




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 9, 2024
To: Water Resources Subcommittee
From: Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator 
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – January 2024

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 9th, as a hybrid meeting both in the office and on Zoom, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members participating included Susan Seacrest- committee chair, Bob Andersen, Melissa Baker, Gary Hellerich, Don Jacobson, Larry Ruth, and Mark Spangler. Others participating included NRD staff David Potter, Dick Ehrman, Maclane Scott, Craig Matulka, Mark Lindemann, and myself. Mike Sotak with Houston Engineering was in attendance, as well as Karla Welding from the City of Lincoln. Director Seacrest called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Lindemann first announced Drew Ratkovec as the new Projects Coordinator and Craig Matulka as the new Stormwater/Watershed Specialist for the district. There were two items the Subcommittee took action on, one discussion, and an update followed by questions from Directors. A quorum was present for the meeting.

A. Consideration of Bids for the Upper Salt Creek 3-2 Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Project [ACTION]– Craig Matulka, NRD Stormwater/Watershed Specialist discussed the project by noting that the Upper Salt Creek 3-2 Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Project was advertised for bids on November 20th, 27th, and December 4th, and bids were opened on December 6th. The project was designed by Houston Engineering, Inc. to replace the existing corrugated metal pipes (CMP) on the riser and spillway with high-density polyethylene thermoplastic pipe (pipe). Three bids were received, with the low bid of \$127,730.65 submitted by Tim Sisco Construction. Sisco Construction has performed work for the NRD on similar projects. Houston Engineering has reviewed the bids and Contractor qualifications and has recommended Tim Sisco Construction. Lindemann and Matulka answered questions from the directors concerning pipe sizing and sediment removal.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Baker, and unanimously approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the low bid of \$127,730.65, by Tim Sisco Construction, for the Upper Salt Creek 3-2 Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Project.

B. Consideration for Timothy Jacobs Well Permit [ACTION]—

Maclane Scott, NRD Water Resources Technician gave background information on Timothy Jacobs Well Permit. This permit is located in the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA) and according to the Groundwater Rules & Regulations requires approval by the Board. This area already has certified acres and in theory, shouldn't be using any more water and overall is just adding another well. Scott and Ehrman answered questions from the Directors regarding adequate water supply and locations of wells. It was followed up that NRD staff have no concerns at this time with the water supply based on its locations and wells in the area. Waverly will be informed that this item will be brought to the Board of Directors meeting next week.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Andersen, and approved by the Subcommittee (6 voting Yes, Hellerich voting No) to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the water well permit LPS-240441 located in the Hydrologically Connected Area for Timothy Jacobs.

C. City of Lincoln Well Decommission Cost-Share [DISCUSSION]—

Scott provided background information on a cost-share application for well decommissioning from the City of Lincoln. 41 wells are being decommissioned in two different locations, with the majority of them being in the area of the North 48th Street Landfill. The City of Lincoln has received a bid for approximately \$51,000.00 from O'Malley. This application is located in the Lower Salt Creek Groundwater Reservoir (LSCGWR) with the NRD typically cost-sharing 100% of decommissioning. It was discussed by Scott and Ehrman that adjustments can be made within this year's budget to allow for this to take place in Fiscal Year 24. Karla Welding from the City of Lincoln along with NRD Staff answered questions about the project, the history of the sites, the well decommissioning process, and liability. Welding will provide a summary of details showing the City met all State threshold requirements for this area, which shows no concern for risk or health-based situations to date. It has been ensured to the Directors the City's legal team has been involved throughout this process.

Reports:

Piening Water Quality Basin Update

Ratkovec and Lindemann then briefly updated the Subcommittee on the Piening Water Quality Basin, formerly called Piening Dam. The 404 permit was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) had issued a joint public notice for comment from November 14th through December 5th. There was also a small decrease (0.091 credits) in the required compensatory wetland mitigation impacts.

Questions:

Director Hellerich had questions about a possible groundwater well being drilled by OPPD near Murray. This well, if drilled, would be approximately 1400' deep. Scott and Ehrman noted they will have to complete aquifer testing and test hole drilling requirements before this can take place.

Director Hellerich asked for an update on Monolith. Scott and Ehrman followed up that the NRD staff is still waiting for water quality test results to come back. The Monolith well has been installed and registered with the next step being to install the pump before it can go active.

Other questions from the Directors involved Waverly groundwater and test hole drilling to get relative salinity.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

cc: Dave Landis
Steve Seglin
Corey Wasserburger