




## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581  
P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)

Agenda Item #4a

### Memorandum

**Date:** June 24, 2021  
**To:** Each Director  
**From:** Paul D. Zillig, General Manager   
**RE:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Water Resources Subcommittee met via video/teleconference at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Subcommittee members participating included Larry Ruth, Chelsea Johnson, John Yoakum, Vern Barrett, Ken Vogel, and Gary Hellerich. Other Directors participating included Susan Seacrest, and Deborah Eagan. And others participating included Amy Ostermeyer, Rob Hanson, Dan Levy, Don Blankenau, Brian Dunnigan, and Jim Schneider (all associated with Monolith), and Steve Seglin, Corey Wasserburger, David Potter, Tracy Zayac, Nathan Kuhlman, Mike Murren, Maclane Scott, Dick Ehrman, Dan Schulz, Steve Herdzina, and myself.

Chair Ruth opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Ruth reviewed the agenda and that the purpose of the meeting is to prepare a recommendation to the Board on the Monolith well permit applications (see attached map). Ruth mentioned the staff recommendation and desired to get the motion on the floor and then the Subcommittee can discuss it and consider any amendments to the motion.

It was moved by Ruth and seconded by Vogel to **recommend the Board of Directors approve Monolith Well Permit Applications for Olive Creek 2 (OC2) Well #1, #2, and #3 near Hallam, NE including the proposed well permit conditions.**

I then reviewed the attached Monolith Well Permit timeline that took us thru the June 17<sup>th</sup> Public Input session. The Subcommittee had copies of all public input listed below and attached:

1. Letter from Senator Tom Brandt.
2. Bruce Trautwein attended the Open House in Hallam and asked we provide you a copy of the attached article.
3. Kenneth Yates attended the Open House in Hallam and provided the attached email.
4. Rob Hansen, Monolith CEO provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session (recording is posted on the LPSNRD website).
5. Bob Kerrey, Monolith Board Chair provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session (on LPSNRD website).

6. Elana Wallace, Monolith employee from Cortland provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session (on LPSNRD website).
7. Jeff Shafer, NPPD employee from York provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session and referred to the attached NPPD letter from April 19th.
8. Dan Curran, Nebraska Dept of Economic Development provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session (on LPSNRD website).
9. Larry Hudkins, Lancaster County Farm Bureau provided supportive comments at the Public Input Session (on LPSNRD website).
10. Darin Schwaninger, the attached email letter was submitted June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ruth then reviewed Section C, Rule 3 of the NRD's Groundwater Rules & Regulations regarding action on well permits, a copy of that section of the R&R is attached. Ruth reviewed the rule that a permit will be granted unless the District finds a specific condition, with focus on "the hydrogeologic analysis indicates potential short or long-term detrimental effects to the aquifer and/or if the drawdowns as determined by an aquifer test would adversely affect a nearby well with a higher preference of use".

Ruth then called on Ehrman and Schulz to review the proposed well permit "Conditions". The conditions included the water quality and level readings required for OC2 Wells #2 & #3 agreed to in the variance process and the requirements for the groundwater monitoring plan. Subcommittee discussion ensued concerning contingency plans, addressing well problems, well protection agreements and that Monolith's offer will remain open to enter into an agreement anytime, meters, and the frequency of monitoring.

It was moved by Ruth, seconded by Barrett, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to amend the well permit conditions included in the motion to add #6 – "OC2 Plant Wells #1, #2, and #3 are required by LPSNRD regulations to each have a water flowmeter installed. An additional condition is that the total volume of water pumped from each well be reported by Monolith to LPSNRD on a quarterly basis at the end of each quarter"; this statement would be in place of the "Note" at the end of the list of conditions. (see attached "amended" listing of Conditions).

The Subcommittee then further discussed water quality monitoring required in the monitoring plan. The discussion centered around if what is being proposed will provide enough monitoring of water quality or if quarterly monitoring of water quality is also a necessary condition? After much discussion on the monitoring plan specifics, the Subcommittee deferred from proposing additional requirements.

A staff memo from Tracy Zayac on the Omission of a Pumping Limitation is attached. The memo gave several reasons that placing a pumping limitation as a condition of the permit was not recommended.

The Subcommittee then discussed future groundwater management options, should reality deviate from the anticipated modeling results. Staff discussed the groundwater management

options, including establishing a special management area if local groundwater declines become concerning.

The Subcommittee then voted unanimously to **recommend the Board of Directors approve Monolith Well Permit Applications for Olive Creek 2 (OC2) Well #1, #2, and #3 near Hallam, NE including the proposed well permit conditions.**

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger