



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Ariana Kennedy, Resources Conservationist *AK*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, March 10, 2021, the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. Subcommittee members present were; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Christine Lamberty, Lisa Lewis, Mark Spangler, Ray Stevens and John Yoakum. Others present were Terry Wittler (Capitol Beach Community Association), Brian Schuele (Olsson), Sue Kohles (Prairie Pines Partners), Mary Noel (Prairie Pines Partners), Aaron Clare (Nebraska Forest Service), Deb Eagan, Paul Zillig, David Potter, Tom Malmstrom and Ariana Kennedy. There were five agenda items to consider.

First, on the agenda was the revised request from Capitol Beach Community Association (CBCA). Terry Wittler (CBCA) informed the subcommittee that CBCA proposes CBCA and the District jointly obtain an easement to allow the District and CBCA an access path to Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center (LSWNC) and Waterfront Place Street. The letter provided by Wittler lays out the terms. The District is in need of access to LSWNC for maintenance purposes. The tabled motion from the February board meeting was not taken up at the subcommittee meeting, instead a new motion was considered. Letter from CBCA and two maps are attached.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors accept the proposal from Capitol Beach Community Association to jointly obtain an easement to allow District and CBCA access to the Lincoln Saline Wetland Nature Center from Waterfront Place Street; CBCA would negotiate the easement with the property owners on behalf of the District and CBCA, the District would grant CBCA the right to use the path on the easement, CBCA and the District would cost share 50/50, not to exceed \$5,000 of District funds on the cost of paving/surfacing the path, screening and/or landscaping, each party would be responsible for their respective legal counsel fees, and once the easement terms are outlined, CBCA would return to the District for final approval.**

Second, on the agenda was Prairie Pines Partners (PPP) request of matching funds for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for a trail connecting Murdock Trail to Prairie Pines. Kennedy reminded the subcommittee the District holds a conservation easement on the property located at 112<sup>th</sup> and Adams. Legal counsel has determined the proposed connector trail is within the terms and conditions of the easement.

Mary Noel (PPP) and Sue Kohles (PPP) did a presentation on the proposed trail project. There were several questions on ownership of the trail, hours of operation and maintenance of the trail. Kohles informed the subcommittee, the University of Nebraska will have a permanent easement on the trail on the property not located on Prairie Pines, and the intent is to eventually have the trail open seven days a week. However, Prairie Pines is owned by the University of Nebraska and falls under their direction for insurance and liability. Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) will maintain the trail.

Funding for the trail from the District was proposed at a 50/50 cost share with Prairie Pines. This amount is based on the cost estimate and contributions from the RTP grant, NFS, and Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN). ~\$428,000 cost estimate – (\$250,000 RTP funds + ~\$34,000 NFS tree removal services + \$25,000 GPTN funds) = \$119,000.  $\$119,000/2 = \$59,500$  or approximately \$60,000. Letter, cost estimate and map are attached.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Lewis and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors cost-share 50/50 with Prairie Pines Partners on the remaining portion needed for the Recreational Trails Program grant for the trail connecting Murdock Trail to Prairie Pines in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 of District funds.**

5 voting yes, Schutz abstained

Third on the agenda was Olsson Amendment #1 and #2 for trail bank stabilization projects, channel erosion, and culvert installation. Kennedy stated these two Amendments would be added to the March 2019 Agreement with Olsson for the design and bid package for bank stabilization projects on MoPac and Homestead Trail. Kennedy reviewed Amendment #1 and informed the subcommittee there are erosion issues occurring on bridge #11. The channel has shifted to the north/northeast and is impacting the bridge abutment. The repair plan is to realign the channel and stabilize the banks. Services needed for these repairs include; a topo survey, wetland delineation, nationwide permit, floodplain permit work, and channel and bank stabilization design at a cost of \$23,950.

Amendment #2 addresses Bridge #9 on Homestead Trail. The bridge structure is in need of repairs, the abutment on south side of bridge is failing and channel erosion is occurring. The initial approach was to either repair the bridge or replace with a single span structure and stabilize the bank. However, repairs of the bridge structure would be expensive and it was determined a prefab bridge would not be able to accommodate heavy maintenance equipment needed for upkeep of the trail. The proposed plan is to design and install a concrete box culvert and bid this project separately. This will require a USACE permit modification, box culvert design, and bidding services at a cost of \$24,400. Amendments and map of bridge locations are attached.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Lamberty and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve Olsson Amendment #1 for bank stabilization and channel erosion issues on bridge #11 on Homestead Trail in an amount not to exceed \$23,950.00 and approve Olsson Amendment #2 for the removal of bridge #9, design of a concrete box culvert, and installation of concrete box culvert in an amount not to exceed \$24,400.00.**

Fourth on the agenda was North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant Partner Agreement. Tom Malmstrom provided background on the grant and the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership. The Agreement is between Ducks Unlimited (DU), City of Lincoln and NRD. The NRD had previously contributed funds for engineering on Saline Wetland restoration plans on Marsh Wren. This

amount was used as a contribution (old match funds) in the NAWCA grant proposal awarded to DU. The signing of the Agreement allows DU to proceed with the grant on the completion of Nebraska's Saline and Sandhills Wetland Initiative and allows the NRD to accept funding from the grant when determined. There will not be any new dollars from the District. The grant period runs through the year 2023. Agreement and NRD funding commitment letter are attached.

**It was moved by Lewis and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant Partner Agreement to allow Ducks Unlimited to facilitate completion of Nebraska's Saline and Sandhills Wetland Initiative grants.**

Last on the agenda was the Amendment to Extend Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Salt Creek Levee Trail. Kennedy stated the City of Lincoln and NRD have worked together to develop a recreational trail along the Salt Creek Levee system. Once the trails are constructed by NRD, NRD has historically transferred ownership of trail to the City. From J Street to N. 27th Street, there are segments of trail that have not been turned over to the City.

In spring of 2020, the City of Lincoln and NRD signed the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Salt Creek Levee Trail to allow for ongoing maintenance of the recreational trail until transfer occurs. This Amendment to the Agreement will allow for the maintenance to continue for one more year. Amendment and Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (includes map) are attached

**It was moved by Lewis and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Amendment To Extend Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Salt Creek Levee Trail between the City of Lincoln and Lower Platte South Natural Resources District to maintain the levee trail for one year.**

Potter provided an update on the Oak Creek Trail landslide and possible easement. Potter has spoken to the landowner about obtaining an easement on the 20' strip of land on their property through a temporary easement. The landowner seemed open to this possibility. Potter has prepared a letter and draft easement and will be sending this information to the landowner.

Kennedy said she spoke with Greg Bouc from the Village of Valparaiso and updated him on the Valparaiso gazebo status and amending the existing lease. Once an amendment to the lease is ready for review, staff will bring this the subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file