



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581  
P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

### Memorandum

**Date:** January 10, 2024  
**To:** Urban Subcommittee  
**From:** Mark Lindemann, District Engineer  
**Subject:** Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 2024

The Urban Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at the NRD Office, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members participating included John Yoakum- committee chair, Gary Aldridge, Melissa Baker, Deborah Eagan, Larry Ruth, Stacie Sinclair, and Susan Seacrest. Others participating included NRD staff Mike Sousek, David Potter, Drew Ratkovec, Craig Matulka, and Mark Lindemann. Justin Eggleston with the Village of Ceresco, Colleen Ocken from JEO Consulting Group, Inc., and Connor Kelley with Houston Engineering were also in attendance. With everyone present, director Yoakum called the meeting to order at 5:28pm. There were three (3) items the Subcommittee took action on. A quorum was present for the meeting.

To start the meeting, Lindemann noted the email sent earlier in the morning regarding the addition of agenda (item C). As soon as they were made available to staff, background materials for item C were emailed to directors and staff in the afternoon, and copies were made available at the subcommittee meeting. Lindemann then announced Drew Ratkovec as the new Projects Coordinator for the District. Drew was previously the former Stormwater/ Watershed Specialist, and also a Maintenance Technician. Craig Matulka was also introduced as the newly promoted Stormwater/ Watershed Specialist, filling Ratkovec's former position. Matulka has been with the District for 19 years as an Operation and Maintenance Technician overseeing the inspection and maintenance of the District's watershed dam structures and other maintenance duties. Both were congratulated by those present.

**A. Consideration of a Community Assistance program Application Request – Village of Ceresco Hobson Branch Stream Restoration Project – Construction Phase [ACTION]** – Rakovec provided background on phase 3 (construction) of the Hobson Branch stream restoration project that runs through the Village of Ceresco. The previous Community Assistance Program (CAP) application was approved by the Board in May of 2023 to perform engineering and design to stabilize the channel below two bridges and along their park (phase 2). Ceresco has advertised and received bids for construction. A total of nine (9) bids were received, with a recommendation to the low bid of \$145,763.88, from Gana Trucking and Excavating, Inc. The bid package was separated into three Groups, with Groups A and B addressing channel work at the bridges, and Group C addressing channel work along the park. Ratkovec explained that Ceresco has submitted a CAP application request for cost-share for Group C work, which has been considered eligible. The application for cost share would be 50% of Group C for \$77,101.85, of which the NRD would reimburse \$38,550.92.

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Eagan and approved by the Subcommittee (6 voting Yes, Aldridge voting Present) to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Community Assistance Program cost-share request, in an amount not to exceed \$38,550.92 for Village of Ceresco Hobson Branch Stream Restoration Construction Project, pending legal counsel review.

**B. Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering for Engineering Services for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project - CLOMR. [ACTION]** – Lindemann updated the subcommittee on the progress of the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project (DMRFRP). 95% design deliverables (plans, cost estimate, schedule, engineering documentation) are expected to be received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by the end of February 2024. Lindemann explained that when final design is completed, a Conditional Letter of Map Revision will need to be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to show the proposed changes to the hydrologic and hydraulics resultant from the project as related to a flood event and the floodplain. Connor Kelley, from Houston Engineering, Inc., was present to answer specific questions related to the CLOMR requirements. Kelley explained that Houston will coordinate and collect all final design materials (plans, engineering documents, hydrology results) to develop a deliverable to FEMA to allow FEMA to understand the changes that will be made to the channel and floodplain as a result of the project. Houston will submit the CLOMR deliverable on behalf of the NRD and City. The total fee for Houston’s proposal is at a cost not to exceed \$38,213. Lindemann explained that Houston has previously assisted the NRD with modeling and engineering work for the Deadmans Run project, and feels it is important to get the team on board soon to get them up to speed and to stay informed of any changes in the design and assist project team members as needed. Questions on the CLOMR submittal process and specifics of what documentation is required, with Kelly providing responses. Houston’s proposal has been reviewed by legal counsel.

It was moved by Seacrest, seconded by Sinclair, and approved by the Subcommittee (6 voting Yes, Aldridge voting Present) to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$38,213 for Engineering Services for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project.

**C. Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering for Engineering Services for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project- Value Engineering. [ACTION]** – Lindemann then recalled the update report provided to Directors at the December 13, 2023, Urban meeting regarding the increased costs for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project (DMRFRP). On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the City and NRD held a “Mini Value Engineering” session at the NRD to discuss ways to reduce project costs and improve the schedule. On Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the City and NRD met with Houston Engineering Inc., to determine the feasibility of options discussed at the December 12<sup>th</sup> session. Houston was directed to provide a proposal to investigate in more detail the modeling and analysis previously performed by Houston and look at multiple components of the project that could be modified, changed, or eliminated. The goal of the work to be performed by Houston would be to develop a report that provides preliminary costs and alternatives for a project that is best suited to the local sponsors (NRD and City), that when constructed, will still provide the same or improved flood reduction benefits to the public, and meet the FEMA standards with significant cost savings to the local sponsors. Results from Houston’s report will assist the City and NRD in determining the direction it will take for the Deadmans Run project. The total fee for Houston’s proposal is at a cost not to exceed \$163,243. Costs associated with the DMRFRP, including Houston’s proposal, are split 50/50% between the NRD and City per an interlocal agreement. Lindemann noted that this action item for Board consideration was added as a result of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the City, Houston, and NRD. The City and NRD believe it is important for Houston to begin work

immediately (upon Board approval) to allow Houston sufficient time to have results at the same time it is expected that the 95% plans and cost estimate are received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the end of February). Much discussion occurred from directors, staff, and Houston. Multiple questions were asked, including causes of cost increases and examples of options being considered to reduce costs, as well as any negative impacts that should be considered.

It was moved by Eagan, seconded by Seacrest, and approved by the Subcommittee (6 voting Yes, Aldridge voting Present) to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$163,243 for Engineering Services for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project.

With no other discussion, meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

cc: Dave Landis  
Steve Seglin  
Corey Wasserburger