




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 12, 2018
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager 
Subject: Minutes for the April 5th Platte River Subcommittee meeting

The Platte River Subcommittee met on Wednesday, April 5th at 5:30 p.m. at the Lower Platte South NRD. Directors present included Karen Amen, Dick Bolte, Don Jacobson, Bruce Johnson and Dan Steinkruger. Members absent were Chelsea Johnson, Milt Schmidt and Ron Svoboda. Others present included Ray Stevens, Paul Zillig, David Potter and Dave Sands. Agenda items included:

Nebraska Land Trust Lower Platte Valley Preservation Partnership and Conservation Easement Agreement Annual Report

Dave Sands, Executive Director with the Nebraska Land Trust provided a presentation and annual report on the Trust and on some of the projects.

Cooperative Assistance Agreement with Nebraska Land Trust

Consideration of renewing our existing Nebraska Land Trust Agreement for work on conservation easements along the Platte and Missouri River corridors and the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor. Zillig, Potter and Sands discussed the agreement and the amount of years the district has been participating. A copy of the draft agreement is attached (\$30,000/year). The current three-year agreement with the Nebraska Land Trust is ending and the NLT is requesting that this partnership continue for an additional three-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2019.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by B. Johnson, and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Cooperative Assistance Agreement between the Lower Platte South NRD and the Nebraska Land Trust that allows for an additional three-year District commitment in the amount of \$30,000/year, commencing in fiscal year 2019.

Consideration of an agreement with the United States Geologic Survey for Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Network sites at Camp Ashland.

The LPRCA currently partners with the USGS for water quality data collection, analysis, and publication of the data at three sites throughout the Corridor. The three agreements involve 1)the three long-term sites, 2)Leshara, and 3)the Platte River Chutes. The continuous measurements that are provided include temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen data in near-real time over the internet. Additional samples have been collected and analyzed for e-coli and other selected nutrients including dissolved ammonia, dissolved phosphate, and total phosphorous. Nitrate sensors are also deployed at the Platte River at Louisville Site and the Platte River at Leshara site.

Two constructed chutes are located on the eastern portion of Camp Ashland as shown on the included maps. These chutes were constructed as conservation measures for the Western Sarpy Clear Creek project. The Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) has been leading monitoring of fish populations and habitat changes but has not had extensive collection of water quality data. Two USGS real-time water quality monitoring stations—one on each chute—to provide water quality data within their monitoring program were funded by NEARNG through the LPRCA for two years. NEARNG also had these sites incorporated within the LPRCA Real-time Monitoring Network. Additionally, it was the goal of the LPRCA and NEARNG to use these sites together with the Platte Basin Timelapse cameras located near the monitors as pilot sites for the development on on-line interactive tools and education modules regarding water quality and Platte River characteristics.

The proposed agreement will continue the collection of temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen for another two years beginning in April 2018 and continuing through June 2020. See the attached information. USGS will contribute approximately 20% of each year’s total project costs with the remaining 80% being contributed by the NEARNG. The LPRCA will not be contributing any additional funds for water quality monitoring beyond those associated to our on-going water quality monitoring network agreements. Funds for NEARNG’s portion of the agreement will be collected by the LPRCA/LPSNRD and then dispersed to USGS within our normal quarterly billing period. A breakdown of costs associated to the agreement is included in the following table:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>LPRCA (80%)</u>	<u>USGS (20%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
April-Oct 2018	\$30,004	\$8,076	\$38,080
Oct 2018-Sept 2019	\$39,300	\$8,471	\$47,771
Oct 2019-April 2020	\$14,512	\$3,628	\$18,140
TOTAL	\$83,815	\$20,175	\$103,990

A copy of the USGS agreement will be available prior to the board meeting and will be similar to the previous two-year agreement.

It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Bolte, and unanimously approved to recommend the LPSNRD Board of Directors, on behalf of the LPRCA, approve the joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with USGS for the continued operation of the two real-time continuous water quality monitoring sites at Camp Ashland, subject to approval of the joint funding agreement between NEARNG and LPS NRD.

Consideration of an agreement with the Nebraska Army National Guard for funding of the Water Quality Monitoring Sites at Camp Ashland

As referenced in the previous agenda item, the Nebraska Army National Guard, as a member of the LPRCA has proposed to provide \$83,815 for the continued operation of two real-time water quality monitoring sites at Camp Ashland (Platte River Chutes). The attached request and proposed agreement would provide for the transfer of the \$83,815 to the LPSNRD and for LPSNRD to then disburse the additional funds to USGS on behalf of the Nebraska Army National Guard and LPRCA. Potter and Zillig explained the request and documents and also the benefits of the information gathered from the gauges. The agreement is similar to the previous two year agreement.

It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Bolte, and unanimously approved to recommend the LPSNRD Board of Directors, on behalf of the LPRCA, to approve and authorize the general manager to sign the joint funding agreement with the Nebraska Army National Guard for funding of the water quality monitoring sites at Camp Ashland.

LPRCA Report, Update of LPRCA WQMP, and Lower Platte Weed Management Area Update.

Potter and Zillig gave a report on the status of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance. The remaining eight members of the Alliance last met on February 12th. The group unanimously decided to continue the LPRCA but to reduce the amount of dues and activities. The LPRCA will meet twice a year, finish current projects, and continue the website, memberships, ESRI contract, and to seek new projects for the corridor. The next meeting is scheduled for some time in October.

Potter gave an update on the LPRCA Water Quality Management Plan. HDR is under contract to complete the plan. A final draft has been developed and distributed to the NRDs for review. The grant extension gives us until June and we are hopeful the Plan will be completed on schedule.

Zillig provided the subcommittee a status report of the proposed Lower Platte Weed Management Area. The proposed agreement would allow the 10 counties and four NRDs to continue as one group and seek funding grants to assist in noxious weeds along the Platte River and its tributaries. The agreement is now in another revision and being reviewed by the county attorneys.

Report on the Western Sarpy Clear Creek O&M Agreement with Corps of Engineers and Interlocal Agreement with the NRDs

Zillig reported on the Western Sarpy Clear Creek Project. This Corps project is completed and we are now working on agreements between the three NRDs (sponsors— Lower Platte North, Papio-Missouri River & LPSNRD) and the Nebraska National Guard (NE-ARING). A map showing the project that pertains to the LPSNRD (Hwy 6 north thru the Guard Camp/LWS Well Field along the Platte River 2.5 miles) is attached. The proposed responsibilities are shown on the table included with the map. LPSNRD responsibilities are limited to O&M of the BNSF RR Berm & Salt Creek Floodway (50% reimbursement from LPNNRD) and for LPSNRD to reimburse LPNNRD 50% of their cost to O&M the remaining their responsibilities for this area. The Nebraska National Guard is responsible for their levee, the fuse plug notch temporary flood barrier, weir & revetment.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

DP/dp

Encl: (6)