




## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Agenda Item #12

### Memorandum

**Date:** September 11, 2020  
**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 Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Subcommittee members participating included Bob Andersen, Chelsea Johnson, Karen Amen, David Landis, Vern Barrett, Greg Osborn, and Dan Steinkruger. Others accessing the meeting included Larry Ruth, Deborah Eagan, Matt Rhodes & Dan Levy & Amy Ostermeyer all of Monolith Materials, Jim Schneider of Olsson, Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger, Nathan Kuhlman, Tracy Zayac, Maclane Scott, Dick Ehrman, Chris Witthuhn, Steve Herdzina, Mike Murren, David Potter, and myself.

Chair Andersen opened the meeting, welcomed those in attendance, and moved to the first item. I reported that we have received the annual “water year” agreement from USGS for the operation of the 16 streamgages that are partially funded by this NRD. I have attached a map showing the 24 streamgages in this NRD (including the 16 we help fund) and a copy of the annual Joint Funding Agreement with USGS. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Osborn, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the October 2020 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for the operation of 16 streamgages in the Lower Platte South NRD.**

The next item on the agenda was to continue the Subcommittee’s discussion on irrigation from NRD dams. Zayac reviewed with the subcommittee that the NRD holds permits from the State (DNR) to irrigate from 14 structures/lakes, and the NRD has agreements with a couple dozen landowners to actually pump the water and irrigate their land. Zayac reported that a majority of these permits/agreements were over 30 years old. Discussion continued on the status and issues concerning allowing new permits to irrigate, the use of the water/meters, fees to offset costs, benefits, and suitability of land to be irrigated. The Subcommittee directed staff to prepare suggestions on a basic agreement and consider including flow meters, fees to cover costs, and other conditions. Staff will bring back that information to a future meeting.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Monolith preliminary well permit. Scott reported that their work continues in preparing their reports and information.

The next two items were reports by Ehrman on groundwater information from the Hallam area and a review of pros and cons of conducting additional study or testing of groundwater in the Hallam area. Ehrman reviewed the attached memo on Groundwater Issues in the Hallam Area. The Subcommittee discussed the aquifer characteristics, pump tests being completed, potential costs of additional study, groundwater variability, and that they are looking for assurances that groundwater users are protected.

Ostermeyer and Rhodes reported that Monolith anticipates a need of 250-800 M gal/year for Olive Creek 2. They are continuing with their analysis of the site and the number of wells needed will be determined by the modeling that is currently underway. They also reported that they are working with Kiewitt Corporation on design features that will result in less water use, they will also apply for a discharge permit from the State/NDEE as there will be some discharge from their operation.

The next item on the agenda was a report on NRD Groundwater Rules & Regulations Overview. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Osborn, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to move into a closed session for the purpose of considering and discussing a legal opinion from the District's legal counsel. The Subcommittee went into closed session at 6:55pm. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Amen, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to come out of closed session at 7:52pm.

The Subcommittee discussed the need to consider hiring professional services for the review of reports, information, studies, and work needed to assist with the review of the Monolith Nebraska Well Permit. A motion was made, seconded, and then withdrew upon advice from legal counsel, to approve the proposed contract with LRE Water. The Subcommittee decided to meet just prior to the September Board Meeting to consider this issue.

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger