



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 2023

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 Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 5:31 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Gary Hellerich, Christine Lamberty, Don Jacobson, John Yoakum, and Ray Stevens. Other attendees David Landis, Mike Sousek, David Potter, Ariana Kennedy, Jay Seaton, Will Inselman, and landowner Marvin Potter.

The first item on the agenda was an interlocal agreement between the City of Lincoln and LPSNRD the operation and maintenance of the Salt Creek Levee Trail. The Salt Creek Levee Trail is complete from Calvert Street to approximately Superior Street/30th Street. This Agreement obligates the City with the maintenance of the trail surface, trail improvements, and mowing of that segment. LPSNRD will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the surrounding property, including the levees. This agreement is like the one-year Interlocal Cooperation Agreement we have held with the City over the last four years; however, this agreement would be a 30-year agreement. Staff explained the complexities that currently exist with land ownership and easements would have made land transfer difficult and cumbersome. This agreement has worked in the past and staff felt there was no concern about continuing the agreement in lieu of a land transfer.

It was moved by Jacobson and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve an interlocal cooperation agreement with the City of Lincoln for the operation and maintenance of the Salt Creek Levee Trail, pending legal counsel review.

Second on the agenda was the temporary easement request for a trail crossing on the Oak Creek Trail. Based on the recommendation given to staff at the July RF&W subcommittee meeting, staff have drafted a temporary easement that would serve as the legal document allowing the landowners, Marvin and Diane Potter, the ability to build a trail crossing to utilize for agricultural purposes. The temporary easement would give him the authority to operate the crossing as long as the NRD is the owner of the trail property. The easement states that the responsibility of the construction and maintenance of the crossing would fall on the landowner. All work will be completed with approval from NRD staff. Staff addressed questions regarding trail signs and safety for trail users. The landowner was present and was agreeable with the terms of the temporary easement.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Hellerich and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve a temporary easement for Marvin and Diane Potter to construct, operate, and maintain a private crossing on the Oak Creek Trail near County Road 31 and County Road C in Saunders County, pending legal counsel review.

Third on the agenda were agreements to conduct habitat improvement projects on two of the NRDs Wildlife Management Areas. LPSNRD staff has made plans to restore approximately 42 acres of grasslands and 13 acres of oak woodlands on Red Cedar WMA and Wild Plum WMA this next FY in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). NGPC, using federal Pittman-Robertson funds, will provide 75% cost-share on the projects. The project will remove all invasive woody vegetation with mechanical and chemical treatment. The larger Oak Woodland area on Red Cedar WMA will be treated with herbicide and prescribed fire. The woody vegetation removal portions of the project would be completed by April 15, 2024, with herbicide follow-up treatments in 2025 and 2026. Staff fielded questions about follow up maintenance and making a good effort to maintain these areas following these projects. Staff also provided information on benefits to wildlife and the increased recreational accessibility these projects would provide in these areas.

It was moved by Jacobson and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the agreements between the Lower Platte South NRD and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to conduct grassland and oak woodland restoration projects on Wild Plum WMA and Red Cedar WMA, with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission providing 75% cost-share of total project costs.

Fourth on the agenda was a Community Forestry Program application for approval. Staff received an application from Lone Tree Homeowners Association for a request of \$6,378.06 from the NRD. Their plan is for the planting of 8 deciduous and 13 evergreen trees. Total cost of the project is \$12,756.12. HOA's are allowed to request up to 50% cost share of the total project cost from the NRD.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Community Forestry application from Lone Tree HOA with a total project cost of \$12,756.12, with the NRD share not to exceed \$6,378.06

Last on the agenda were staff updates. Reports/updates: Mopac East Connector update and a NW 91st Street bridge update were provided by staff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file