




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: February 10, 2017
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 Thursday, February 9, 2017. Subcommittee members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Hellerich, Chelsea Johnson, Greg Osborn, David Landis, Karen Amen, Gary Aldridge and Vern Barrett. Others present included Katie Cameron – ENWRA, Dave Potter, Craig Matulka, Dan Schulz, Ryan Rezac, Dick Ehrman, and myself.

Chair Jacobson opened the meeting and turned it over to Craig Matulka to report on our efforts to make the needed repairs to Upper Salt 13-A near Hallam. Matulka reviewed our efforts over the past two years to obtain acceptable bids for the repair of two dams (Oak-Middle 81-A near Garland and Upper Salt 13-A). Essentially we've bid it out twice (in accordance with Policy G-5: Competitive Bidding) with all bids rejected due to the high cost compared to the engineers estimate. Matulka reported that since that time staff obtained a proposal from a local contractor to repair Oak-Middle 81-A, which was approved by the Board. Matulka reported that for Upper Salt 13-A he found another interested contractor (Yost Excavating) and the contractor submitted a proposal to make those repairs for \$24,500 which is just above the engineer's estimate of \$22,140 (see attached memo).

The Subcommittee discussed the project, the proposal, and the efforts to find a contractor to do the work. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Osborn, and approved by the subcommittee on a vote of 7 – “yes” and Aldridge voting “no”, to **recommend the Board of Directors set-a-side District Policy G-5: Competitive Bidding, and approve the proposal of \$24,500 from Yost Excavating for repairs to Upper Salt Watershed Structure 13-A.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider an application to irrigate additional land in the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA) from Wiles Development LLC of Plattsmouth. Rezac reviewed his Feb 6th memo to the Subcommittee (attached). The Subcommittee discussed the



HCA, ground water rules for the NRD, and the specifics of this application. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the NRD Board of Directors approve the application from Wiles Development LLC to expand and certify irrigated acres in the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA) totaling 39.1 acres in Section 12, T-12N, R-13E.**

The next several items involved the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) and Katie Cameron reported on these items. Cameron reviewed with the Subcommittee the successful Water Sustainable Fund grant for multiple NRDs to work with University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division to create the Nebraska GeoCloud to house the ground water airborne electromagnetic (AEM) data that has been obtained. Cameron reported that the WSF grant requires a local match from the NRDs. The attached memo (ENWRA Memo #1 – Attachment #1) explains the project and Interlocal Agreement to be considered by the 10 partnering NRDs. The subcommittee discussed the memo, grant and agreement. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Chelsea Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Interlocal Agreement as one of the ten NRDs participating in the Nebraska GeoCloud WSF Grant #4164 which will provide up to \$10,200 of District Funds as local match toward the Nebraska GeoCloud Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) project #4164.**

The second portion of the ENWRA items related to contracting with the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division to provide services for developing the Nebraska GeoCloud (ENWRA Memo #1 – part 2 is attached). Cameron explained the project and the need to submit the agreement so it can go thru the University approval process. A motion to approve was made, seconded, discussed, and withdrawn due to concerns about the proposed motion. A motion to amend was made, discussed, and withdrawn due to the same concerns. The Subcommittee further discussed what was needed in the motion, a modification was drafted by Cameron. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources (CSD) Cooperative Agreement which will provide funding from participating Districts, the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) and ENWRA, of not more than \$264,014 to the CSD toward the Nebraska GeoCloud WSF project, pending completion of legal reviews.**

The next item was the final ENWRA business concerning the evaluation of ground water recharge data. Cameron reported on her attached Memo #2 explaining the work to be done by USGS at a cost of \$20,000. The Subcommittee further discussed this work. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Amen, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into, on behalf of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment, an Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to provide \$20,000 in ENWRA funds for the evaluation of recharge data in eastern Nebraska, subject to legal counsel review.**

The next item was to consider cost-sharing with Saunders County on repairs to three road structures that were joint County/NRD projects over 30 years ago. Matulka reported on the efforts to repair the structures and that Saunders County hasn't had the resources to start the repairs. In order to repair the structures Saunders County is proposing to hire a contractor to do the work and split the cost between the County and NRD. Matulka reviewed the attached letters and map regarding these repairs. The Subcommittee discussed the proposal. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Chelsea Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve 50% cost-share assistance with Saunders County for the repairs to the Palm, Marshalek, and Zetocha Road Structures, with the cost to the NRD not to exceed \$10,500.**

The final action item was to consider transferring ownership of the Orchard monitoring well, the well is located south of Hickman in the Hickman Community Water System Protection Area (CWSPA). Ehrman reported that this well was installed about seven years ago and the NRD has a 10 year lease for the well. Ehrman also reported that due to other wells now in the area we are no longer using this monitoring well. Ehrman referred to his Feb 1st memo (attached) further explaining the situation and that the landowner has contacted the NRD about owning the well.

The Subcommittee discussed transferring ownership of the well to the landowner but felt that the NRD should receive some compensation for the well. It was moved by Amen, seconded by Osborn, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors direct staff to negotiate with the landowner the sale of the Orchard monitoring well, the negotiated terms of the proposed sale would be reviewed by the Subcommittee and be dependent upon approval by the NRD Board of Directors.**

The final item was a report that the Nebraska Ground Water Coalition has requested this NRD to join the existing Coalition. Currently the Coalition is comprised of 17 NRDs who's common interest is assuring that issues or lawsuits which challenge local authorities under the Ground Water Management and Protection Act can be examined, discussed and if necessary, engaged in legal representation for the good of the member Districts. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend legal counsel review of the Ground Water Coalition Interlocal Agreement, review Coalition financial status, activities & current issues, and consider membership at a future date.**

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin

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