



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: December 8, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: Mike Murren Projects Coordinator *MM*
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee meeting minutes

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on Wednesday December 7, 2022, at 5:30 pm. Members present included Susan Seacrest, Bob Andersen, Larry Ruth, Christine Lamberty, Ken Vogel, Bruce Johnson, Chelsea Johnson, and Gary Hellerich. Others present were Dick Ehrman, Paul Zillig, Mike Murren, and Craig Matalka, all with the LPSNRD. Also present was legal Counsel Corey Wasserburger. Others present were Mike Sotak and Doug Hollie. There were three items the Subcommittee took action on and four reports. The meeting was called to order by Director Seacrest at 5:30 p.m.

10A. Consideration of bids for the Upper Salt 16-A “Kildeer” (NG&P WMA) and Upper Salt 27A pipe replacement project [Action] (Attachment)

Matulka explained that recent inspections of Upper Salt 16A-27A indicated the riser are rusted out and we need to replace the drawdown valve, riser, and principal spillway pipe. Huston/FYRA has completed the design and has provided the bid documents for two Upper Salt Creek Watershed projects. Matulka reported bids were opened on December 1, 2022. There was a total of four bids submitted (bids are attached). Low bid of \$267,059.10 was received from Tim Sisco Construction of Sterling. Mike Sotak of Houston/FYRA Engineering has provided an engineer's recommendation to approve Tim Sisco Construction and that letter is attached.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved by the subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the low bid of \$267,059.10 from Tim Sisco construction for the replacement of the riser, drawdown, and principal spillway pipe on Upper Salt 16A(Kildeer)& Upper Salt 27A pending legal counsel review.

10B. Consideration of a request from Cass County for assistance with the Alvo Road Bridge Replacement Project [Action] (Attachment)

Zillig reported that the Cass County Roads Department has sent a request for NRD assistance to help replace the Alvo Road Bridge with a larger box culvert due to the water that backs up from Weeping Water 6g. See the attached memo from Zillig to the Water Resources Subcommittee that has the details of the request.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Lamberty, and unanimously approved by the subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors agree to budget \$81,069.80 in the FY24 NRD Budget for the Weeping Water 6g-Alvo Road Bridge Replacement Project, pending legal counsel approval of any required releases for the project.

10C. Consideration of a professional service contract with Schemmer to update existing plans and obtain 404 permit for the Piening dam in northwest Lancaster County. [Action] (attachment)

Murren briefed the committee some of the history that has occurred with the Piening dam project. This project was designed and approved DNR in 2008 but failed to receive the required 404 permit for construction of the Piening Dam. Refer to the attachment that Murren provided for additional information on the project. Murren has been working with Schemmer Associates to update the old plans to new Dam safety criteria and obtain a 404 permit. That scope is attached.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Service Agreement with Schemmer in the amount of \$136, 916.00 for the design, environmental permitting, and bidding of the Piening Dam in northwest Lancaster County.

10D. Update on GW Rules & Regulations

Ehrman reported that the required public hearing for the proposed revisions to the District's Groundwater Rules and Regulations has been scheduled for 3:00 PM, Thursday, January 5 at the NRD office. The notice will be published in the Lincoln Journal Star for three consecutive weeks as required by statute on December 9, 16, and 23. The revisions have also been sent to NDNR and NDEE as required for their comments. Hellerich requested that the information also be transmitted to the local papers; Ehrman will work with District I/E staff to do so. Once the hearing is held, the proposed revisions will be published again in the Journal Star for three consecutive weeks, and it is anticipated that the effective date of the revised regulations will be on or about March 1, 2023.

10E. Fall Water Levels

Ehrman reported that the fall groundwater level measurements have been completed. He gave a brief overview of drought conditions in the continental US and Nebraska (100% of the state is currently in some phase of drought) and overviewed the water levels in the various Groundwater Reservoirs in LPSNRD. Average levels across the district are down several feet, which is to be expected given the very dry conditions. The outlook through March 1, 2023, is for most of Nebraska and the middle and western portions of the US to remain at some level of drought conditions.

10F. DVB SMA Allocation Review Schedule

Ehrman reported that the required water use reports are coming in from the 400+ water well owners across the district; they are due by December 31. He also noted that the NRD has received notice of one violation of the allocation in the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard SMA. The owner of the well self-reported that he had pumped 0.03 acre-inches over the maximum allowable 9 acre-inches. The district will need to take action to assess the two times overage penalty for 2023 ($0.03 \times 2 = 0.006$ -acre-inch penalty). However, it is notable that this violation was reported by the well owner and the overage was a very small amount, which is evidence that water users in the DVB SMA are paying close attention to their irrigation water use.

10G. GMDA

Ehrman reported that LPSNRD, like many NRDs, is a member of the Groundwater Management Districts Association, a national group of local and regional entities with authority and responsibility in groundwater management. GMDA typically has two meetings every year, in the winter and summer. The Winter 2023 meeting will be hosted by the Mississippi members January 23-26 at St. Simon's Island, Georgia. A draft agenda isn't available yet but will be provided to Board members when it is received. Unfortunately, these dates conflict with the NARD Legislative Conference, scheduled for January 24-25.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Enc.

Cc: Steve Seglin

Corey Wasserburger