



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

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TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Dan Schulz, Resources Coordinator 

DATE: April 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife Subcommittee met in the District conference room at 5PM. Subcommittee members present were Chair-Anthony Schutz, Gary Aldridge, Tom Green, Ray Stevens and Sarah Wilson. Others present were Ariana Kennedy, Larry Ruth, Dan Schulz and Paul Zillig.

The first agenda item was consideration of a seeding proposal from Prairie Plains Resource Institute to seed the Petersen tract for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project. Schulz reviewed the attached proposal along with a project map showing the location of the Petersen tract. Schulz indicated the cost for the seeding proposal was \$3,780.00 and that the District will be reimbursed by the City of Lincoln the cost for the seeding with project funds.

It was moved by Aldridge, seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the seeding proposal from Prairie Plains Resource Institute to seed the Petersen tract located in the NE ¼ of Section 34, and the NW ¼ of Section 35, Township 9 North, Range 5 East of the 6th PM, Lancaster County, Nebraska at a cost not to exceed \$3,780.00.

The second agenda item was consideration of a pasture lease agreement with Tom Donahue to graze the Allen tract of the Little Salt Fork Marsh Preserve

Wildlife Management Area. Schulz reviewed the attached agreement. It was noted by the subcommittee that the grazing term shown on the balance sheet should be for three months instead of four months (change was made on the attached copy of the agreement). Schulz indicated Donahue will remove and install new fencing on the north boundary of the Allen tract in exchange for the grass grazed by his cattle (see attached).

It was moved by Wilson and seconded by Stevens to recommend the Board of Directors enter into the pasture lease agreement with Tom Donahue to graze the Allen tract.

Voting in favor of the motion – Green, Schutz, Stevens and Wilson.

Not voting – Aldridge.

The third agenda item was consideration of a pasture lease agreement with Clint Ratkovec to graze the southern portion of the Warner Community Wetland Management Area (see attached). Schulz explained the fencing work to be done by Ratkovec was in exchange for the grass grazed by his cattle (see attached).

It was moved by Wilson and seconded by Stevens to recommend that the Board of Directors enter into the pasture lease agreement with Clint Ratkovec to graze the southern portion of the Warner Community Wetland Management Area.

It was noted by the subcommittee and questioned under Rent, 5(e), removal date of fencing and grazing equipment. A friendly amendment to the motion to change the date was accepted. This date was changed in the attached copy of the agreement from June 1, 2019, to November 15, 2019.

Voting in favor of the motion – Green, Schutz, Stevens and Wilson.

Not voting – Aldridge.

The next agenda item was an update on the flood damage to the Lied Platte River Bridge. Kennedy presented information on site visits by staff, the Game & Parks Commission and the Papio-Missouri River NRD. She showed videos and pictures of the flooding, damage to the bridge and the trail on the Papio side of the bridge.

Staff also mentioned the status of the bridge closure; steps needed to evaluate the damage; and the application for FEMA cost-share funds for repairs. The bridge is expected to be closed for several months.

The next agenda item was an update by Aldridge on his efforts to promote the District's Community Forestry Program. He went through a list of communities and various organizations he's contacted to encourage them to consider applying for the program's funding. He suggested information in the program brochure and the District's website to be harmonized.

The last item was a report by Zillig on a letter received by three Directors concerning two incidents of dogs being injured at Cottontail Wildlife Management Area. He indicated legal counsel was preparing a memo for the Board.

Schutz adjourned the meeting at 6:18PM.