



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Dan Schulz, Resources Coordinator *Dan*

DATE: February 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Minutes-Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Monday, February 11, 2019, the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife Subcommittee met in the District conference room at 5PM. Subcommittee members present were Chair-Anthony Schutz, Gary Aldridge, Don Jacobson, Chelsea Johnson, Dan Steinkruger, Ray Stevens and Sarah Wilson. Others present were Nicole Fleck-Tooze – Lincoln Parks & Recreation, Bruce Kennedy-Audubon Nebraska, Jason Pickerel – Great Plains Appraisal, David Potter, Dan Schulz, Jay Seaton, Maggie Stuckey – Executive Director of the Lincoln Parks Foundation and Paul Zillig.

The first agenda item was the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch – Samani appraisal. Fleck-Tooze handed out the attached maps showing the Prairie Corridor and Haines Branch Project area and where the Samani property is located within the project area. The other map shows the Samani property divided into Tract A and Tract B. She reviewed the history of the two conservation easements over approximately 170 acres shown in green, Samani motocross- approximately 58 acres and Samani dwelling- 20 acres (Samani Tract B).

Fleck-Tooze requested the subcommittee to consider the acquisition of Tract A (228 acres) and that options were still being considered about moving forward on Tract B depending on the success of acquiring Tract A. She indicated the funding sources for the acquisition would be a combination of Nebraska Environment

Trust grant and other funding sources but would not include any additional funds from the District. She indicated Pickerel would review the appraisal.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved that the Directors go into closed session to protect the public interest and develop strategy with respect to negotiations related to the acquisition of the Samani property for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project.

The subcommittee went into closed session at approximately 5:30PM.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved to come out of closed session.

The subcommittee came out of closed session at approximately 6PM.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Samani property appraisal and authorize District staff to negotiate and acquire fee title in accordance with Stevens guidance.

The second agenda item was the road side seeding demonstration – Audubon’s Spring Creek Prairie. Former NRD Director Kennedy reviewed the efforts over the past several years to work with the Lancaster County Engineers office promoting the planting of native grasses and forbs on county right-of-way. He indicated, the current county engineer, Pam Dingman has agreed to a demonstration seeding at the entrance to Spring Creek Prairie. The attached information includes emails between Spring Creek Prairie staff, a map of the demonstration area and the approved seed mix. Kennedy also explained that the brome grass historically seeded along county right-of-ways is very aggressive and is considered an invasive weed in prairies. He also discussed the efforts Spring Creek Prairie staff constantly exert to control the spread of brome grass on Audubon’s property.

Kennedy requested the District consider contributing \$300 towards the seeding demonstration.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Wilson and unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Spring Creek Prairie road side seeding request not to exceed \$300.

The third agenda item – Nebraska Forest Service Annual Report. Seaton distributed copies of the report and noted several portions dealing with eastern red cedar control and utilization, emerald ash borer (EAB) and the need to develop a better insect trap to monitor the spread of EAB, the utilization of EAB killed ash trees, and statewide windbreak inventories and trials. Seaton indicated he would provide the Directors with an electronic link to the report.

The fourth item was an update on Wilderness Park. Zillig reviewed the history of Wilderness Park when Lancaster County purchased the property in the 1960's. At that time, the park land was out in the country and who'd of thought it would wind up on the edge of Lincoln? He indicated a group has been formed to figure out over the next few months how to transfer ownership of Wilderness Park to the City of Lincoln.

With no other business, Schutz adjourned the meeting at 6:45PM.