




Memorandum

Date: February 13, 2019
To: Each Director
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager 
RE: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Water Resources Subcommittee met in the NRD Office at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Subcommittee members present included Bob Andersen, Vern Barrett, Don Jacobson, Karen Amen, Greg Osborn, and Chelsea Johnson. Others present included Larry Ruth, Katie Cameron, Dan Schulz, Ryan Rezac, Dick Ehrman, David Potter and myself.

Chair Andersen called the meeting to order and called on Katie Cameron to report on the proposed agreement with UNL Conservation & Survey Division for deep test hole drilling for the AEM project. Cameron reviewed the attached agreement and reported that the holes would be approximately 300 feet deep and funding for this work is included in the NRD budget (\$25,000) and the ENWRA budget (\$9,150). The drilling locations are being finalized, Ehrman reviewed the proposed locations as shown on the attached map. The Subcommittee discussed the proposed work and the challenges of the work. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the Cooperative Agreement with UNL Conservation and Survey Division to provide test-hole drilling services at a cost not to exceed \$34,150, pending legal counsel review.**

The next item on the agenda was for Schulz to report on staff's annual review of our existing ground water best management practice cost-share programs. Schulz reviewed the attached memo from Steve Herdzina, Ryan Rezac and Chris Witthuhn explaining their review of the current programs. Staff recommendation is to update the maximum limit for the NRDs Fertilizer Meter Program from \$5,000 to \$6,500 for the District-wide program (50% cost-share) and from \$7,500 to \$10,000 for the Lower Salt Creek Ground Water Reservoir and all Community Water System Protection Areas (75% cost-share). All other costs were not in need of any updates this year. It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Amen and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors increase the maximum limit for the Fertilizer Meter Cost-share Program to \$6,500 for the District-wide program and \$10,000 for the Community**



Water System Protection Areas and Lower Salt Creek Ground Water Reservoir areas.

The next item on the agenda was a report by Ryan Rezac on water use in the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard Special Management Area. Rezac reported on rainfall, the water use thru the second year of the 3 year allocation, and that water use is well within the allocation limits. Staff reported that the DVB SMA Advisory Group will meet again this spring and we anticipate discussion about changing from a set 3 year allocation to a 3 year rolling allocation, consideration of establishing an allocation per acre of irrigated land independent upon whether it is sprinkler/pivot or surface/furrow irrigation, and to determine if there is a need to increasing the penalties for 2nd and 3rd time violators.

Ehrman reported that the Ground Water Annual review will be ready to present to the Subcommittee/Board in March. Potter reported on the Upper Salt 3-A landrights hearing in Sprague, the status of the Oak-Middle 82-B watershed rehab project and the need to extend the agreement, and that Don Ficke has applied for EQIP (Federal assistance from NRCS) for his proposed stream stability project.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin