



# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH

## natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** March 20, 2019  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** David Potter, Assistant General Manager *DP*  
**Subject:** Minutes for the March 20<sup>th</sup> Platte River Subcommittee meeting

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The Platte River Subcommittee met on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. prior to the Board meeting at the Lower Platte South NRD office. Directors present included Don Jacobson, Karen Amen, Gary Hellerich, Dan Steinkruger, Anthony Schutz, Ray Stevens, and Sarah Wilson. Members absent were Chelsea Johnson. Others present included Paul Zillig and David Potter. Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. The agenda items included:

#### **Consideration of Joint Funding Agreements with LPNNRD, Lincoln Water System, and MUD for funding of the Water Quality Monitoring Site at Leshara.**

Potter explained that LPSNRD on behalf of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) had entered into an agreement with USGS for the water quality monitoring gage near Leshara back in 2016 and funding partners for that monitoring site agreement included LPSNRD, PMRNRD, LPNNRD, Lincoln Water System (LWS), and Metropolitan Utility District (MUD). USGS also contributed to the cost of the monitoring site and the funding breakdown in the original agreement included the three NRDs equally at 22%, LWS and MUD contributing 10.5% of the cost, and USGS 13%. An extension or second 3-year agreement is now being considered, however LWS and MUD have agreed to be an equal funding partner with the other agencies and LPNNRD is no longer a member of the LPRCA. Therefore, three joint funding agreements have been drafted for consideration. The agreements identify each of the agencies (LWS, MUD and LPNNRD) as a partner with LPRCA for a three-year period and identify a total contribution of \$6,562 per year towards the continued operation of the real-time water quality monitoring site at Leshara. Together with LPSNRD, PMRNRD and USGS, these three agencies will provide the necessary funding for the monitoring site at Leshara. The proposed agreements were provided.

**It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors, on behalf of the LPRCA, approve and authorize the general manager to sign the joint funding agreements with LPNNRD, Lincoln Water System, and MUD for funding of the water quality monitoring site at Leshara.**

**Consideration of an agreement with the United States Geologic Survey for Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Network site at Leshara.**

Potter explained that the LPRCA has been partnering with the USGS for water quality data collection, analysis, and publication of the data at multiple sites throughout the corridor for several years. One of the more recent sites is the gage near Leshara and is part of the LPRCA Real-time Monitoring Network. The water quality monitor at Leshara was originally deployed in April 2016 and provides continuous measurements of nitrate, temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen data in near-real time over the internet. Funding for the Leshara site has been provided by LPSNRD, PMRNRD, LPNNRD, LWS and MUD and also by USGS.

The proposed extension of the agreement would run from April 1, 2019 and end around June 30, 2022. The agreement will cover data collection for 2019-2021. The expiring 3-year agreement for the Leshara site was funded by Lower Platte South NRD (22% of funding), Lower Platte North NRD (22%), Papio-Missouri River NRD (22%), Lincoln Water Systems (10.5%), M.U.D (10.5%), and USGS (13%). The total cost of that project or original agreement was \$110,564 with LPRCA partners paying \$84,743 and USGS paying \$25,821. Potter indicated that the proposed cost of the second 3-year agreement would be \$113,893 with USGS picking up \$15,468. The five agencies have agreed to equally contribute to the balance (\$98,425), which would be a cost of \$19,685 per agency or about \$6,562 per agency per year. Potter explained that funds for the agreement will be collected by the LPRCA/LPSNRD and then dispersed to USGS within our normal quarterly billing period. Information outlining the history, benefits and costs was provided along with the proposed agreement.

**It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Amen, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors, on behalf of the LPRCA, approve the agreement with USGS for the continued operation of the real-time continuous water quality monitoring site at Leshara.**

**Consideration of an agreement with the United States Geologic Survey for Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Network sites on the Elkhorn River at Waterloo, on Salt Creek at Ashland, and on the Platte River at Louisville (3 long-term sites).**

Potter explained the second proposed agreement with USGS to the subcommittee. The LPRCA currently partners with the USGS for water quality data collection, analysis, and publication of the data at three long-term sites in the corridor. These three sites include, the Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Salt Creek at Ashland, and the Platte River at Louisville. The water quality monitors have been collecting data since fall of 2007 and provide continuous measurements of nitrate, temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen data in near-real time over the internet. The USGS real-time water quality monitoring stations are part of the LPRCA Real-time Monitoring Network. Seasonal data collection for the current agreement completed in the fall of 2018 and the current agreement is set to expire on March 30, 2019. The proposed extension would add data collection for the 2019-2021 years and extend the agreement from April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

Funding for the expiring 3-year agreement for the 3 long-term sites has been provided by LPSNRD and PMRNRD as part of the LPRCA and also by USGS. The total cost of the past 3-year agreement/project was \$298,348 with LPRCA partners paying \$227,557 (LPSNRD 50% and PMRNRD 50%) and USGS paying \$70,791. Potter said the proposed cost of the extended 3-year agreement would be \$308,208 with USGS picking up a reduced amount of \$58,378. If extended, it would be a cost of \$124,915 for each NRD or about \$41,638 per agency per year. Information outlining the history, benefits and costs was provided along with the proposed agreement.

It was moved by Steinkruger , seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors, on behalf of the LPRCA, approve the agreement with USGS for the continued operation of the real-time continuous water quality 3 long-term monitoring sites on the Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Salt Creek at Ashland, and the Platte River at Louisville.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

DP/dp

Encl: (7)