



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581
P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

Memorandum

Date: April 19, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
RE: Platte River Subcommittee April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

The Platte River Subcommittee met in person at the District office on Monday, April 18, 2022. Subcommittee members in attendance included Ken Vogel, Don Jacobson, Gary Aldridge, Gary Hellerich, Christine Lamberty, Ron Nolte, Anthony Schutz, and Ray Stevens. Others attending the meeting were Deborah Eagan, Matt Moser with USGS, and David Potter. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vogel at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda was reviewed. There were four action items on the agenda and all were with the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) stream gage agreements for USGS monitoring in the Platte River Corridor.

As a member of the LPRCA, the District has been involved with real-time water quality monitoring network sites to provide comprehensive real-time water quality data for the Lower Platte River. Past agreements through the LPRCA have led to three long-term existing testing locations: Platte River at Louisville, Salt Creek at Ashland, and Elkhorn River at Waterloo. An additional location was added in the Platte River at Leshara. These sites are operational approximately March through October with data collected at 15-minute intervals. The data is publicly available over the internet in near real time and historical data are available. Additional constituents can be monitored upon request. Data have been collected since 2007 for the long-term sites, and since 2016 from the gage at Leshara.

Potter informed the subcommittee that the long-term gages are a partnership between the LPSNRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, and USGS. The gage at Leshara is a partnership between LPSNRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Metropolitan Utilities District, Lincoln Water System, and USGS. These agreements are handled by LPSNRD acting as the administrating agency on behalf of the LPRCA. Additional information was provided (attached) including a description of the benefits of the gages and a breakdown of funding from each partner in each of the agreements. The expenses are broken out between the federal fiscal year and the fiscal year used by the NRDs.

The first item was consideration of Joint Funding Agreements with MUD, LWS, LPNNRD, PMRNRD and LPSNRD for LPRCA water quality monitoring in the Platte River at Leshara. The continuous water quality monitoring gage located near Leshara has been funded by five partners who, as of three years ago, decided to equally fund the USGS gage. Those joint funding agreements have expired and the funding agreement with USGS is set to expire in June 2022. The proposal is to extend the agreements another three years. Attached are the proposed joint-funding agreements between each of the partners and LPSNRD on behalf of the LPRCA. LPSNRD serves as the administrating agency for the LPRCA and will enter into an agreement with USGS for said monitoring gage. The terms of these four joint funding agreements are identical, except that LWS has agreed to pay the total amount upfront. Since the payment to USGS is on a quarterly basis and the LPRCA invoices the participating agencies once a year, the LPRCA will hold the LWS amount on account and use accordingly. Matt Moser answered various questions from the subcommittee regarding data collection, stream gage logistics, and benefits of the monitoring.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the joint funding agreements between MUD and LPSNRD, LWS and LPSNRD, LPNDRD and LPSNRD, and PMRNRD and LPSNRD for LPRCA water quality monitoring in the Platte River at Leshara.

The second item was consideration of the Joint Funding Agreement with PMRNRD and LPSNRD for LPRCA water quality monitoring in the Platte River Corridor at Louisville in the Platte, at Ashland in Salt Creek, and at Waterloo in the Elkhorn River. The funding agreement with USGS for the three long-term sites is set to expire in June 2022. The continuous water quality monitoring gages have been funded equally by LPSNRD and PMRNRD for many years. The proposed agreement between the two NRDs will establish funds for the next three years. LPSNRD serves as the administrating agency for the LPRCA and will enter into an agreement with USGS for said monitoring gages. USGS will bill the LPSNRD (LPRCA) quarterly and we will then invoice PMRNRD annually. Attached is the proposed joint-funding agreement between PMRNRD and LPSNRD on behalf of the LPRCA.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Joint Funding Agreement with PMRNRD and LPSNRD for LPRCA water quality monitoring in the Platte River Corridor at Louisville in the Platte, at Ashland in Salt Creek, and at Waterloo in the Elkhorn River.

Item number three was consideration of the Joint Funding Agreement Between USGS and LPSNRD for Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance Continuous Water Quality Monitoring in the Platte River at Leshara. The Funding agreement with USGS for the water quality monitoring at Leshara expires on June 30, 2022. Staff is recommending continuation of the agreement for monitoring on the Platte for another three years to an end date of June 30, 2025. The total amount of the agreement is \$110,800 or \$30,400 for the USGS and \$80,400 for LPSNRD. Through joint-funding agreements, the \$80,400 share is equally divided between MUD, LWS, LPNDRD, PMRNRD and LPSNRD. Attached is proposed funding agreement between USGS and LPSNRD for the Platte River gage at Leshara.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Joint Funding Agreement Between USGS and LPSNRD for LPRCA Continuous Water Quality Monitoring in the Platte River at Leshara.

The fourth agenda item was consideration of the Joint Funding Agreement Between USGS and LPSNRD for LPRCA for Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance Water Quality Monitoring in Platte River Corridor at Louisville in the Platte, at Ashland in Salt Creek, and at Waterloo in the Elkhorn River. The Funding agreement with USGS for the three long-term water quality monitoring sites expires on June 30, 2022. Staff is recommending continuation of the agreement for monitoring in the Lower Platte Corridor for another three years to an end date of June 30, 2025. The total amount of the agreement is \$313,600 or \$75,200 for the USGS and \$238,400 for LPSNRD. Through a joint-funding agreement, the \$238,400 share is equally divided between PMRNRD and LPSNRD. Attached is proposed funding agreement between USGS and LPSNRD for the three long-term sites in the Lower Platte River Corridor.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Joint Funding Agreement between USGS and LPSNRD for LPRCA Water Quality Monitoring in Platte River Corridor at Louisville in the Platte, at Ashland in Salt Creek, and at Waterloo in the Elkhorn River.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.