



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: October 19, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: Mike Murren Projects Coordinator *mm*
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee meeting minutes

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on Monday October 17, 2022, at 5:30 pm. Members present included Susan Seacrest, Bob Andersen, Gary Hellerich, Bruce Johnson, Larry Ruth, and Ken Vogel. Others present were Dick Ehman, Paul Zillig, Dave Potter, Chris Witthuhn, Maclane Scott, Steve Herdzina and Mike Murren, all with the LPSNRD. Also present was legal Counsel Corey Wasserburger and Vice-Chair Dave Landis. There were four (4) items the Subcommittee took action on and three reports. The meeting was called to order by Director Seacrest at 5:30 p.m.

Item 10a- Consideration of the Annual Stream Gage Operation Agreement with the United States Geologic Survey Division (USGS). attachment [Action]

Paul Zillig presented the Annual agreement with USGS. There are 24 USGS stream gauges located in the LPSNRD. This map is attached. This NRD contributes to USGS towards the cost of operating 16 of these gauges. USGS requires local partners to annually approve joint funding agreements with USGS for this assistance. Please find attached a copy of the annual joint funding agreement with USGS for the operation of these 16 gauges at a cost of \$117,915 to the LPSNRD.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Hellerich and unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the October 2022 Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for operation of 16 stream gauges in the Lower Platte South NRD in the amount of \$117,915.

Item 10b- Consideration of a professional services contract with Phoenix Web Group for the Groundwater Database improvements. attachment [Action]

The LPSNRD Water Resources Staff member Steve Herdzina presented a contract with Phoenix Web Group (PWG) to modify the existing SQL database to improve its capabilities and improve the accuracy of the database. PWG constructed the current LPSNRD database in 2015 and has been utilized for these types of improvements since the inception of the current Groundwater Database.

Some of the modifications and new functionality would include:

Some of the modifications and new functionality would include:

- Improvements to water meter information including allocation data, GPS location, and similar information
- Modifying information retrieved and displayed on the well information page
- Improving reports to landowners to better communicate usage information
- Adding the ability to flag parcels from the Assessor to identify and rectify data discrepancies.
- Administrative tools to remove users and user documentation to map the capabilities of the database for future needs

Staff received a Scope of Work from PWG on September 21, 2022. District staff reviewed and negotiated the attached scope with PWG (Attachment 1).

It was recommended by Vogel, seconded by B Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend Board approval for the professional services contract for the Groundwater Database improvements through Phoenix Web Group, in the amount not to exceed \$18,070.

Item 10c- Consideration of the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and designation of Collective representatives. (attachment) [action]

Erhman presented the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-regional Cooperation agreement to the committee. This agreement involves the three Lower Platte Rivers Basin NRD's, Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, and the Papio Missouri NRD, along with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources wishes to approve an Interlocal Agreement to form a "Collective" to financially support, provide the necessary data, technical support, and administer contracts necessary to develop the baseline sub-regional groundwater flow model of the Basin. The agreement also calls for each entity to designate representative(s) to represent them concerning any action by the "Collective". The LPSNRD shall designate Dick Erhman and Steve Herdzina shall be named the alternate for the LPSNRD. See the attached agreement for further information.

It was recommended by Vogel, seconded by Hellerich and unanimously approved to recommend board approval of the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and designate Dick Erhman as the representative and Steve Herdzina as the alternate.

10d- Review of updated “draft” GW Rules & Regulations (attachment) Report

Ehrman went over the suggestions that came out of the last WRS meeting. The committee had a couple more suggestions and asked that staff, legal counsel, and director Ruth work together to come up with final version and bring back in November for a subcommittee recommendation to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes.

10e-Report on the Drinking Water Specialist position and 319 Grant application schedule(attachment) Report

Ehrman informed the board that NPS 319 drinking water specialist position has been approved by NDEE. This person would work with our Wellhead Protection (WHP) areas (city of Waverly) that are identified as special priority areas for implementation in the LPSNRD’ District Wide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) approved in May 2019. Many communities in the LPSNRD including Waverly are facing growing concerns about drinking water quality as nitrate concentrations trend upwards in municipal wells. Staff will continue working with NDEE and the city Waverly on the NPS 319 project Implementation plan. The LPSNRD would provide funding and serve as a local project lead on hiring a drinking water protection coordinator.

10f-Magee Dam (attachment) Report

The Magee Dam is located near 120th and Yankee Hill Road. Potter and Zillig updated the subcommittee on a couple of potential violations in our easement area below the dam. See attached map. This matter will be taken up by the executive committee at a later date.

10g-Consideration of Amendment #3 to Cost Reimbursable Standard Research Agreement #132270 for Vadose zone research. (attachment) [Action]

Ehrman presented Amendment 3 to the agreement with UNL on Vadose research. The LPSNRD Board and the University of Nebraska entered into research agreement #132270 on February 18, 2020, “Characterization of the Vadose Zone Transport and Groundwater Nitrate Attenuation”. UNL has asked for a no-cost extension till March 31, 2023, to allow them to complete their laboratory analysis.

It was moved by Andersen seconded by B Johnson and unanimously approved (Hellerich had left and didn’t vote) to recommend Board approval of Amendment #3 to Cost Reimbursable Standard Research Agreement #132270 (V adose Zone Study). With no further business, the subcommittee meeting adjourned at approximately 6:31 pm.

Enc.

Cc: Steve Seglin Corey Wasserburger