



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 18, 2022

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 5:39 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Luke Peterson, John Yoakum, and Don Jacobson. Other attendees were Paul Zillig, Ariana Kennedy, and Will Inselman.

First item on the agenda was the review of a proposal from Olsson, Inc. (“Olsson”) for their professional services for the replacement of an old wooden box culvert at 322nd street on the MoPac Trail. This area has undergone extensive bank erosion around and near the old wooden box culvert. Olsson will provide project oversight, coordination, and design for this project. The old wooden box culvert will be removed and replaced with a modern culvert, and the bank will be filled in and stabilized where it has sloughed off. Currently staff have placed orange fencing and stakes along the edge of the trail to keep public away from the destabilized bank. The timeline for completion is May 2023. Olsson’s Scope of Services will be provided on a time and expense basis, not to exceed \$25,650.00.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Jacobson and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Scope of Work agreement from Olsson, Inc. for the MoPac wooden box culvert replacement project, with a total cost not to exceed \$25,650.00, subject to legal counsel review.

Motion passed 4-0

****A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Second on the agenda, was request for funds from the City of Lincoln. The City of Lincoln recently requested that the LPSNRD consider assisting the City of Lincoln on their match requirement for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. The City submitted the grant proposal to retrofit the existing rail bridge along the Rock Island right-of-way that crosses Salt Creek. This project is one of the many projects that are outlined in the Wilderness Park Master Plan. The total project cost is estimated at \$621,000.00 and requires the City to provide 50% of the total project cost. To date, the City has received matching fund commitments of \$80,000.00, leaving \$227,500.00 left to be covered. The City is requesting that the NRD provide 50% of the remaining match commitment, equaling \$113,750.00 from the NRD. The money will be included in the FY2024 trails budget and paid out in FY 2024.

It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve a 50% cost-share with the City of Lincoln for the remaining match required for their Land and Water Conservation Fund grant - Rock Island Bridge Project, not to exceed \$113,750.00, to be paid in FY 2024 through the Community Assistance Program.

Motion passed 3-1; (Jacobson voting NO)

****A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Third on the agenda, was the proposed acquisition of the Solidago Conservancy – Melichar-Martens Property. The Solidago Conservancy has signed a purchase agreement with a local landowner on the Prairie Corridor at Haines Branch (PCHB) and intends to transfer the property to LPSNRD after closing. This property, as described last month, would adjoin the already NRD owned, Two Creeks property. This additional 40 acres would add another piece of property needed for the development of the PCHB trail. The property is in good condition and is interspersed with woodland and grassland habitat. Staff have already been on site to assess the property and strategize access and management of the property. Currently, LPSNRD and Solidago Conservancy have a cooperative agreement that states that the NRD will consider acquisition of priority properties with NRD Board approval. Staff would like to recommend approval to authorize staff to begin the acquisition of land rights from Solidago Conservancy for their Melichar-Martens parcel.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize staff to begin the acquisition of landrights process for a portion of Solidago Conservancy’s Melichar-Martens parcel (7616 W. Old Cheney Road) for the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor Project.

Motion Passed 4-0

****A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Last on the agenda, were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: Wildwood Boat/kayak launch project with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Wabash Trailhead bathroom installation and a recent prescribed burn at Merganser WMA.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file