




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Land Resources Subcommittee met Tuesday, September 13, 2022 via Zoom. Subcommittee members attending the meeting were Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Mark Spangler, and Ken Vogel. Members absent were Bruce Johnson, Ron Nolte, and Anthony Schutz. Others in attendance were Paul Zillig, David Potter, Cory Schmidt, Michael Burgert with Otoe County NRCS, and Arlyn Werner. The meeting was called to order by Chair Hellerich at 5:37 p.m. and Potter was asked to provide a background on the agenda item.

The only item on the agenda was consideration of the surface water quality applications. Potter stated the district received a total of 30 additional fall Cost-Share Assistance applications for conservation work and FY'23 NRD funds. Applications were divided into the Eastern and Western portions and submitted to those appropriate Review Groups for review and consideration.

The Western NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group reviewed 12 additional applications in the District's western portion for NRD cost-share assistance, totaling \$142,803. Four of the applications are located in a targeted watershed (SVL-Branched Oak, SVL-Yankee Hill, SVL-Wildwood, and Stevens Creek), qualifying for a 75% cost-share rate. It was noted that one application is for Elaine M. Olson (district-wide) and one is for Elaine M. Olson Rev. Trust (targeted). The District still has FY23 funds available for conservation practices District-wide and in the Stevens Creek and Salt Valley Lakes Targeted Watersheds and are accepting late applications (beyond July 1st deadline). The attached spreadsheet and map provide information and location of the applications in the western portion of the District. Western review group members include Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Vern Barrett, Anthony Schutz, and Bob Andersen. There were no objections from the review group on the submitted applications.

The Eastern NSWCP Cost-Share Review Group reviewed 18 applications in the District's eastern portion for NRD cost-share assistance, totaling \$176,065. Staff noted the District still has FY23 funds available for conservation practices District-wide and are accepting late applications (beyond July 1st deadline).

It was also noted that two applications are not signed by the technician and have notes included on them indicating the technician felt there are no resource or erosion concerns at this time. The technicians are to determine if a field has a resource concern that needs to be addressed with a conservation practice after a site visit or referencing a Lidar map. If there is a resource concern present in the field, the technician should fill out and send in the NSWCP-3 form and associated paperwork to the NRD as normal. As per guidance from the General Manager and our District

Conservationist, if there is **NOT** a resource concern in the field, the technician should complete the following steps:

- *Have a conversation with the producer regarding the existing functional practices and recommendations to maintain them.*
- *If the producer wants to submit an application, fill out the NSWCP-3 form and associated paperwork as normal, but do not sign the box on the NSWCP form that states "Practices and Quantities are needed and practical and will be planned in accordance with NRCS specifications."*
- *Send the paperwork to the NRD with a statement as to why the practices are **not** needed and practical. For example, "A storage terrace system is not needed due to the presence of a functional gradient terrace system that is currently controlling erosion to tolerable levels." The statement doesn't need to be a novel but needs to contain enough information for staff/administration, the review groups, Land Resources Subcommittee, and/or the Board of Directors to understand why the technician is not signing the needs section of the NSWCP form.*

The attached spreadsheet and map provide information and location of the applications in the eastern portion of the District. Eastern review group members include Mark Spangler, Dave Landis, Ron Nolte, Bruce Johnson and Ken Vogel. There were recommendations from a few members of the eastern review group to deny the two applications identified as not having resource concerns (Leonard Buchholz and Adeline Wiebusch). Without a consensus from the review group, the Land Resources Subcommittee now needed to meet to consider the 30 applications received and provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Cory Schmidt and Michael Burgert explained the procedures followed by NRCS regarding cost-share applications and shared specific information on the two applications noted not having current resource concerns. Arlyn Werner, the producer representing the Adeline Wiebusch application, provided some historical background on the farm field and issues with the existing waterway.

The subcommittee discussed, and a majority of the members agreed, to not approve the two identified applications lacking current resource concerns. **It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Barrett, and approved 4-1 (with Aldridge, Barrett, Spangler and Vogel voting yes and Hellerich voting no), to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 28 identified fall cost-share applications as listed on the attached tables, totaling an amount of \$299,050.**

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.