



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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# Budget has Deadmans Run, Prairie Corridor Support

Lincoln (NE) August 15, 2018 – The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget approved by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) Board of Directors (Board) on August 15th includes \$2.1 million to begin work on the \$25 million Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project that would remove more than 500 structures from the floodplain. After a multi-year Section 205 Study of Lincoln’s Deadmans Run watershed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, LPSNRD anticipates word soon on whether \$10 million in federal funding has been approved. If federal funds are approved and LPSNRD and the City of Lincoln each approve their own share of funds, design of the project could begin this fall.

The \$29,996,404 budget of revenues and expenditures supports Deadmans Run approval and many more programs and projects to manage and protect natural resources through next June. With property valuations across the district’s six-county area expected to increase, the resulting tax levy would be reduced from last year. The property tax requirement is \$9,673,210, an increase of approximately 1.8%. Board approval followed an August 9th public hearing and other public input since mid-June. LPSNRD Board Treasurer Dan Steinkruger said the budget, “meets specific responsibilities, goals and objectives, providing for large projects like the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project, as-well-as continued maintenance of existing projects and involvement in finding better ways to conserve soil and water.”

LPSNRD, the City of Lincoln and several other agencies and groups are involved in the acquisition of land and development of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project, a 10-mile tall grass prairie preservation trail corridor between Lincoln’s Pioneers Park and Spring Creek Prairie, near Denton. The Board approved entering into a 20-year agreement for the project earlier in 2018. The new budget includes \$1.2 million for the project.

Continued updating of Lincoln’s Salt Creek Levee, which protects many businesses and neighborhoods from flooding is approximately a \$1 million budget item. About \$1.5 million is in the budget for cost-sharing with landowners who make conservation improvements to

their land to improve surface water quality. The budget for construction and maintenance of flood control dams and for maintaining waterways and stormwater facilities totals about \$4.8 million. Nearly \$1 million is set aside for the management of ground water.

LPSNRD's continued participation in several multi-agency studies and projects is also part of the budget (\$1.5 million). A plan to make more water available to municipalities in the lower Platte River basin during times of drought is expected in 2019. In addition, eastern Nebraska NRDs continue to explore ways to manage available water regionally.