



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: November 9, 2022
 To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors
 From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*
 Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 5:35 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Luke Peterson, John Yoakum, Christine Lamberty, Tom Green, Ray Stevens, and Don Jacobson. Other attendees were Paul Zillig, Ariana Kennedy, and Will Inselman.

First item on the agenda was the transfer of ownership of the Bobcat Prairie property, located within the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. The City of Lincoln is requesting that LPSNRD accept ownership of the Bobcat Prairie property located in the Prairie Corridor on Haines branch. This property consists of approximately 320 acres of mixed grassland and riparian woodlands. The area has a parking lot and access pass that allow the public to access the property. This acceptance of this property falls within the interlocal agreement with the City, that states the NRD will hold land in areas outside of the City’s 3-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The property will continue to be jointly managed by LPSNRD and the City of Lincoln. Because there were NET funds initially used to purchase the property, the City and LPSNRD will continue to pay In-lieu of taxes on this property. The area will take on Wildlife Management Area designation under the LPSNRD rules and regulations.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors accept fee title interest in the City of Lincoln’s property for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project known as Bobcat Prairie, and apply Wildlife Management Area designation, subject to leagal counsel review.

Second on the agenda, was USFWS agreement with LPSNRD to provide financial assistance for a grassland restoration project. The USFWS has agreed to provide cost-share assistance for the grassland restoration project at Bobcat Prairie. The money from USFWS will be used to enhance the local ecotype seed mix to provide more species diversity and supplement some of the seeding cost. The seeding project would take place this winter or spring 2023.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Yoakum and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve the USFWS agreement that provides Lower Platte South NRD with funds to assist with a grassland renovation project at Bobcat Prairie.

Third on the agenda, was the approval to acquire the ~40 acre Melichar-Martens property within the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. After approval by the NRD Board of Directors in October, staff began the acquisition of land rights process to acquire the Melichar-Martens property from Solidago Conservancy. Staff sent letters to the landowners notifying them of the public hearing process and a public hearing was held November 4th at the LPSNRD office. No public showed up to provide comment. At this point, staff would like to recommend approval of the next stage in the process which would be to approve the acquisition and authorize the General Manager to approve an necessary legal documents.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Jacobson and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the acquisition of the 40 acre Melichar-Martens Property for the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor Project and authorize the General Manager to approve the necessary legal documents approved by NRD Legal Counsel.

Fourth on the agenda, was the Wildwood Lake boat ramp and kayak launch project. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) recently acquired a federal grant to conduct a boat ramp improvement project on Wildwood Lake. The boat ramp as well as some of the ADA walking/parking pad are in poor condition, and this money would be used to renovate those areas. Also, money would be used to redesign the parking lot for better flow and access and provide a new kayak launch facility. NGPC and LPSNRD staff have been communicating on this for the past couple months. During that time, NGPC has been working with JEO Consulting Group to design and oversee the project. Currently, we have received 50% plans and staff will be working with JEO and NGPC to finalize the design. The project is anticipated to begin August 2023 and be completed by the end of October 2023. Staff would like to recommend approval for NGPC, in cooperation with LPSNRD staff, to proceed with the project and allow LPSNRD to contribute \$15,000.00 to be used as match. This \$15,000.00 was budgeted for the development of a kayak launch at Wildwood Lake in FY 2023. The total project is anticipated to cost ~\$200,000.00 with a construction timeline of August 2023 – October 2023. JEO will place signs on the property this winter/next spring to illustrate the upcoming project.

It was moved by Yoakum and seconded by Stevens and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Wildwood Lake boat ramp improvement project led by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and provide \$15,000.00 to be used as matching funds.

Fifth on the agenda, was the new Backyard Prairie Pollinator Program to be offered by LPSNRD. This fiscal year money was budgeted to create a new program at LPSNRD. The intent of the program is to provide local ecotype native prairie seed mixes to households residing within the District. Staff as purchased approximately 50 acres worth of a local ecotype seed mix, specifically designed for urban/suburban settings. The program is geared toward small acreage owners and urban/suburban homeowners. From a ¼ acre patch out back or a small prairie garden in someone's front yard. Staff is looking for approval of the proposed program rules. The program would begin accepting applications sometime after January 1st, allowing ample time for distribution so folks can plant in the spring.

