



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 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 Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 5:31 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Tom Green, Mark Spangler, Ray Stevens, John Yoakum, and Don Jacobson. Other attendees were Paul Zillig, Jay Seaton, and Will Inselman.

First item on the agenda, was the discussion on the upcoming FY2023 Conservation Tree Program changes to the price of seedlings and to limit the number of orders. Bessey Nursery recently sent their price list for FY2023 and there was another increase in price. We have not had a price increase here at LPSNRD since FY2020. Since then, Bessey has increased their price by 11.5%. That is in addition to the cost of packing materials. However, due to the introduction in FY2022 of funds from Executive Travel, we can offset some of that cost and pass that on to our clients. The staff recommendation was to increase the increase seedling prices for orders of less than 100 seedlings to \$0.95, orders greater than/equal to 100 seedlings to \$0.90 and the small acreage packages to \$65.00. This is an increase of \$0.05 per seedling and \$10.00 for the packages.

Another recommendation from staff was to limit the total number of seedlings sold to 40,000 or 450 orders, whichever would happen first. Due to the high number of small orders placed last year (over 500) we learned that space is limited in the tree cooler. With that high number of orders, safety of moving boxes became a concern, as well as the logistics of sorting and finding orders. It was requested that staff investigate finding alternative solutions that would not limit the number of trees and/or orders in future years.

It was moved by Jacobson and seconded by Stevens and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the changes to the guidelines and price increase of seedlings for the FY2023 Conservation Forestry Program.

Motion passed 6-0

Second on the agenda, was a discussion on changes to the program rules for the FY2023 Landscape Tree Cost-Share Program. The cost-share program is for planting landscape sized trees on residential or commercial properties in the District. Staff discussed changes that would help streamline the program by setting application and payment deadlines to help with the administration of the program. The staff recommended changes to the rules were an application deadline of October 31st and requirement to be invoiced prior to May 31st to avoid

getting bills in the wrong fiscal year. Staff also recommended removing wording on the maximum amount of application accepted, to read that applications would be accepted until October 31st or earlier if all funds were expended. This program is in its second year so we knew there would be some growing pains. Staff felt these changes would help streamline the program.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Jacobson and approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the changes to the program rules for the FY2023 Landscape Tree Cost-Share Program.

Motion passed 6-0

Last on the agenda, were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: Conservation easement conversations with interested landowners, Wabash trailhead, MoPac connector status update, and new historical MoPac trail signs to be installed at trailheads.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file