total \$981,296.

**It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 50 identified Fall cost-share applications totaling an amount of \$790,320.**

**(b) Measurable Goals. [Action]**

As directed in the LPSNRD 2019 Master Plan, a list of measurable goals is to be developed for each subcommittee for the fiscal year and then those goals are to be reviewed each year to see what has been accomplished. The 12-month review of the FY22 measurable goals and the proposed goals for FY23 for the Land Resources Subcommittee were provided to the subcommittee and Potter described each in detail.

**It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Schutz, and unanimously approved, to recommend the Finance and Planning Subcommittee include the identified measurable goals as part of the FY23 Long Range Implementation Plan.**

**(c) Regional Conservation Partnership Program [Discussion]**

Cory Schmidt and Tammy Timms briefly explained the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to the subcommittee and provided some examples of current and past projects in the state. RCPP is not a grant but would provide match funding for a possible watershed project with partners. The deadline for RCPP is in April. The subcommittee would like staff to continue with research on the program and a possible project with the Salt Creek Watershed.

**(d) Nebraska Extension Demonstration, Cover Crop Program, and Farm Pond Projects [Discussion]**

Potter provide updates on various programs and activities. Nebraska Extension received a Section 319 grant to conduct a highboy seeder cover-crop demonstration project in LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and UBBNRD. The District was asked to help identify producers in our District that were located in our Water Quality Management Plan priority areas, along major roads with higher traffic, and on irrigated ground (if possible). The District signed up four producers in northern Lancaster County and seeding will be the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to the District or the producer (except for cover crop termination). The District has prepared media publications to help promote our LPSNRD Cover Crop Program and submitted to the various newspapers. The application deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Potter also informed the subcommittee the Woita farm pond has been completed and construction is to begin on the Benes pond soon. Two other farm ponds are planned to be completed this summer and one in Twin Lakes Watershed maybe in late Spring or early Summer of 2024.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.