



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Dan Schulz, Resources Coordinator
DATE: April 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Minutes-Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee

On Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee held a virtual Go To Meeting at 5:30PM. Members participating were Chair-Anthony Schutz, Gary Aldridge, Deb Eagan, Luke Peterson, Mark Spangler, and Ray Stevens. Others participating were Nicole Fleck Tooze-Lincoln Parks & Recreation, Ariana Kennedy, David Potter, Larry Ruth, Dan Schulz, Jay Seaton and Paul Zillig.

The first agenda item was negotiations Roberts/Honvlez acquisition.

It was moved by Schutz, seconded by Eagan and unanimously approved to recommend 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 Roberts property for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project.

The meeting went into closed session at 5:37PM.

It was moved by Eagan, seconded by Peterson and unanimously approved to come out of closed session at 5:53PM.

It was moved by Eagan, seconded by Stevens to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize staff to continue negotiating fee title acquisition of the Roberts/Honvlez conservation easement property for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project in accordance with Stevens guidance.

Schutz called for a roll call vote.

Aldridge-not voting

Eagan-yes

Peterson-yes

Spangler-yes

Stevens-yes

Schutz-yes

Motion passed, five yes, one not voting.

The second agenda item was a report by Seaton on the Spring Tree Seedling Program. Seaton reviewed the attached memo, answered questions and indicated staff is working on figuring out in office order packing logistics and tree order pick-up by program participants. He indicated the schedule for these activities is fluid given the challenges Bessey Nursery is having lifting, packing and shipping trees.

The next item was the review of forms required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to proceed to the development of a planning contract between USDA and the District for the Little Salt Creek Watershed (see attached forms). Schulz reviewed the District's award of USDA planning funds to combine the existing Little Salt Creek Watershed Plan completed by the City of Lincoln and the District that addresses creek and drainage channels (see attached map) and to complete a saline wetland restoration plan for the watershed. These plans will be combined into one comprehensive plan for the watershed. He discussed project planning; design and final specifications; and construction phases. Authorizing the General Manager to sign these forms will enable USDA to obligate the awarded funding and develop a contract for the planning phase. That planning contract will come back to the Board for approval. Upon Board approval, the District will go through the District's consultant selection process, pick a consultant and negotiate a professional services contract. It's anticipated it will take 12-18 months to complete the planning phase.

It was moved by Schutz, seconded by Stevens to recommend that the Board of Directors further apply for United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service funding of the Little Salt Creek Watershed Plan by authorizing the General Manager to sign and submit forms AD-3031 United States Department of Agriculture Assurance Regarding Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants; Certification Regarding Lobbying; Application for Federal Assistance SF-424; Assurances Non-Construction Program; Budget Narrative Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program Project; Little Salt Creek Watershed, Lancaster County, Nebraska; Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program Statement of Work for the Little Salt Creek Watershed Plan.

Schutz called for a roll call vote.

Aldridge-yes

Eagan-yes

Peterson-yes

Spangler-yes

Stevens-yes

Schutz-yes

Motion passed 6-0.

The next item was trail bridges inspections. Kennedy reminded the subcommittee the trail bridge inspection report was completed last fall by Theisen Construction. District staff had requested Theisen Construction attend a subcommittee meeting and review the report. However, due to COVID-19, District has instead requested Theisen Construction provide the District with a proposal on the cost of compiling a list of priority bridges needing repair for each trail corridor. The proposal is expected next week. Once the proposal is approved by the District, the next step is for Theisen to prepare a list of the priority bridges to be repaired and include a cost estimate for each bridge repair. Ideally, the list would be to the District by the end of April to allow those numbers to be inserted into the FY 2021 budget.

The last item was a report by Kennedy on repairs to the Lied Platte River Bridge. She provided an update on the bridge debris removal and repair project. This is a FEMA project, 75% covered by FEMA and the remaining 25% covered by Papio-Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte South NRD and/or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The debris has been removed; railing repair design contract has been received by the Papio-Missouri River NRD; bridge structure design contract being developed; east connector trail at 10% conceptualized design plans; and there may be the potential for sonar study of river bed around the footings. Overall, inspection did not identify issues with spans or piers and no significant damage was found.

Schutz adjourned the meeting at 6:36PM.