



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

Memorandum

Date: December 9, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: David Potter, Assistant General Manager
RE: Land Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Land Resources Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in the NRD Large Conference Room to discuss a number of items and take action on three of them. Subcommittee members present included Gary Hellerich, Gary Aldridge, Ron Nolte, Bruce Johnson, and Ken Vogel. Members absent included Mark Spangler, Anthony Schutz, and David Landis. Others present included Cory Schmidt, Donna Reid, Shaula Ross and David Potter. Director Hellerich called the meeting to order, gave a brief welcome, and reviewed the agenda.

a) The first item was to review and consider a Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Application. Donna Reid, District Office Secretary/Program Assistant stated that one additional cost-share application had been received by the District for Fall work. The application is located in the Eastern Portion of the District and will be part of a terrace system approved for fall work on adjacent land. According to the July 1, 2021 Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program budget (which consists of FY'22 budgeted amounts, the allocated funds, obligated dollars, and available funds), neither the eastern or western portion is over obligated and there is still available funds for conservation work. A map of the best management practice (terraces) location was provided and is attached.

The application is for:

- Keyes Enterprises Limited Partnership, W ½ SE ¼ 9-11-9 Cass Co., (60%) Terrace and Tile Outlet - \$5,625.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by B. Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the surface water quality cost-share application for Keyes Enterprises Limited Partnership in the amount of \$5,625.

b) The second item was consideration of the NRD/NSWCP 2022 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-Share Program. Potter and District Conservationist Cory Schmidt noted the practices or scenarios that are frequently used in our District and some average costs that were not correctly listed in the 2022 Regional Docket. The prepared NRD/NSWCP average costs with corrections for 2022 (attached) were presented. This one-page spreadsheet provides for the most common practices used in the District. A spreadsheet comparing the new cost share numbers with those approved for 2021 (attached) was also presented. Schmidt noted that the 2022 average costs were generally higher than last year's numbers. One noted change is the separation of PVC and dual wall tile pipe from PE pipe due to the higher cost of PVC. He also stated the benefit with the

Voted on at December Board Meeting

NRD/NSWCP average costs being approved in December is that all new applications taken after the first of the year will operate off one docket.

→ **It was moved by Vogel, seconded by B. Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the 2022 LPSNRD Average Costs for the Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-share Program.**

c) The third action item was consideration of the Digital Map Products Agreement with Cass County. Shaula Ross, GIS Specialist informed subcommittee members that LPSNRD has also been entering into an agreement with Cass County every three years which provides the District the right to use the digital aerial mapping of the County for District purposes. This proposed agreement extends until June 30, 2024 and provides for joint use of the digital orthophotos (imagery) and other information or data rather than having them done twice for an additional cost. The total cost to the District for the project is \$12,000 for one flight, payable in equal installments of \$4,000 per year for three years. The proposed agreement (attached) was provided to the subcommittee.

→ **It was moved by B. Johnson, seconded by Vogel, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Digital Map Products Agreement with Cass County, subject to legal counsel review.**

d) The subcommittee then discussed the NRCS Watershed Funding/Program. Information on the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) was provided. A recent Wallace Farmer article (attached) which identifies NRCS water quality funded projects in Iowa was discussed. There has been some Director interest to look at NRCS programs and partnerships for water quality and flood management in areas of our District, in particular the Salt Creek Watershed. Cory Schmidt presented some information (see attached technical guide) on the program, identified some current projects in the state, and discussed what areas might be eligible. Staff will continue to do research on the program.

e) Updates on projects and programs

- Staff provided an update on the current land treatment cost-share projects. Producers and contractors have taken advantage of the warm dry weather this fall to get conservation on the ground, even after a somewhat late harvest. Several land treatment projects have been completed and many others are well-underway. The construction deadline for fall work is February 1st.
- The status of the District's Cover Crop Program and number of applicants was provided. The district currently has 51 approved cover crop cost-share applications for a total amount of \$103,385. With a later harvest season this year due to weather and increased yields, staff expects a few cancellations with producers not being able to get cover crop in the ground by the November 1st deadline. Resources Technicians will be inspecting the cover crop BMPs throughout the winter making sure they were seeded and are growing and then verifying termination of the crop in the Spring. Based on the current Program, cost-share payments are not made until the cover crop is terminated. Potter said staff continues to promote the cover crop program through brochures, website, social media, newspaper, NRCS promotion, and direct mailings. He reminded the subcommittee the Board approved a change in the Program's eligible areas this year by including all of the Salt Creek Watershed upstream of Lincoln. The District continues to see an increased interest in the program since it began in 2018 with only three applications.

