



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
**natural resources district**

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**Agenda Item #9**

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## Memorandum

**Date:** May 13, 2022  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager  
**RE:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

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The Water Resources Subcommittee met at 5:30pm on Thursday, May 12, 2022 in the NRD Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members participating included Susan Seacrest, Bob Andersen, Larry Ruth, Chelsea Johnson, and Ken Vogel. Others participating included Jonathan Mohr of LRE Water, Dale Schlautman, Naisi Dave, and Sydney Corcoran all of EA Engineering, Chris Witthuhn, Dick Ehrman, and myself.

Chair Seacrest opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

The first item on the agenda was to consider a professional services contract with LRE Water to provide services regarding the NRD's Water Sustainability Fund approval for a 3-dimensional hydrogeologic framework project. Dick Ehrman reviewed his attached memo outlining the process to date, and the attached proposed contract. The Subcommittee discussed the benefits of the project and how it will improve the availability of our AEM data and make it easier to understand. The Subcommittee discussed that the estimated contract cost is \$290,000 and the grant has been approved for \$416,500. Ehrman reported that staff anticipates some additional work will be identified as LRE Water works on completing the items in the scope, staff will first need to request WSF approval of any additional work prior to NRD approval.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Chelsea Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposal from LRE Water for development of a 3-Dimensional Hydrogeologic Framework for LPSNRD up to a total project cost of \$416,500, subject to review by legal counsel.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider an agreement to install and operate a weather station north of Valparaiso. Ehrman explained that more accurate/timely rainfall data for the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard area would be beneficial for improved irrigation management. The best site would be located at the NRD's Red Cedar Wildlife Management Area located 6 miles northwest of Valparaiso. Ehrman reviewed the attached quote from the Nebraska State Climate Office, a map of the site, and a Memorandum of Agreement. Ehrman reported that the initial cost would be \$5,000 plus \$2,600 for the first year's operation and then \$2,600/year to maintain the site.

It was moved by Ruth, seconded by Andersen, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska/Nebraska State Climate Office for a Weather Monitoring Station at Red Cedar Wildlife Management Area and accept the quote of \$18,000 for the installation and 5-year annual operation of the weather station.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider a new contract with Midwest Laboratories for the analysis of water and soils. Ehrman reviewed the attached memo on the history and proposed future services needed. Ehrman expressed our satisfaction with the quality of the work done by Midwest Labs and pointed out that the increases in cost are typical for most all services obtained at this time.

It was moved by Chelsea Johnson, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend that the Board of Directors enter into a professional services contract with Midwest Laboratories for the 5-year period of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2027 for water and soil analysis at the prices given in the attached document, subject to review by legal counsel.**

The last action item on the agenda was to consider a final agreement to close out the landrights costs for the Upper Salt 3-A Rehabilitation Project. I reported that our agreement with the Vergith's (Lylester Ranch, LLC) calls for us to make final payments for the gate/driveway replacement and alternate access arrangements upon completion of the project. The only part of the project remaining is the additional upgrades being paid for by the Vergith's and completed by their contractor, Fulton Construction. These additional upgrades will likely not be completed until later this summer. It was decided that it would be in everyone's interest to all agree to a release and waiver so the NRD can pay our remaining costs and let Vergith & Fulton complete their project. There was enthusiastic agreement to this approach.

It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the approval of the Agreement, Release, and Waiver with Lylester Ranch, LLC and Fulton Construction, Inc. for the Driveway replacement and access for the Upper Salt 3-A Rehabilitation Project, pending legal counsel review.**

The next item was a report by Dale Schlautman of EA Engineering on the Draft Nitrate Verification Reports for Ashland and Raymond. A summary for each report is attached. The Subcommittee discussed the results and that the next step will be to have public meetings at each community to further discuss the reports. The NRD Board will need to consider future designation of these areas as either Phase 1 or Phase 2 as per our Groundwater Management Plan and the Groundwater Rules & Regulations.

Staff then reported that next meeting the Subcommittee will need to review and consider a Groundwater Variance request for the Ragusa/Hladik property in the Dwight-Valparaiso-Brainard Special Management Area south of Valparaiso.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger