




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: April 15, 2022
To: Urban Subcommittee
From: Jared Nelson, District Engineer 
Subject: Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – April 2022

The Urban Subcommittee met at 5:30pm, on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Subcommittee members participating included Tom Green, Gary Aldridge, David Landis, Lisa Lewis, Ron Nolte, and John Yoakum. Others participating included Board Chair Deb Eagan; NRD staff Paul Zillig, Al Langdale, Tracy Zayac, Jared Nelson, and Mike Murren; and Ross Lawrence with JEO Consulting Group. Director Green called the meeting to order at 5:31pm. There were five items the Subcommittee took action on, as described below.

(a.) Consideration of the Annual Work Plan for the Stormwater Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lincoln. [ACTION] – First, Nelson described how the City of Lincoln and NRD have put into place an Interlocal Agreement on Stormwater Management to list activities the entities cooperate on. He explained how as part of the Interlocal Agreement, the City and NRD annually take up a Work Plan (attached) which describes specific activities for the upcoming year. He described that the activities this year are very similar to the past. Then Nelson and staff provided a summary of the Work Plan items, and explained in more detail the following items which are different this year:

The activities this year are very similar to the past. Three paragraphs (#7 and #8 and #13) include the following construction projects which are different:

- *South Salt Creek Stream Stability Project SSC #6 in Wilderness Park (NRD lead) [#7]*
- *Salt Creek Drainage Structure at N. 70th Steet / Lincoln Water System Emergency 16" Water Main Repair (City lead) [#8]*
- *Watershed Best Management Practice Rehabilitation projects, as identified before or during this interlocal agreement, with cost shares and the lead agency decided on a case-by-case basis. [#13]*

A new paragraph [#10] was added this year, for “**Salt Creek Floodplain Resiliency**”, to consolidate and clarify planning activities where the City and the NRD “*will continue to coordinate and consider opportunities to make the City more resilient to the risks of flooding along Salt Creek*”.

This paragraph [#10] includes the following four planning activities which are different:

- *Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of implementing structural measures to address updated precipitation data (NOAA Atlas 14) and related updated flooding frequencies. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application submitted to FEMA (City lead).*
- *Consider additional federal assistance via USDA/NRCS Watersheds and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) program, or USACE General Infrastructure (GI) program, with lead agency decided on case-by-case basis.*
- *Review and potentially update how updated precipitation data (NOAA Atlas 14) is used and applied to floodplain modeling in the Lincoln region with meteorologists' assistance (City lead).*
- *Review updated modeling of stormwater runoff based on updated precipitation data (NOAA Atlas 14), as recommended in the City's Climate Action Plan, and update Lincoln floodplain maps based on federal standards. Year one of updating floodplain maps as a part of FEMA's Coordinating Technical Partnership (CTP) program (City lead).*

Questions and comments were shared by the Subcommittee members with staff responding. The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Work Plan.

It was moved by Landis, seconded by Yokum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Work Plan for the Interlocal Agreement on Stormwater Management, with the City of Lincoln.

(b.) Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with JEO to prepare the 2022 Salt Creek Levee SWIF Annual Progress Report [ACTION] – Next, Nelson described how the NRD is the local sponsor of the Salt Creek Levee system in Lincoln, originally constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE performs annual inspections and identifies deficiencies which determine the levees sponsor's continued eligibility in the Public Law (P.L.) 84-99 Rehabilitation Program. The rectification of multiple deficiencies while maintaining eligibility in the Program have been coordinated with USACE through a System–Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) Plan, accepted by the USACE on May 31, 2016.

Nelson described that every year the NRD is required to report progress to the Omaha District Commander that demonstrates system-wide improvement accomplishments, and report any changes to levee condition, progress, schedule, funding, and permitting process, as well as any changes to critical USACE inspection items.

He said that he completed past SWIF annual progress reports for the NRD, and JEO Consulting has assisted the District in past biennial SWIF updates and efforts. He explained that due to his absence, he will not be able to complete the progress report this year, so he worked to negotiate a contract (attached) with JEO to prepare this year's annual report. The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposal, with Nelson answering questions. Also, Lawrence assured the subcommittee JEO would be able to complete the report by May 31st, 2022.

It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Landis, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group for the 2022 Salt Creek Levee SWIF Annual Progress Report, in an amount not to exceed \$7,020, pending legal counsel review.

(c.) Consideration to establish the Oak Creek Streambank Mitigation site [ACTION] – Next, Zillig referred to his attached Memorandum, dated April 11, 2022 regarding this item. He discussed how the District needs to establish the Oak Creek Streambank Mitigation Site to mitigate environmental impacts, and obtain a Section 404 permit, for the District’s Antelope Creek 40th to Scott Avenue Restoration Project. The subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposal and timeline of the project.

It was moved by Landis, seconded by Lewis, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors direct the General Manager to submit a Financial Assurances Letter for the Oak Creek Stream Mitigation site and agree to continue developing mitigation plans and preparation of the required deed restriction “easement”.

(d.) Consideration to authorize a modification of the joint City of Lincoln/NRD Antelope Valley Project easement northeast of the Antelope Creek “N” Street bridge. [ACTION] – Zillig referred to his attached Memorandum dated April 12, 2022 regarding this item. He described how St. Joseph Institute/Catholic Social Services (CSS) would like to grow south of their existing building where an existing City/NRD easement exists for Antelope Valley (east of Antelope Valley; north of N Street). Initially CSS was requesting to have a portion of this easement simply released. However, he explained, CSS has more recently discussed with staff and has offered to also provide an additional new easement. Zillig said the new easement would be more beneficial for the District and the Antelope Valley project. He said that staff finds the new easement location to be better and would provide the City/NRD with better access to the east side of the channel in this vicinity. The subcommittee discussed and carefully considered the proposal.

It was moved by Landis, seconded by Yoakum, and approved by the Subcommittee (with Green, Landis, Lewis, Nolte, and Yoakum voting yes, and Aldridge voting no) to recommend that the Board of Directors agree to approve the proposed changes to the existing Antelope Valley access easement area for the Saint Joseph Institute property at 22nd & N, and authorize the General Manager to work with the City of Lincoln and NRD Legal Counsel to complete the steps necessary to complete this action.

(e.) Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Intuition & Logic to design, permit, and bid the South Salt Creek Basin Master Plan Project #6 [ACTION] – Murren referred to the attached summary information on the South Salt Creek Basin Master Plan #6 (SSC#6), which is a planned stream stability Capital Improvement Project identified in the South Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan. He explained how the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department has recently submitted for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant to have the trail and bridge improved at this location, where the old Rock Island Railroad bridge crosses Salt Creek and its line continued east.

Murren described how City and NRD staff had recent discussion on the benefits of coordinating and completing the stream stability project before, or in conjunction with the City trail project. Murren said it will be best to construct this project in the fall, and it would also need a Section 404 permit, and so he contacted Intuition & Logic to begin design, permitting, and bidding services on SSC#6.

This project is a stream stability project is at two locations: the old Rock Island Trail Railroad bridge over Salt Creek; and the Jamaica North Trail bridge located south of the GPTN Connector Trail bridge, in Wilderness Park.

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposal with staff answering questions.

It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Lewis, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve an engineering services agreement with Intuition and Logic of St. Louis, MO for the design, permitting and bidding of the South Salt Creek Master Plan Project #6 at a cost not to exceed \$122,650, pending legal counsel review.

There being no further business but cookies the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm.

JN/jn