- The last update was on the Twin Lakes 319 Project. The District-wide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) approved in 2019 identified the Twin Lakes Watershed as one of our priority areas. The WQMP plan can be found at <https://www.lpsnrd.org/publications/lpsnrd-plans>. The District worked with Nebraska Game and Parks and with Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to prepare and submit a 319 project implementation plan (PIP) and funding request to EPA for the Twin Lakes Watershed. In June, 2021 the District was notified by NDEE that EPA approved the Twin Lakes Watershed PIP. The LPSNRD Board approved the project agreement in July. Potter stated that since approving the agreement, staff has mailed a flyer to all of the property owners in the watershed, launched a watershed website (<https://www.lpsnrd.org/programs/landowner-cost-share/twin-lakes-watershed>), received and approved three cost-share applications (one cover crop and two terrace BMPs), ordered project recognition signs, and recently held an open house in Pleasant Dale to provide additional information. Potter also stated Tracy Zayac, Stormwater/Watershed Specialist, has been running the project and has been working with Seward County NRCS to promote the various BMPs. The Twin Lakes 319 Project is a three-year grant and upon completion, the District will consider keeping the Twin Lakes Watershed as one of our identified targeted areas within the Salt creek Watershed.

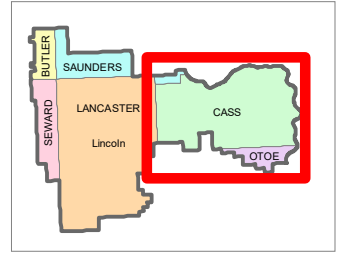
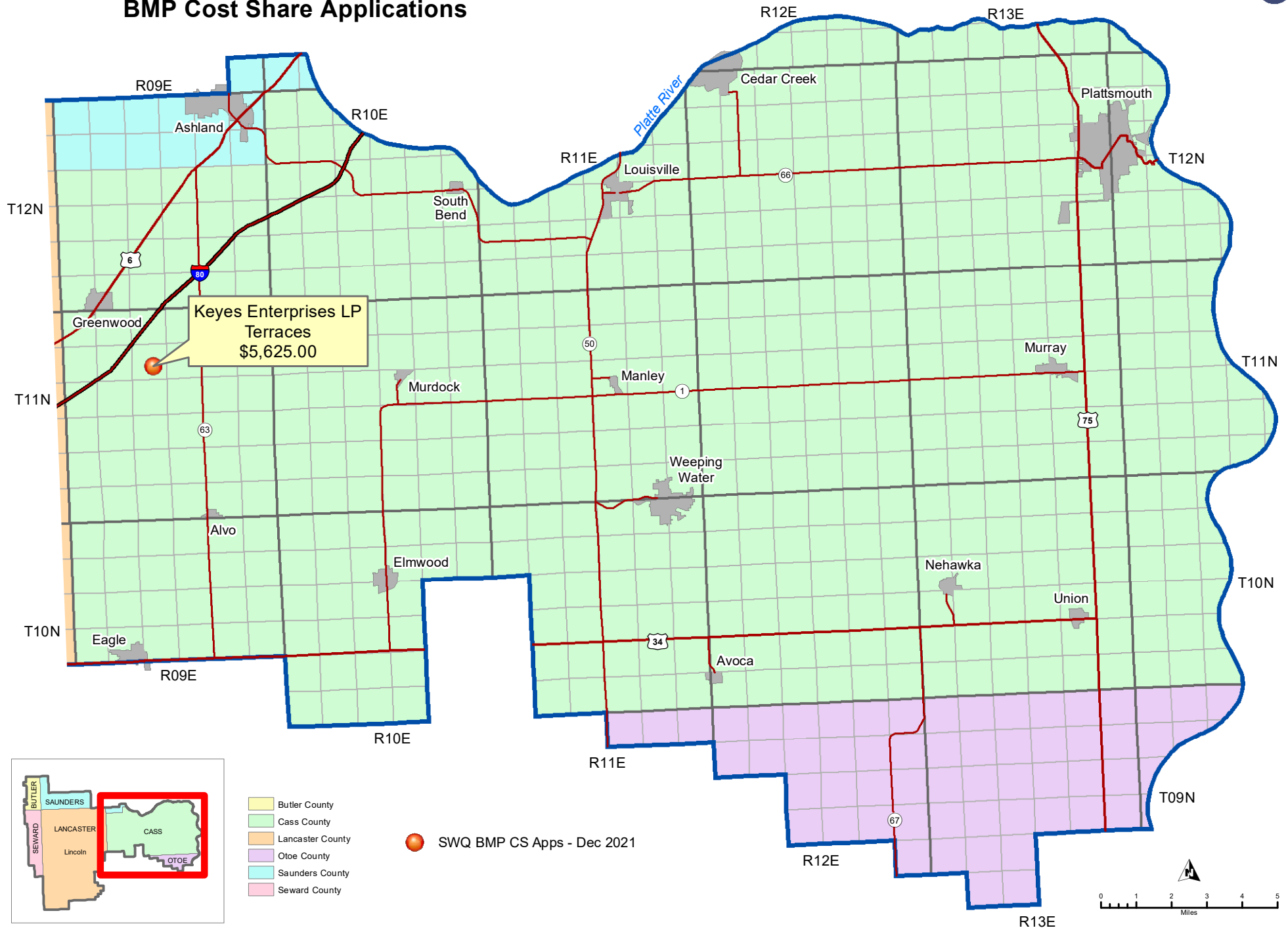
There being no further business, Hellerich adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

DP/dp

cc: Cory Schmidt, NRCS

Encl. 10 pgs

LPSNRD Eastern Portion - Surface Water Quality BMP Cost Share Applications



- Butler County
- Cass County
- Lancaster County
- Otoe County
- Saunders County
- Seward County

SWQ BMP CS Apps - Dec 2021



2022 LPSNRD Average Costs- Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-share Program

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Scenario Unit	Total Payment per Unit	Program
342	Critical area planting	Vegetation-normal tillage (Organic and Non-Organic)	Acre	\$ 308.20	NRD/NSWCP
362	Diversion	Diversion	Cubic Yard	\$ 4.27	NRD/NSWCP
378	Pond	Embankment Pond with less than 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 7.08	NRD/NSWCP
378	Pond	Embankment Pond with greater than or equal to 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 6.11	NRD/NSWCP
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Hand Planted, Bare Root	Each	\$ 2.41	NRD/NSWCP
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Trees, machine planted	Foot	\$ 0.33	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Concrete Block Chute	SqFt	\$ 8.18	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Embankment, with less than 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 7.08	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Embankment, with greater than or equal to 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 6.12	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute	Cubic Yard	\$ 114.86	NRD/NSWCP
412	Grassed Waterway	Waterway with Side Dikes or Checks	Acre	\$ 3,756.95	NRD/NSWCP
412	Grassed Waterway	Waterway, 25 to 50 sq. ft.	Acre	\$ 2,842.37	NRD/NSWCP
484	Mulching	Natural Material - Straw	Acre	\$ 378.10	NRD/NSWCP
512	Pasture & Hay Planting	Introduced Perennial & Native Grass Mix	Acre	\$ 78.83	NRD/NSWCP
550	Range Planting	Native, Standard Prep	Acre	\$ 148.59	NRD/NSWCP
550	Range Planting	Native, Wildlife or Pollinator (F1)	Acre	\$ 266.36	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Broadbase, Non-Storage	Foot	\$ 2.00	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Narrow Base - Non-Storage	Foot	\$ 3.50	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Storage - Broadbase	Foot	\$ 3.93	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Storage - Grass Back	Foot	\$ 4.33	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Narrow Base - Storage	Foot	\$ 3.77	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 6" or less	Foot	\$ 5.07	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 8"	Foot	\$ 6.69	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 10"	Foot	\$ 9.57	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 12" or greater	Foot	\$ 12.93	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 4-6"	Foot	\$ 7.89	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 8-10"	Foot	\$ 8.98	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 12-18"	Foot	\$ 13.16	NRD/NSWCP
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	WASCOB base	Cubic Yard	\$ 4.66	NRD/NSWCP
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Removal greater than 8". DBH with Dozer.	Foot	\$ 3.03	NRD/NSWCP

Dated and Approved: _____

Costs for additional eligible practices can be found in the 2022 NeDNR/NSWCP cost list (docket.)

2021 vs 2022 LPSNRD Average Costs- Surface Water Quality BMP Cost-share Program

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Scenario Unit	2021 Total Payment Per Unit	2022 Total Payment Per Unit	Change in Payment Per Unit	Program
342	Critical area planting	Vegetation-normal tillage (Organic and Non-Organic)	Acre	\$ 269.84	\$ 308.20	\$ 38.36	NRD/NSWCP
362	Diversion	Diversion	Cubic Yard	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.27	\$ 0.25	NRD/NSWCP
378	Pond	Embankment Pond with less than 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 6.52	\$ 7.08	\$ 0.56	NRD/NSWCP
378	Pond	Embankment Pond with greater than or equal to 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 5.78	\$ 6.11	\$ 0.33	NRD/NSWCP
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Hand Planted, Bare Root	Each	\$ 2.13	\$ 2.41	\$ 0.28	NRD/NSWCP
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Trees, machine planted	Foot	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.04	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Concrete Block Chute	SqFt	\$ 6.72	\$ 8.18	\$ 1.46	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Embankment, with less than 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 6.52	\$ 7.08	\$ 0.56	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Embankment, with greater than or equal to 24" pipe	Cubic Yard	\$ 5.79	\$ 6.12	\$ 0.33	NRD/NSWCP
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute	Cubic Yard	\$ 113.93	\$ 114.86	\$ 0.93	NRD/NSWCP
412	Grassed Waterway	Waterway with Side Dikes or Checks	Acre	\$ 3,520.33	\$ 3,756.95	\$ 236.62	NRD/NSWCP
412	Grassed Waterway	Waterway, 25 to 50 sq. ft.	Acre	\$ 2,655.78	\$ 2,842.37	\$ 186.59	NRD/NSWCP
484	Mulching	Natural Material - Straw	Acre	\$ 343.10	\$ 378.10	\$ 35.00	NRD/NSWCP
512	Pasture & Hay Planting	Introduced Perennial & Native Grass Mix	Acre	\$ 70.96	\$ 78.83	\$ 7.87	NRD/NSWCP
550	Range Planting	Native, Standard Prep	Acre	\$ 142.78	\$ 148.59	\$ 5.81	NRD/NSWCP
550	Range Planting	Native, Wildlife or Pollinator (F1)	Acre	\$ 269.78	\$ 266.36	\$ (3.42)	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Broadbase, Non-Storage	Foot	\$ 1.91	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.09	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Narrow Base - Non-Storage	Foot	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.50	\$ 0.19	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Storage - Broadbase	Foot	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.93	\$ 0.18	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Storage - Grass Back	Foot	\$ 4.27	\$ 4.33	\$ 0.06	NRD/NSWCP
600	Terrace	Narrow Base - Storage	Foot	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.77	\$ 0.20	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 6" or less	Foot	\$ 4.35	\$ 5.07	\$ 0.72	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 8"	Foot	\$ 5.01	\$ 6.69	\$ 1.68	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 10"	Foot	\$ 7.81	\$ 9.57	\$ 1.76	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PE, 12" or greater	Foot	\$ -	\$ 12.93	\$ -	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 4-6"	Foot	\$ -	\$ 7.89	\$ -	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 8-10"	Foot	\$ -	\$ 8.98	\$ -	NRD/NSWCP
620	Underground Outlet	PVC or Dual Wall, 12-18"	Foot	\$ -	\$ 13.16	\$ -	NRD/NSWCP
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	WASCOB base	Cubic Yard	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.66	\$ 0.30	NRD/NSWCP
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Removal greater than 8" . DBH with Dozer.	Foot	\$ 2.86	\$ 3.03	\$ 0.17	NRD/NSWCP

**AGREEMENT
FOR DIGITAL MAP PRODUCTS FOR CASS COUNTY**

THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into effective February 1, 2022, by and between the **Lower Platte South Natural Resources District**, a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, located at 3125 Portia St., Lincoln, NE 68501-3581 (hereinafter referred to as the "District") and the **County of Cass**, Nebraska, A Body Politic and Corporate, located at 346 Main St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (hereinafter referred to as the "County"), and individually referred to sometimes as the "Party" or collectively as the "Parties."

WITNESSETH:

RECITALS

A. The County has entered into an agreement with Pictometry/Eagle View to obtain digital aerial mapping products, including aerial photography, digital orthophotos and other digital mapping items ("Digital Mapping") to be flown (initial data acquired) in the spring of 2022 with final product to be delivered at the end of summer to fall of 2022. The Digital Mapping will include the entire area of the County which includes the portion of the County located within the boundary of the District.

