




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: November 15, 2019
To: Board of Directors
From: Jared Nelson, District Engineer 
Subject: Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – November 2019

The Urban Subcommittee met at 5:30pm on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 in the District office to review, discuss and take action on several items. Subcommittee members present included Mike DeKalb, Robert Andersen, Deborah Eagan, Luke Peterson, Milt Schmidt, and Ray Stevens. Members absent included Tom Green, and Anthony Schutz. Others present included Paul Zillig, Al Langdale, Mike Murren, Jared Nelson, and Tracy Zayac; and Travis Figard with Olsson. Director DeKalb called the meeting to order at 5:30, gave a brief welcome, and reviewed the agenda. The following contains a summary of the meeting and related background information:

(a.) Consideration of Professional Services Agreement for Design of the Beal Slough Channel Design Project from 70th to Pine Lake Road. – The Beal Slough Channel Design Project, from 70th Street to Pine Lake Road, is a stream stabilization project located along Gapp Park in Lincoln. It will implement recommendations previously made in a stream assessment previously completed in June 2019 by Intuition & Logic, and aligns with recommendations in the Beal Slough Master Plan. This project is to design grade controls and associated bank stabilization structures along Beal Slough, to reduce incision and stabilize the channel on the reach of Beal Slough from 70th Street to Pine Lake Rd. It is the intent to proceed with design of this project now, in coordination with other trails being designed in this park, to realize efficiencies, and to construct before or with the trail projects. Beal Slough in this section is facing sizable incision, and one location in particular contains a headcut which is about three to four feet alone. Stabilizing the stream will help preserve this area and reduce erosion as well as protect adjacent land owners and benefit future trails and park users. Final plan preparation, specifications, and bidding services will be completed with this project. Other tasks include: survey, geotechnical services, easement documents, and 404 permitting. The timeline for this project estimates construction beginning fall of 2020. See attached information.

Staff discussed the work and that the District is responsible for Beal Slough in the City of Lincoln, and costs will be reimbursed 50% from the City. Green asked about utility coordination for the project and soils in the area. Murren described known existing and proposed sanitary sewer utilities and that the project will coordinate with the City to coordinate work. Nelson described the design will look at soils to ensure a successful project to limit erosion.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Peterson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend approving the Professional Services Agreement with Intuition & Logic, for the Beal Slough Channel Design Project from 70th to Pine Lake Road, in an amount not to exceed \$98,735.

(b.) Consideration of Professional Services for the Deadmans's Run Streambank Repair Project near 70th and O Street. – District staff noticed bank sluffing along the south side of Deadman's Run northeast of 70th & O Street on October 16th, 2019. In this location, there are two rows of gabion baskets, and the sluff occurred at the upper section where the bank and gabion row has failed at a location immediately adjacent to an active construction site. The cause of the failure is unknown at this time. Saturated soils and/or nearby construction activity may have potentially been a factor. This project seeks to hire Olsson to complete a geotechnical investigation, including soil borings, and to perform engineering analysis and provide conclusions and recommendations regarding the failure and repair design. The scope includes design, permitting, plan preparation, specifications, and bidding services. See attached Fact sheet, picture and the scope of work.

Staff reviewed the location and timeline of the failure as it relates to the construction of Tommy's Car Wash, and reviewed information gathered on the topic. See attached fact sheet. Dekalb asked if the construction activities caused the failure. Staff and Travis Figard with Olsson described that it is not known at this time, but potential causes which may have contributed include: saturated soils; dewatering the site via hose at the top of bank instead of discharging into the channel; blocking drainage through the existing storm drain outfalls; and recent private fiber optic hydraulic boring work which occurred near the failure. Figard described their proposed contract for this work includes the necessary steps to take in order to understand the cause of failure and repair.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend approving the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson, for the Deadmans Run Bank Repair Project near 70th & O St, in an amount not to exceed \$49,500.

Salt Creek Levee projects and efforts. – The following describes a few project and efforts related to the Salt Creek Levee, as it relates to the March Flood Event, and the USACE PL 84-99 Levee Repairs, considered an emergency by USACE.

(c.) Consideration of Access Agreements for the US Army Corps of Engineer's Salt Creek Levee PL 84-99 Repair Project. – District staff continue to work on obtaining access agreements and easements for the PL 84-99 Levee Repair Project and have been in discussions with several landowners and the City. The USACE provided maps just this week of the repair areas showing access routes and staging areas needed for the project, and this will be presented at the Subcommittee meeting. The USACE is classifying the repair project as an emergency, and are being worked on concurrently with other levee repairs in Nebraska.

Langdale and Zillig presented an overview of the fourteen repair locations, and temporary easements needed to give the contractor suitable access and staging for the sites. A larger area is also needed as a material stockpile location, which the District must deliver soil material to, as a requirement by USACE for the \$12 Million project (100% USACE cost). The soil material and easements are required by USACE before construction may begin. The USACE is moving very quickly, with construction beginning as soon as January 22nd, so staff has been working diligently on these efforts and has already received agreements from several landowners for temporary construction easements (see attached). The Subcommittee and staff discussed potential costs and location alternatives. To be prudent, and to not cause delay for the emergency repairs, it was discussed giving the General Manager authority to negotiate and approve necessary temporary construction easements for the USACE repair project.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to negotiate and approve the

necessary temporary construction easements for the US Army Corps of Engineer's PL 84-99 repairs to the Salt Creek Levees in Lincoln, pending legal counsel review.

(d.) Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement for Geotechnical Investigations of Borrow Sites for the USACE Salt Creek Levee PL 84-99 Repair Project. – As the local Sponsor of the Salt Creek Levee, the District is responsible for supplying cohesive clay material for the USACE PL 84-99 Repair project. The USACE has identified approximately 29,000 CY of clay needed for the project. District staff are considering several locations for borrow and have sought services of Terracon to conduct soil borings in order to determine if the clay will meet USACE specifications, and to estimate the volume of material available. Two potential sites are at the Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center, and the Landmark land (northeast of 33rd and Superior), both owned by the District.

Nelson and Langdale described the very high potential cost of purchasing good cohesive clay material for the USACE repair project, possibly three to four hundred thousand dollars. Staff has identified these potential sites to test soil for suitability, and quantity, in order to potentially lower the overall cost to the District for material. The subcommittee and staff discussed the landmark site being more practical due to wetland permitting and proximity to the levees.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend approving the Professional Services Agreement with Terracon Consultants, for the Salt Creek Levee Borrow Site Project, in an amount not to exceed \$26,540, pending legal counsel review.

(e.) Consideration of an Amendment for additional Professional Services for Salt Creek Levee Repair Project South of Van Dorn. – The District continues efforts to repair damaged levee sections near Salt Creek Levee near Van Dorn and Park Ave, at Levee Stations 82+50 and 76+00-77+50. Recently, the USACE notified the District they will repair the location at 82+50, however the District is proceeding with repair at the other location and has asked Benesch to provide a scope for additional services to complete 404 permitting for this remaining portion of the project. See attachments.

Nelson described the existing project that the District began work on in March for two locations, but USACE is now repairing one of them (near STA 82+50). This contract is to keep proceeding with work at the other location (near STA 76+00). Schmidt asked about timing of construction of our project and the Corps, and it was discussed it may be best for USACE to do their work first, and then follow up with ours.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Eagan, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend approving the Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Benesch, for additional environmental services for the Salt Creek Levee Erosion Repair Project near Van Dom St Bridge, in an amount not to exceed \$7,750.

(f.) LPSNRD Rainscaping Program Update. – Tracy Zayac, staff, is continuing efforts to revamp the District's Urban Water Quality Program (UWQP) into a Rainscaping Program similar to the City of Lincoln's Program, for which we currently provide matching funds. Historically, the UWQP has had few participants, in part because the application process was viewed as cumbersome. The new program will be available throughout the District, outside the City of Lincoln, emphasize bioetention projects (i.e., rain gardens and bioswales), and feature a more streamlined application process with a defined cost-share limit. See attached background information.

Zayac gave an update of this program which is being developed and asked the Subcommittee for feedback as she continues these efforts. Stevens inquired about the 'cumbersome' UWQP program, and the subcommittee discussed differences and potential benefits of this new program being developed. Zayac described how in the future, she will be presenting a final program proposal for consideration.

(g.) Reports

The final agenda topic included the following updates to the subcommittee:

(1.) Deadmans Run - 205 Flood Reduction Project. – Jared Nelson and Paul Zillig gave updates regarding the Deadmans Run 205 Flood Reduction Project. The University of Nebraska is proceeding with its physical scale model of the Flume, and recently has worked with USACE to change the scale to be slightly smaller. The USACE hired SOLV, an engineering firm to begin work on the project and they have been surveying along Deadmans Run and will begin work on the hydraulic model and then design of phase 1. The District is hoping to hear in mid-December regarding the results of the Water Sustainability Fund application if we may be selected. Zillig reported that the UNL Agreement for 38th St Bridge and other items is in its final stages and it may be finalized as early as December.

(2.) South Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan Project #4 at Old Cheney Rd. – Murren reported that this project is to have its bid opening on November 15th, and is jointly tied to a water main project and sanitary sewer project in conjunction with City of Lincoln, and also includes aspects with the County.

(3.) Antelope Park Pipe Replacement Project near Randolph & Capital Parkway. – Murren and Nelson reported that Pat Thomas Construction did not attend the Pre-Construction meeting for this project, held last week. A record of this will be placed in the file.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.