



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Dan Schulz, Resources Coordinator *DS*

DATE: August 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Minutes-Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

The Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the District conference room on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 5:30PM. Subcommittee members present were Chair-Sarah Wilson, Gary Aldridge, Don Jacobson, Bruce Johnson, Chelsea Johnson, Anthony Schutz, and Ron Svoboda. Others present were Nicole Fleck-Tooze – City of Lincoln, Ariana Kennedy, Jason Pickerel-Great Plains Appraisal, Dan Schulz, Kristal Stoner-Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Ray Stevens and Paul Zillig.

The first two agenda items dealt with land rights negotiations on the Becker conservation easement and the acquisition of the Samani property. See the attachments - Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project map, Becker property and Samani 2 property.

It was moved by B. Johnson, seconded by Schutz and approved to go into closed session to protect the public interest and develop strategy with respect to accepting the appraisal and negotiations related to the acquisition of a conservation easement over the Davis-Becker LLC property and acquiring fee title to the Samani 2 property for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project.

Voting to approve the motion were Jacobson, B. Johnson, Schutz, Svoboda and Wilson.

Not voting – Aldridge.

Not present – C. Johnson.

Pickerel reviewed the Becker appraisal and answered questions along with Fleck-Tooze. Schulz reviewed the Samani offer and counter offer and questions were answered by Pickerel, Fleck-Tooze and Schulz.

It was moved by Svoboda, seconded by C. Johnson and unanimously approved to come out of closed session.

**It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Svoboda and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors accept the appraisal for the Davis-Becker LLC property and direct staff to; notify Davis-Becker LLC of the Districts acquisition of a conservation easement on a willing buyer willing seller basis over 71.74 acres located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 9, Township-8-North, Range-5-East of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Lancaster County, Nebraska; hold a public hearing; and authorize staff to begin negotiations offering the appraised amount.**

**It was moved by Svoboda, seconded by B. Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors authorize staff to continue negotiations with Samani as directed.**

Fleck-Tooze informed the subcommittee of additional property Samani has for sale including the Samani 1 conservation easement property, Samani dwelling and Samani motocross (see attached). She indicated the City of Lincoln's administration is interested in those properties and their benefits to the project. She discussed how the properties were in the middle of the project area and the City's interest in reaching out to Samani about acquisition (see circled property on the attached prairie corridor parcel priority map).

The third agenda item was consideration of the request for the District to provide matching funds for a Nebraska Environment Trust grant application to support the Master Naturalist Program (\$3,500/year for two years). Stoner reviewed the attached request, answered questions and commented on the Master Naturalist activities in the Lower Platte South and Papio-Missouri River NRD's and working with the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership (Papio Missouri River NRD approved the same request see attached). Stoner reviewed the Master Naturalist

Program, the training required for individuals to be entered into a network to volunteer for organizations that need assistance in outdoor recreation, natural resources management, event staffing and citizen science. She indicated that she was representing the sustainability committee for the program on behalf of University of Nebraska – Lincoln, School of Natural Resources who will be submitting the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant application.

**It was moved by B. Johnson, seconded by C. Johnson and approved to recommend the Board of Directors approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources request to provide \$3,500/year, for two years of District matching funds for the University's Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application to fund the Master Naturalist Program.**

Voting in favor of the motion were Aldridge, Jacobson, B. Johnson, C. Johnson, Svoboda and Wilson.

Abstain-Schutz

The next agenda item was consideration of the annual agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for mentor youth hunts on Warner saline wetlands (see attached draft agreement and map). Schulz provided some history on the Warner saline wetlands and the District's participation in the program. Schulz also indicated that District legal counsel has reviewed the agreement and requested changes which are not included on the attached draft.

**It was moved by Svoboda, seconded by C. Johnson and unanimously approved to recommend the Board of Directors enter into the annual Mentor Hunt Agreement with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission on the north portion of the Warner saline wetlands.**

The next two agenda items were reports on property's that are part of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project. Schulz indicated the Cochran conservation easement is ready to be appraised and the Honvlez conservation easement property owner will be changing and that the right of first refusal provision in the conservation easement maybe invoked after the estate is settled (see attached maps).

The last agenda item was a report on the Dial conservation easements and the new development Dial is proposing. Schulz indicated the City of Lincoln Planning Department had contacted the District about a senior housing development and whether the District would be interested in having the conservation easement properties deeded to the District as a condition of the plat (see attached). Schulz indicated that deeding the property to the District would have to come under the District's donated wetlands policy.

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:27PM.