



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** October 16, 2023  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Mike Murren Projects Coordinator  
**Subject:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes October 2023

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The Water Resource Subcommittee met on Thursday October 12, 2023, at NRD office, at 6:00 pm. Subcommittee members present included Larry Ruth, Melissa Baker, Luke Peterson, Gary Hellerich, Susan Seacrest, Don Jacobson, and Mark Spangler. Staff present were Dave Potter, Mark Lindeman, Drew Ratkovec, and Mike Murren. to review, discuss, take action on two items, and one report given. A quorum was present for the meeting.

#### **Consideration of the Annual Stream Gage Operation Agreement with the United States Geologic Survey Division. (Action)**

There are 24 United States Geological Survey (USGS) gages located within the LPSNRD boundaries (see attached map). The NRD contributes funding to USGS towards the cost of operating 16 of these gages. These gages are used by the NRD to monitor water levels and precipitation and are an important tool for the Districts Flood Alert procedures. USGS requires its local partners to annually approve joint funding agreements with USGS for this assistance with the previous agreement approved by the Board on October 19, 2022. In total, it requires \$245,070 to operate, maintain, and monitor the gages, with the LPSNRD contributing \$122,765. Please find attached a copy of the annual joint funding agreement with USGS for the operation of these 16 gages at a cost of \$122,765 to the LPSNRD. There was some discussion on potentially updating gages all gages that do not have weather reporting capabilities, as only a few provide precipitation data. Staff agreed to investigate what would be required and costs and report to the subcommittee.

**It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Hellerich, to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the 2023 Annual Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for operation of 16 stream gages in the Lower Platte South NRD in the amount of \$122,765. Roll call vote taken with Seacrest, Hellerich, Baker, Jacobson, Spangler, Peterson, and Ruth voting aye. Motion passed.**

### **Request to Revise the Upper Salt 11-4 Easement (Action)**

Upper Salt 11-4 is a watershed dam that was built in 1956. This dam is just South of 68<sup>th</sup> and Olive Creek Road. The current landowner is Princeton Road LLC. Ratkovec explained to the committee that the current landowner has plans to develop the area and requested that the NRD release a part of the easement from the 1950's that encumbered the whole parcel. The new easement will follow a contour line that is one foot above the top of dam elevation. The revised easement will contain current language the NRD uses on other projects that identifies restrictions within the easement and protects the watershed structure from future encroachments and ability to perform. It was explained that the current blanket easement over the entire property does not include these restrictions.

**It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Ruth, to authorize staff to prepare a revised easement for Upper Salt 11-4 and authorize the General Manager to execute said easement on behalf of the Board of Directors. Roll call vote taken with Seacrest, Hellerich, Baker, Jacobson, Spangler, Peterson, and Ruth voting aye. Motion passed.**

### **Piening Dam Update**

Murren reported on the status of the Piening dam 404 process. The wetland determination has been completed by HDR. The permanent wetland mitigation that is required is 2.6093 acres. The stream channel mitigation required is 519.1 feet. The plan is to use the LPSNRD's Blue Heron Marsh Wetland Mitigation Bank to mitigate the permanent wetlands. The stream channel mitigation will require the use of the Bundy Mitigation Bank in Sarpy County. This is an approved USACE bank for stream credits. The cost of purchasing the stream channel credits will be around \$51,000. The 404 permit will be submitted in the upcoming week. It was noted that onsite mitigation for this project would prove more expensive and timelier. The approval process can take up to six months, but by using the USACE approved wetland banks, this will likely expedite the process.

Enc.

cc: Steve Seglin  
Corey Wasserburger  
Dave Landis