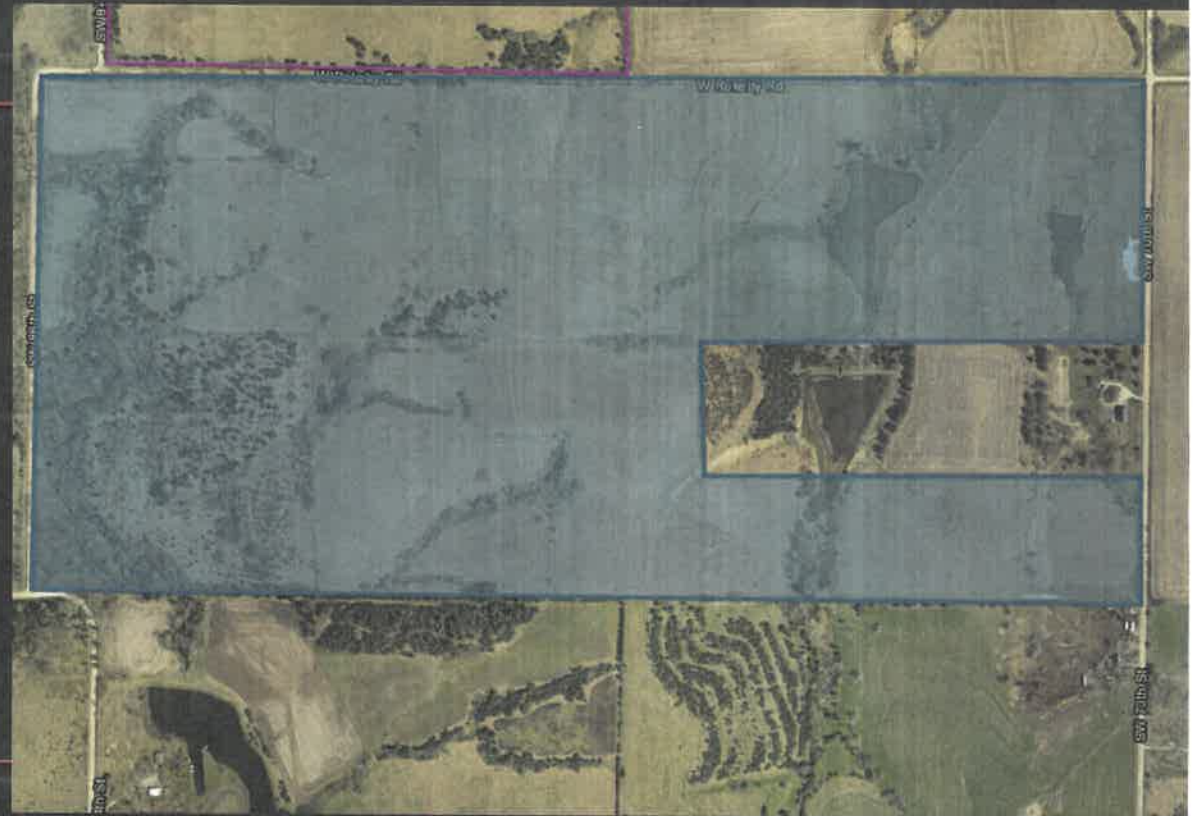
It was moved by Peterson and seconded by Green and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the program rules for the Backyard Prairie Pollinator Program.

Last on the agenda, were staff updates and reports on various projects. Reports/updates: Oberg property appraisal for conservation easement and update on the status of WMA/Community Wetland Management Plans.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Bobcat Prairie Property

- ~295 acres
- Currently under LPR ownership
- Intent to transfer to NRD in October
- Prairie Restoration planned on north half this winter/next spring through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant
- Interlocal agreement with LPRD – shares management responsibilities/funds



Landowner Agreement No: NE-64850-23-19
CFDA: 15.631

PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT

This Landowner Agreement (Agreement), dated September 20, 2022, between the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (Landowner)(s) Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is entered into pursuant to authority contained in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (P.L. 109-294), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-j), as amended. This project was selected for funding because the Landowner(s) share(s) a common objective with the PF, NGPC, and USFWS to restore habitat for the benefit of Federal trust species on private lands, and the project supports priority actions identified in the Regional Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program Strategic Plan.

