



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 13, 2022

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 Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 5:37 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Tom Green, Christine Lamberty, Luke Peterson, Mark Spangler, Ray Stevens, John Yoakum, and Don Jacobson. Other attendees were Gordon Coke (The Flatwater Group), Rick Krushenisky (The Flatwater Group), Tom Malmstrom (City of Lincoln), Deborah Eagan, Paul Zillig, David Potter, Ariana Kennedy, and Will Inselman.

First item on the agenda, was the request for additional funds to be used for the acquisition of the Kreiner saline wetland property, made by Tom Malmstrom with the City of Lincoln. In September 2021, the LPSNRD Board of Directors approved the use of \$200,000 in District funds toward the acquisition of the Kreiner saline wetland tract, however, negotiations fell short with the family at that time. Over the last few months, subsequent negotiations led to another appraisal, which came in higher due to rising property values. Thus, Tom Malmstrom with the City of Lincoln and Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership, requested some additional funds from the NRD and other partners. Tom requested that the LPSNRD provide up to \$100,000 of additional funds for the acquisition of the Kreiner property.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Peterson and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the request from the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership to provide additional funding, not to exceed \$100,000, towards the acquisition of the Kreiner saline wetland tract.

Motion passed; 7 voting yes, 1 not voting (Spangler)

Not Voting: Spangler

Second on the agenda, was the mentor hunt agreement on Warner Wetlands with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) is requesting the renewal of the mentor hunt agreement at Warner Wetlands. LPSNRD has cooperated with NGPC for the last several years with this program and the area has seen significant use, with 43 hunt days last year on the property, with two deer harvested. This agreement has been renewed on an annual basis, however considering the history of this agreement and the intention to continue this agreement into the future, LPSNRD staff and NGPC propose an agreement that would remain in place until terminated in writing by either party.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Mentor Hunt Agreement between the Lower Platte South NRD and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for mentored archery hunting on the Warner Wetlands Property.

Motion passed 8-0

Third on the agenda, was the Cottontail Wildlife Management Area grassland restoration agreement with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. LPSNRD staff has made plans to restore approximately 54 acres of grasslands on Cottontail WMA this next fiscal year in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). NGPC, using federal Pittman-Robertson funds, will provide 75% cost-share on the total cost of the project, up to \$45,000. The project will remove all invasive woody vegetation on two separate tracts with mechanical and chemical treatment. The project would be completed by April 15, 2023 with the NRD responsible for additional herbicide follow-up treatments in 2024 and 2025. This project will greatly improve the wildlife habitat and public access on this site. LPSNRD staff is excited for this opportunity to work with NGPC and hopes to get funding from them for more projects in the future.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Green and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the agreement between the Lower Platte South NRD and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to conduct a grassland restoration project on Cottontail WMA, with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission providing 75% cost-share on the total project cost, up to \$45,000.

Motion passed 8-0

Fourth on the agenda, was the Schleich Wetland headcut repair engineering services proposal from The Flatwater Group. LPSNRD staff requested a proposal from The Flatwater Group for their services to repair a growing headcut on Schleich Wetland. The Flatwater Group had previously completed a similar project on the northwest end of the property. This headcut has compromised the existing mowed path on the area and continues to grow larger. The proposal outlines the Scope of Work required to complete the project, with a timeline to completion of November-December 2022. This proposal contains an upset limit of \$35,000 to cover all labor and other direct expenses incurred for the project.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the engineering services agreement from The Flatwater Group for the project design to repair the headcut on Schleich Wetland, with an upset limit of \$35,000, subject to legal counsel review.

Motion passed 8-0

Last on the agenda, were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: FY 22 All Forestry Program Updates, Homestead Trail bridge #9, Wabash trailhead, Oak Creek Trail repair. Gordon Coke from The Flatwater Group was also present to give an update on the Little Salt Creek WFPO project. He provided a summary of where we are in the process of getting the proposal approved and talked about all of the projects we hope to complete within the watershed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file