



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: September 9, 2021

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Ariana Kennedy, Resources Conservationist *AK*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, September 8, 2021, the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room at 5:30 p.m. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Susan Seacrest and Ray Stevens. A quorum was not present at the subcommittee meeting. Other attendees were Bill Oberg (Prairie Preservation), Deb Eagan, Paul Zillig, Tom Malmstrom, Jay Seaton, Dan Schulz and Ariana Kennedy.

Jay Seaton, District Forester, reported on the status of the Natural Resources District (NRD) Windbreak Renovation Program. Seaton informed the subcommittee the Agreement between Nebraska Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service has not been finalized. Practices for the program will include; windbreak establishment, windbreak renovation, tree/shrub replacement and tree/shrub site preparation. Seaton is hopeful the Agreement will be finalized this fall to allow the program to begin in Spring 2022.

Next, Seaton discussed the proposed program rules and District administration guidelines for the NRD Tree Voucher Program. Seaton covered the 'NRD TREE VOUCHER PROGRAM' document that was provided to the subcommittee. Document is attached to this memo. Seaton's next steps will be to contact and work with local nurseries on the program, designate a list of trees for the program, and set cost-share amounts for the program. Seaton will return to the subcommittee with this information and final recommendations for the program at a future subcommittee meeting.

Third topic discussed at the subcommittee was the Prairie Preservation request letter from Jon Oberg and Bill Oberg. Bill Oberg informed the subcommittee they are concerned about the threat of development on 17-acre parcel of prairie that may be designated as a blighted area. Oberg referenced the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs Master Plan and that the properties identified in the Master Plan are part of the tall grass prairie system of Eastern Nebraska. The property is adjacent to land owned by them and close to Nine-Mile Prairie. There is no action from the subcommittee at this time, Oberg stated he wanted to at least get the conversation started with the subcommittee on the 17-acre property as well as the possibility of exploring conservation easements in the future. Letter from Jon Oberg and Bill Oberg is attached. Map titled: 'Review Parcel near Nine-Mile Prairie' also attached.

The first action item on the agenda was the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership acquisition for the Kreiner property. Malmstrom reviewed the 'KREINER PROPERTY (156.98 acres)' document that was provided to the subcommittee (document is attached to this memo). He mentioned the property has saline wetlands and designated critical habitat for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle. The property lies between the Glacial Hill property and Frank Shoemaker Marsh property (see attached map, 'Illustration 1 – Area Map'). Proposed funding for the acquisition is NRD (\$200,000), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Federal, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funds (\$357,806), and Lincoln Parks Foundation (\$325,000 - \$400,000 plus \$100,000 for a land management endowment). There is \$200,000 in the NRD Fiscal Year 2022 budget for a Saline wetland conservation easement or fee title acquisition. Malmstrom stated this is a willing seller, the City of Lincoln would negotiate with the Kreiners, and the City of Lincoln would own the property.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Schutz and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors provide \$200,000 of District funds towards the acquisition of the Kreiner saline wetland tract located in the SE ¼ of Section 13, Township-11-North, Range-6-East, Lancaster County, Nebraska.**

**A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Last agenda item was the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grant application for the City of Lincoln Greenways Project. Malmstrom explained the City of Lincoln will be submitting a grant application to NET that will include funding for Nebraska Saline Wetlands and for the removal of cedar trees at Wilderness Park. The NRD would provide \$50,000 for Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership per the inter-local agreement and \$50,000 of in-kind services from seasonal employees or cash match. An additional \$40,000 of cash match would be for tree removal at Wilderness Park. Letters from the City of Lincoln (Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director) and the NRD (Paul Zillig, General Manager) are attached to this memo.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Seacrest and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors agree to provide up to \$140,000 of Nebraska Environmental Trust grant match including the \$50,000 commitment in the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership agreement, \$50,000 of in-kind services from seasonal employees or cash for saline wetlands and \$40,000 of cash match for wetland restoration in Wilderness Park during the grant period.**

**A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file