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 476-2729 hereby agrees to participate with PF, NGPC and USFWS in conducting certain wildlife management practices on lands owned or managed by them in Lancaster, State of Nebraska, described as follows: all of, or within, **Section 35, Township 9 North, Range 5 East** (see Exhibit B).

In signing this Agreement, the Landowner(s) join(s) as a participant in a wildlife habitat improvement program and grants to PF, NGPC and USFWS authority to complete the habitat improvement project or the Landowner(s) may personally carry out management activities with financial or material support as described in attached Exhibit A. Any donation of supplies, equipment, or direct payment from PF, NGPC and USFWS to the Landowner for carrying out the habitat improvements is included in Exhibit A. The activities conducted pursuant to this Agreement are not to replace, supplement or otherwise contribute to any mitigation or compensation that may be required of the Landowner(s), or other parties, as a result of any mandated requirements.

The term of this Agreement (also referred to as the habitat retention period) will be completed on September 20, 2032. This Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the parties. It may be terminated by either party upon 30 days advance written notice to the other party(ies). However, if the Landowner(s) terminate(s) the Agreement before its expiration, or if the Landowner(s) should materially default on these commitments, then the Landowner(s) agree(s) to reimburse PF, NGPC, and USFWS prior to final termination for the prorated costs of all habitat improvements placed on the land through this Agreement, and PF and NGPC will work with the USFWS to determine how those funds will be used. For these purposes, the total cost of the habitat improvements to PF, NGPC, and USFWS is agreed to be \$22,500.00 (see Exhibit A, Budget Table).

Landowners:

The Landowner(s) or his/her land manager, with legal authority over land management decisions, guarantee(s) ownership of the above-described land and warrants that there are no outstanding rights that interfere with this Landowner Agreement.

The Landowner(s) will notify PF, NGPC and USFWS of planned or pending changes in ownership. A change of ownership shall not change the terms of this Agreement. The Agreement and terms shall be in effect on the described land for the term of the Agreement.

The Landowner(s) agree(s) to allow access (with advance notice) to PF, NGPC, USFWS and the other cooperating partner(s) to implement the project described in Exhibit A, and to monitor project success.

The Landowner(s) retain(s) all rights to control trespass and retains all responsibility for taxes, assessments, and damage claims.

During the habitat retention period, the Landowner(s) agree(s) to maintain the habitat restored under this award per Exhibit A and allow the habitat restored under this award to remain in place.

At the end of the habitat retention period, the habitat improvement project will become the sole and complete responsibility of the Landowner(s). There shall be no obligation to PF, NGPC and USFWS after the term of the Agreement has expired.

The Landowner(s) will be responsible for securing any necessary permits. Technical advice and support will be provided by participating agencies in the application for the permit(s). The Landowner(s) agree(s) to identify PF, NGPC and USFWS contributions to the project during public presentations, reports, or other information published about the project, as appropriate.

The Landowner(s) will not be responsible for replacing wildlife habitat developments that are damaged or destroyed by severe acts of nature.

PF/NGPC/USFWS:

PF, NGPC and USFWS will work with the Landowner(s) signing this Agreement, throughout the entire Agreement term to support actions needed to ensure that the project is designed and constructed per the Agreement and functions as intended.

PF, NGPC, USFWS and cooperating partners, their agents, or assignees will provide advanced notice prior to accessing the Landowner(s) property to implement the project described in the work plan, and to monitor project success. PF, NGPC and USFWS assume no liability for damage or injury other than that caused by their own negligence, on the above acreage. PF, NGPC and USFWS do not assume jurisdiction over the premises by this Agreement.

Spatial Information Sharing: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, permission must be obtained from the Landowner before any personal information can be released. The only information that can be shared is payment information that is authorized by law. Therefore, Landowner consent is requested to allow for sharing of spatial information about this project solely with conservation cooperators providing technical or financial assistance with the restoration, enhancement or management of fish and wildlife habitat.

I, the Landowner, consent to having spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators

I, the Landowner, do NOT wish to have any spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators

Signatures:

Landowners (Lower Platte South NRD) Date

Pheasants Forever, Inc. Date

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Date

USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Biologist Date

USFWS Partners Program Nebraska State Coordinator Date

EXHIBIT A

The habitat improvements described below are agreed to by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (Landowners), Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in a Landowner Agreement dated September 20, 2022.