B. The District desires to obtain the right to use the Digital Mapping from the County for District purposes and to pay the County for such use as specified in Section II below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above Recitals and covenants and promises contained below, the Parties agree as follows:

**I.
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

The Cass County GIS Program Manager, Sean Kennedy, will act as "Administrator" of this Agreement and will be responsible for delivery of the Digital Mapping to the District. The Administrator will provide staffing necessary to review the Digital Mapping. After the County has received delivery of the Digital Mapping, reviewed and accepted it, it shall delivery it to the District prior to October 31, 2022, unless flight delays cause a late delivery of the Digital Mapping to the County. The District may use the Digital Mapping in any manner that it chooses.

**II.
FEES, RECORDS, PAYMENT**

The District shall pay the County the sum of \$12,000 for the use of the Digital Mapping. The Administrator shall submit an invoice to the District in the sum of \$4,000 on or about March 31 of 2022, 2023 and 2024, until a total amount of \$12,000 is invoiced to the District for use of the Mapping Product, flown in the spring of 2022. Each \$4,000 invoice will be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

**III.
TERMINATION**

Either Party may terminate this Agreement with or without cause upon 30 days prior written notice to the other Party at the address stated above. If the District terminates before June 30, 2024, then the District shall be responsible for a prorate payment of the total \$12,000. And the District shall remove the Digital Mapping not fully paid for from its mapping system and return its copy to the County within 30 days following early termination. An accounting of all invoices and payments will be made by the County to the District upon the District's request. If this Agreement is terminated by the County, except for termination due to the District's failure to make a required payment, the District shall receive a full refund for any payment made prior to the City's termination, and the District is entitled to retain the Digital Mapping in its possession.

**IV.
WARRANTY**

The County represents and warrants that it has the right to grant the District the use of the Digital Mapping as provided for under this Agreement and will defend the District if there is any claim that the County does not have the right to grant the District such use.

**V.
TERM**

This Agreement shall remain in full force and effective from February 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, unless terminated earlier by either Party as provided in Section III above. This Agreement may be extended past June 30, 2024, upon the mutual agreement of Parties.

**VI.
NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Parties to this Agreement shall not, in the performance of this Agreement, discriminate or permit discrimination in violation of federal or state laws or local ordinances because of race, color, sex, age, disability, political or religious opinions, affiliations or national origin.

**VII.
APPLICABLE LAW**

The Parties shall comply with all existing local, state and federal laws applicable to the transaction set forth in the Agreement. Nebraska law will govern the terms and the performance under this Agreement.

**VIII.
MODIFICATION**

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the Parties. No representations were made or relied upon by either Party other than those that are expressly set forth herein. No agent, employee or other representative of either Party is empowered to alter any of the terms hereof unless done in writing and signed by an authorized officer or respective of the Parties.

**IX.
INDEMNIFICATION**

Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent allowed by law, the other Party and its principals, officers, agents and employees from and against all claims, damages, suits, actions, payments, liabilities, judgments and expenses (including court-ordered attorneys' fees), arising out of or resulting from the acts or omissions of their principals, officers, or employees in the performance of this Agreement. Liability includes any claims, damages, losses, and expenses arising out of or resulting from performance of this Agreement that results in any claim for damage whatsoever including any bodily injury, civil rights liability, sickness, disease, or damage to or destruction of tangible property, including the loss of use resulting therefrom.

Further, each Party shall maintain a policy or policies of insurance (or a self-insurance program), sufficient in coverage and amount to pay any judgments or related expenses from or in conjunction with any such claims. Nothing in this Agreement shall require either Party to indemnify or hold harmless the other Party from liability for negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of said other Party or its principals, officers, employees, or agents.

**X.
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

It is the express intent of the Parties that this Agreement shall not create an employer-employee relationship. Employees of one Party shall not be deemed to be employees of any other Party. Each Party shall be responsible to their own respective employees for all salary and benefits. A Party's employees shall not be entitled to any salary, wages, or benefits from the other Party, including but not limited to overtime, vacation, retirement benefits, workers' compensation, sick leave or injury leave.

Executed by the District this _____ day of _____, 2021.

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT,
a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska,

By: _____
Paul Zillig, General Manager

Executed by County of Cass this _____ day of _____, 2021.

COUNTY OF CASS NEBRASKA,
A Body Politic and Corporate

By: Chairman: _____
Board of Commissioners of Cass County, Nebraska

ATTEST: Cass County Clerk: _____

Approved as to form: _____
County Attorney

Home > Farm Business > Regulatory > Water > IDALS gets \$8 million to expand water quality projects

IDALS gets \$8 million to expand water quality projects



David Pustro/Gibby Images



WATERSHED BENEFITS: The Iowa Partners for Natural Infrastructure Project proposes to add 35 wetlands and 200 edge-of-field practices in priority watersheds in Iowa. Once installed, these practices will reduce an estimated 500,000 pounds of nitrogen per year.

The funds will be used to scale up conservation projects in the North Raccoon, Boone, Middle Cedar and South Skunk river watersheds.

Oct 13, 2021

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig recently announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has received \$8 million from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to help expand the habitat and water quality projects underway in priority watersheds, including around the North Raccoon, Boone, Middle Cedar and South Skunk rivers.

"I appreciate the continued financial support from USDA. When we leverage state, federal and private funding, we can add more conservation practices in targeted areas of the state where they have the greatest impact on habitat and water quality," Naig says. "The department is continuing to work alongside our public and private partners to build upon the progress and construction of wetlands and other proven water quality practices outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy."

This funding is made available through the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The Iowa Partners for Natural Infrastructure Project proposes to add 35 wetlands and 200 edge-of-field practices in priority watersheds in Iowa. Once they are installed, these practices will reduce an estimated 500,000 pounds of nitrogen per year. They also have the potential to sequester about 2 million pounds of carbon.

Many supporting partners

Key partners providing additional financial and technical support for the Iowa Partners for Natural Infrastructure Project will be provided by Ducks Unlimited Inc., Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Sand County Foundation, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition and Agri Drain Corp.

IDALS is currently leading or participating in 13 RCPPs, including four RCPPs that received more than \$40 million in federal funding in 2021. Working with its public and private partners, the department has made progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. IDALS recently celebrated the completion of the 100th Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program-funded wetland in Buena Vista County. To date, there are at least 110 known, completed wetlands in the state. The department and its partners have also helped add at least 41 saturated buffers and 15 bioreactors this year.

To learn more about Iowa's ongoing soil health and water quality initiatives, visit cleanwateriowa.org.

Source: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, which are responsible for the information provided and is wholly owned by the source. Informa Business Media and its subsidiaries aren't responsible for any of the content contained in this information asset.

TAGS: CONSERVATION

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

Benefits

RCPP makes available a variety of NRCS conservation activities to help partners, ag producers, and private landowners address local and regional natural resource challenges.

How It Works

Partners apply to NRCS for RCPP project awards. Once projects are selected, NRCS works with partners to set aside a certain pool of funding for an awarded project. Producers, landowners, and partners then enter into producer contracts and supplemental agreements with NRCS to carry out agreed-to conservation activities.

Who is Eligible?

Only eligible organizations interested in partnering with NRCS on conservation projects can develop applications for the RCPP competition. The lead partner for an RCPP

project is the entity that submits an application, and if selected for an award is ultimately responsible for collaborating with NRCS to successfully complete an RCPP project.

See the RCPP funding announcement for details about what types of organizations are eligible to apply.

RCPP projects must be carried out on agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land or associated land on which NRCS determines an eligible activity would help achieve conservation benefits.

Conservation Activities

RCPP projects may include any combination of authorized, on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. These activities include:

- Land management/land improvement/restoration practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- United States-held easements
- Public works/watersheds.

How to Apply

Interested partners must apply through the RCPP portal (nrcs.my.salesforce.com). Applications are being accepted through December 3, 2019.

Once RCPP projects are selected, producers and landowners can apply to participate in projects that cover their geographic area. Interested producers should visit their local USDA Service Center to see if their land is included in the scope of any existing RCPP projects.

What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

RCPP is now a standalone program with its own funding—\$300 million annually.

NRCS may award up to 15 Alternative Funding Arrangement projects, which are more grant-like and rely more on partner capacity to implement conservation activities.

RCPP now has two funding pools--Critical Conservation Areas and a State/Multistate pool.

RCPP partners must develop and report on environmental outcomes.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

Natural Resources Conservation Service