



## Memorandum

**Date:** April 12, 2017  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager   
**RE:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

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The Water Resources Subcommittee met in the NRD Office at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Subcommittee members present included Don Jacobson, Gary Hellerich, Chelsea Johnson, Greg Osborn, Karen Amen, Gary Aldridge and Vern Barrett. Others present included David Hladik, Valparaiso and Doug Hansen, Farmer's National Company - Omaha, Ray Stevens, Steve Seglin, Katie Cameron, Dave Potter, Dan Schulz, Devin Biesecker, Ryan Rezac, Nathan Kuhlman, and myself.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order and requested that we move to the first agenda item concerning the Subcommittee's interest in discussing the Ragusa - Hladik probable violation of the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard Special Management Area ground water rules & regulations (exceeded 3 year allocation on the west well). Doug Hansen who is the farm manager for the Ragusa's was present along with the tenant, David Hladik of Valparaiso. They explained that they have a crop share lease and also the challenges of irrigating this particular tract of land due to field configuration and soil types. They reported that the water meter checked out to within specs and the electric usage was in line with the amount of water pumped. They did point out that even though they exceeded the 3 year 30 inch limit on the west field they were more than under the limit on the east field, the total water pumped (from both wells) on this farm was less than the 30 inch limit.

Hellerich expressed his desire for the NRD to consider the total water pumped on this farm and not just the west well that exceeded the 30 inch limit. He hopes that we can consider changing this rule in the near future. Hladik and Hansen acknowledged that they now have a better understanding of their water use, their water meter, water meter calculations, and also felt that they shouldn't be penalized when they exceeded the limit on only the west well and not the entire farm.



The Subcommittee requested staff to send out the background information on the probable violation to the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider three ENWRA agenda items, Cameron handed out the attached report on these three items. The first item was to consider entering into a USGS Joint Funding Agreement for the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment's (ENWRA) Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) GeoCloud Project. Cameron reported on the purpose of this agreement. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Barrett, and approved by the Subcommittee (vote was 6 "yes" and Aldridge – not voting) to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) to provide the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) \$128,000 for airborne electromagnetic data integration and bedrock mapping technical assistance and reporting under the Nebraska GeoCloud Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) Grant Contract #4164.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider approving ENWRA Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Amendment #5 for ENWRA Operations. Cameron explained that ENWRA considers an agreement to continue the work of ENWRA with all 6 NRDs. It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Amen, and approved by the Subcommittee (vote was 6 "yes" and Aldridge – not voting) to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Interlocal Agreement Amendment #5 renewing the District's annual dues of \$30,000 and operations with 6 member NRDs for the next 5 Fiscal Years, pending legal counsel review.**

The next agenda item was to consider entering into a Cooperative Agreement with the UNL Conservation & Survey Division to continue providing a geologist/hydrogeologist position and assistance for ENWRA. Cameron explained the staffing agreement and terms. It was moved by Amen, seconded by Osborn, and approved by the Subcommittee (vote was 6 "yes" and Aldridge – not voting) to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the District General Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement providing the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division (UNL CSD) 60 percent (%) of the salary and benefits plus operating costs for the ENWRA Coordinator Position for the next 3 Fiscal Years, pending legal counsel review.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider a proposal to repair the principal spillway pipe for Upper Salt 3-A. Biesecker reviewed the necessary repairs as directed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Biesecker explained the limited number of contractors available to do this work and our efforts to obtain a proposal from Peerless Compaction Grouting from Johnston, IA (a copy of this proposal is attached). It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Osborn, and approved by the Subcommittee (vote was 6 "yes" and Aldridge – not voting) to **recommend that the Board of Directors set-a-side District Policy G-5: Competitive Bidding, and approve the proposal from Peerless Compaction Grouting, Inc dba Uretek ICR Heartland of Johnston, Iowa for repairs to Upper Salt 3-A, including the 3% bonding coverage, at a cost not to exceed \$19,000, pending legal counsel review.**

The final agenda item was to consider entering into a professional services agreement with The Phoenix Web Group to create website improvements that will allow public access of certified acre information and well owner electronic access for meter data collection and reporting. Kuhlman handed out a copy of the proposal (attached). Kuhlman reported on the improvements and reviewed examples of the improvements as shown on the LENRD website. It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Johnson, and approved by the Subcommittee (vote was 6 “yes” and Aldridge “no”) to **recommend that the Board of Directors approve the professional services contract with The Phoenix Web Group to improve groundwater data management at a cost not to exceed \$70,000, pending legal counsel review.**

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin

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