



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** September 14, 2023  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Mike Murren Projects Coordinator  
**Subject:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - September 2023

The Water Resource Subcommittee met on Tuesday September 12, 2023, at NRD office, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members present included Larry Ruth, Melissa Baker, Luke Peterson, Gary Hellerich, Susan Seacrest, Don Jacobson, Mark Spangler, and Bob Andersen. Staff present were Mike Sousek, Dave Potter, Steve Herdzina, Mark Lindeman, Dick Ehrman, Craig Matulka, Drew Raktovec, and Mike Murren. Mike Sotak from Houston Engineering was also present. There were three agenda items for action and one report given. A quorum was present for the meeting.

#### **A. Consideration of a Professional Service Agreement with Houston Engineering Inc. for the Upper Salt 3-2 Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Project (Action)**

A recent inspection of the Upper Salt 3-2 structure by staff indicated the corrugated metal pipe is rusted out and replacement of the riser, and principal spillway pipe is required. This is a watershed dam that was built in the late fifty's that is located just South of Sprague. Staff reached out to Houston Engineering for an engineering services proposal for design, permitting, bidding, and construction oversight of this project. Staff negotiated the attached Professional Services Agreement for the sum of \$37,071.00. This project is in the FY 24 budget for design and construction.

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Andersen to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Service Agreement with Houston Engineering Inc. for engineering services for design, permitting, bidding, and construction oversight of the Upper Salt 3-2 watershed dam rehabilitation project at a cost not to exceed \$37,071.00. Roll call vote taken with Seacrest, Andersen, Hellerich, Baker, Jacobson, Spangler, and Ruth voting aye, and Peterson abstaining. Motion passed.**

**B. Consideration of a Professional Service Agreement with Houston Engineering Inc. for the Harshman Road Structure (Action)**

The Harshman Road structure dam is located four miles east of Avoca Nebraska on County Road A. This project was built as part of a 1990 agreement between the LPSNRD and Cass County. The agreement states that upon notice, maintenance of the structure will be cost shared between the NRD (75%) and Cass County (25%). Craig Matulka has sent the Cass County Roads Department a notice of the upstream wave berm and slope repair as well as the schedule and estimated cost of the project. Matulka mentioned this project will be in front of the Cass County Board next week. The design of the project will be completed in FY 24 and the construction phase of the project will occur in FY 25. The LPSNRD will ask for reimbursement from Cass County upon project completion. Staff reached out to Houston Engineering Inc. for engineering services for design, permitting, bidding, and construction oversight of the project. Staff negotiated the attached Professional Services Agreement for the sum of \$31,078.00.

**It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Ruth to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Professional Service Agreement with Houston Engineering Inc. for engineering, services for design, permitting, bidding, and construction oversight of the Harshman Road structure wave berm and slope repair project at a cost not to exceed \$31,078.00. Roll call vote taken and all present voting aye. Motion passed.**

**C. Consideration of Amendment Number 1 to the agreement for professional services with Schemmer Associates, Inc. for the Piening Dam Design Refresh and Permitting Project No. 09020.001.**

In December 2022, the board approved a contract with Schemmer Associates Inc. for design and permitting of the Piening dam located along Hwy 34 on the Lancaster/Seward County line. Schemmer continues to work with the Dam safety division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to obtain approval of the design to meet the current design standards. DNR has provided comments about the soil boring data that was done back in 2006 and found that the previously advanced borings do not show the vertical and lateral extent of the sand and soft clays in the dam and emergency spillway. District engineer Mark Lindeman has also looked at the soil information from the old study and felt that some additional borings in those areas would provide better information to complete the final design of the project and meet DNR concerns.

Staff asked Schemmer for a proposal for additional soil borings and lab testing that would provide the data needed to finalize the plans and meet DNR's dam safety criteria. Schemmer's proposal is to complete six borings (three in the emergency spillway, three in the dam footprint), and analyze the soil data and provide the information to DNR. The total cost of the soil exploration will be \$13,375.00. Attached is the professional services scope and fee from Schemmer, Inc.

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Peterson to recommend that the Board of Directors approve Amendment Number 1 to the agreement for professional services with Schemmer Associates Inc, for the Piening Dam Refresh and Permitting Project No. 09020.001 in the amount of \$13,375.00. Roll call vote taken and all present voting aye. Motion passed.**

### **Olson Site Visit Report**

Herdzina reported on the site visit from August 25, 2023, that he and Ehrman made to the Don Olson farm. The inspection of the area found no violations of the Cease-and-Desist order. The committee discussed some possible solutions on how to handle this ongoing complaint by the landowner with staff, as well as conversation with legal counsel.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Enc.

cc: Steve Seglin  
Corey Wasserburger  
Dave Landis