




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: December 13, 2019
To: Board of Directors
From: Jared Nelson, District Engineer 
Subject: Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – December 2019

The Urban Subcommittee met at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 12, 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. 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 Cooperation Agreement with USACE for the Salt Creek Levee PL 84-99 Repair Project. – Al Langdale, staff, discussed the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) PL 84-99 Repair Project on Salt Creek Levee which repair damages occurring in March. The USACE plans to advertise the project on December 13th, 2019 in order to receive bids, with anticipated notice to proceed on January 22nd. To-date, the USACE has not indicated a schedule change. Langdale discussed the attached USACE's Cooperation Agreement for this work which formalizes the USACE's and NRD's responsibilities in this effort, and is required by USACE to receive rehabilitation assistance.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Eagan, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Cooperation Agreement between the United States of America and LPSNRD, for PL 84-99 Rehabilitation of a Federal Flood Control Work for the Salt Creek Levee System, pending legal counsel review.

(b.) LPSNRD Rain-Ready Landscapes Program. – Tracy Zayac, staff, discussed efforts in revamping the District's Urban Water Quality Program (UWQP) into a "Rain-Ready Landscapes Program" similar to the City of Lincoln's Rainscaping Program, for which we currently provide matching funds. Zayac went over her attached Memorandum information and described that the program gives the same opportunity as the Rainscaping Program in Lincoln, but in order to not 'double dip', the new Rain-Ready Landscapes program will only be available for property owners in the District which are outside the City of Lincoln. The program will be made available to property owners, including individual homeowners and businesses. Applicants would be encouraged to work with staff on a project description and a design that it makes sense, and they could work with a landscaper to install or install themselves, and would need to maintain the feature for five years. Discussion followed with Subcommittee members and staff. DeKalb asked if the program is currently funded. It was discussed with this new Rain-Ready Landscapes Program replacing the UWQP program, the current funding under UWQP can be used. Eagan sought clarification that those in the City

of Lincoln can apply for the City's Rainscaping Program, and those outside of the City can apply for the NRDs Rain-Ready Landscapes Program. It was discussed that once an approved applicant's project moves forward, staff would check that it was completed per the approved design, before reimbursing. If there are modifications that were made that are not in alignment with the project, the applicant would be given an opportunity to rectify those, or they would not be reimbursed. Stevens asked if this work would cover a dry creek bed, to which staff responded that a new proposed bio-swale resembles a dry creek bed and would be, but modification of an existing creek bed would not be encouraged as it could fall under USACE authority and 404 regulations. Staff responded to Peterson's question that a time extension could be granted administratively. Schmidt asked about noxious weeds and inspections and staff responded they intend to conduct spot-checks over the 5-year maintenance period or if made aware of issues.

It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Rain-Ready Landscapes Program to replace the District's Urban Water Quality Program.

(c.) Consideration of the Lincoln Flood Mitigation Master Plan. – Paul Zillig described that the City of Lincoln has obtained a Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant from FEMA for a Lincoln Flood Mitigation Master Plan. The grant is a \$99,500 grant with 75% cost share from FEMA and a local share of 25% (24,875). The City reached out to the NRD (letter is attached) and is requesting a 50/50 cost share with the City for the local share only (\$12,437.50 each). Zillig explained that these types of projects are typically in the annual Stormwater Interlocal Agreement Work Plan between the City and NRD, but this request was not ready when the District did the Interlocal Agreement with the City, so it is not currently in our agreement nor budgeted for. Zillig further described that this effort will aid the City of Lincoln in keeping its current Community Rating System (CRS) rating at a '5'. FEMA oversees the CRS program to promote good floodplain management, and floodplain insurance holders in a floodplain of a community with a rating of 5 receive a 25% reduction in flood insurance rates.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Stevens, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the cost-share request from the City of Lincoln for 50% of the local share, for the Lincoln Flood Mitigation Master Plan, at a cost not to exceed \$12,438 NRD funds, pending legal counsel review.

(d.) Status update on current Community Assistance Program Projects. – Next, Zayac, gave a quarterly updated of Community Assistance Program project, which are summarized in her attached Memorandum.

(e.) Reports - Jared Nelson, staff, gave a report on the Deadmans Run 205 Flood Reduction Project, and that on December 18th the NRD will find out if its Water Sustainability Fund grant application for this project will be selected and approved. Peterson asked what happens to our budget if we receive this grant funding, which is for \$5.8 Million (being shared 50/50 with the City of Lincoln), and the subcommittee discussed "this good problem to have", which ultimately helps improve the Deadmans Run sinking fund position, and future years allocations to it and the budget. Nelson also gave an update that the USACE notified the NRD of an error USACE made in surveying Deadmans Run, and they have since rectified the issue, but it will cause a delay in schedule of several weeks.

Finally, Nelson and Langdale gave a report of the Antelope Park Pipe Replacement Project near Randolph & Capitol Parkway, and that Pat Thomas Construction began work last week.

Enclosures (4)