



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
natural resources district

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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: October 11, 2023  
 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 Monday, October 9, 2023, at 5:36 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Stacie Sinclair, and John Yoakum. Other attendees were Mike Sousek, David Potter, Jay Seaton, and Will Inselman.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of bids for the MoPac wood box culvert replacement project. The failing wood box culvert on the MoPac trail between Fletcher Avenue and 322nd Street needs replacement. Bids were to be opened on September 7<sup>th</sup> however, it was discovered access to the wood box culvert requires crossing a narrow bridge. The narrow bridge is not suitable for the weight and width of construction vehicles/equipment. Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) and Olsson put the project on hold. In the future, the narrow bridge would be replaced with a culvert. Expanding on that thought, Olsson provided a two-fold solution to the issue. Remove the narrow bridge and install a corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert now rather than later and contractors would now have access to the wood box culvert. Olsson prepared an addendum for the two projects for distribution to contractors last week. Bids were opened on Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. We received 5 bids, with the lowest bid from Kenneth Drewes. Olsson had provided a bid alternate to save money on the original wood box culvert replacement by substituting a concrete culvert for a corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert, however the subcommittee chose to stick with the concrete culvert over the CMP culvert option as the price difference was small. This company has not worked with the LPSNRD on any projects; however, they have completed many similar projects with Nebraska Game and Parks and other entities in the Omaha area. Staff and Olsson do not have any reservations about working with this company.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Sinclair and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid from Kenneth Drewes in the amount of \$164,103.84 for the Mopac Trail wooden box culvert replacement project.**

**\*A quorum was not present so a second will be required by the Board.**

Contractor	Bid Amount
Kenneth Drewes	\$164,103.84
Nebraska Digging	\$174,296.00
Empire Construction and Trenching	\$207,883.00

Yost Excavating, Inc.	\$209,971.00
Husker Grading	\$227,569.00

Second on the agenda was consideration of a construction services agreement from Olsson, Inc. for construction oversight on the MoPac/Homestead bank stabilization projects. In September, the Board of Directors approved the bid from Gana Trucking and Excavating for the MoPac Trail and Homestead Trail Bank stabilization project. Olsson is the engineer on the project. Olsson has prepared an agreement for construction engineering services on the project. Total amount of agreement is \$44,482.50 (time not to exceed). Gana Trucking and Excavating plan to begin work on MoPac November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**It was moved by Sinclair and seconded by Yaokum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the construction services agreement with Olsson in the amount of \$44,482.50 (time not to exceed) for the MoPac Trail and Homestead Trail bank stabilization projects.**

**\*A quorum was not present so a second will be required by the Board.**

Third on the agenda was consideration of changes to the Conservation Forestry Seedling Program for FY2024. The LPSNRD forester recommended a slight increase in the price per seedling for FY2024 by \$0.05. This would increase seedling prices to \$1.00/seedling for orders less than 100 seedlings, and to \$0.95 for orders greater than/equal to 100 seedlings. This increase is a continuation of rising tree costs from our distributors. It was also recommended to remove the cap on total number of orders and seedlings for the program. Staff have found a company that rents refrigeration trailers that can be used if we exceed our current coolers storage capacity.

**It was moved by Sinclair and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the changes to the guidelines and price increase of seedlings for the FY2024 Conservation Forestry Tree Seedling Program.**

**\*A quorum was not present so a second will be required by the Board.**

Fourth on the agenda was consideration of a new cost-share program to provide financial assistance to landowners who border LPSNRD owned properties that would like to conduct habitat improvement projects on their grasslands. This program would offer 75% cost share on practices for improving or restoring grasslands. The goal of the program is reducing maintenance from encroaching trees on our own property and expanding our grassland cores that we have worked hard to create. The intent is that LPSNRD would work closely with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and partner on projects when applicable. Staff addressed concerns on workload and administrative capacity. This would be a pilot year of the program and staff will evaluate participation and interest to determine the future trajectory of this program. The program is budgeted for \$50,000 in FY24.

**It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Sinclair and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the rules and guidelines for the Good Neighbor Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program for FY24.**

**\*A quorum was not present so a second will be required by the Board.**

Last on the agenda were staff updates. Reports/updates: Mopac East Connector update and a status update on the Wildwood boat ramp project with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file