Description of Habitat Improvement Project and Objectives:

This project will focus on habitat improvements for numerous wildlife species known to utilize tallgrass prairie habitats in southeast Nebraska. This project will restore and enhance approximately 125 acres of grassland habitat in the Eastern Tallgrass Region of Nebraska.

This is a joint grassland habitat restoration project involving the Landowners, PF, NGPC and the USFWS. All parties are interested in management and restoration practices that improve and enhance habitats within the Eastern Tallgrass Region of Nebraska. Over 90% of the native tallgrass prairie has been lost in Nebraska and the remaining grasslands are subject to encroachment by woody vegetation and exotic, cool-season grasses.

The overall goals of this project are to restore grassland habitat within the Eastern Tallgrass Region of Nebraska, to enhance the ecological resilience of the Tallgrass Prairie, and improve habitat for monarch butterflies, regal fritillary butterflies, grassland nesting birds, and other wildlife species native to the area.

The grassland habitats of the project area are of reduced availability and quality due to the factors mentioned above. The project area is identified in Exhibit B. Once the project is completed, the Landowners will continue to manage the area to promote a diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs.

Planned Work:

Tree Removal: Scattered trees throughout the project area will be removed prior to discing.

Haying: Approximately 125 acres of degraded grassland habitat will be hayed prior to herbicide treatment.

Discing: Approximately 125 acres of degraded grassland habitat will be disked twice; once to expose the roots to dry them out and a second pass, two weeks later, to expose any new root growth to winter freeze.

Herbicide Treatment: Approximately 125 acres of degraded grassland habitat will be treated with herbicide in mid-October.

High Diversity Seeding: After the site preparation work has been completed, approximately 125 acres of degraded grassland habitat will be overseeded to a high diversity mixture of native grasses and forbs, including milkweeds. After the native vegetation stand has been established in this area, the Landowner will manage the area through haying, grazing, mowing, burning or other methods to maintain plant diversity.

Habitat Restoration/Enhancement: Approximately 125 acres of degraded grassland habitat will be restored, enhanced and managed as a result of this project for the benefit of monarch butterflies, regal fritillary butterflies, bobwhite quail, grassland nesting birds and other wildlife species native to the area.

Landowners:

- The Landowners agree to complete or coordinate the completion of the tree removal, haying, discing, herbicide treatment, and the high diversity seeding as designated in this Exhibit.
- The Landowners agree, with assistance from NGPC and USFWS, to obtain any necessary approvals or permits for restoration work.
- The Landowners agree to maintain the habitat restoration/enhancements during the term of this Agreement with input from the funding partners.

PF/NGPC/USFWS:

- PF, NGPC, and the USFWS will coordinate funding on the project.
- NGPC and USFWS will provide technical assistance towards completion of the project, especially regarding habitat restoration, management, and maintenance as necessary.
- PF, NGPC and USFWS will provide funding for the project as outlined in the Budget Table below.
- NGPC and USFWS will work collectively with Landowner to identify, design and implement the habitat restoration work needed on the property.
- NGPC and USFWS will work with the Landowners to ensure the habitat restoration is completed to all specifications.
- NGPC and USFWS will oversee the actual habitat restoration work being conducted.

Budget Narrative:

Cost of restoration/enhancement work will be shared by the Landowners, PF, NGPC, and the USFWS. It is in the interest of PF, NGPC and USFWS to join with the Landowner to provide technical and financial assistance towards projects which restore and enhance grassland habitats in the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie Region. After the work has been completed, the NGPC, USFWS and the Landowner will inspect the work. If all parties agree that the work has been completed to their satisfaction, then the NGPC and PF will pay the Landowner directly for their portion of the costs as appropriate upon receipt of respective invoices, according to this Exhibit. The USFWS will reimburse PF for their respective portion of the project costs as outlined in this Exhibit. The Landowner will pay any contractor directly for the costs associated with the seed bed preparation. Any work to be completed may be modified with the mutual agreement of the aforementioned parties. Total estimated cost of the project will be \$51,780.00.

Project Costs:

A) Tree Removal	\$2,000.00
B) Haying	\$2,280.00
C) Discing (125 ac. @ \$20/ac. @ 2 times).....	\$5,000.00
D) Herbicide Treatment (125 ac. @ \$40/ac.)	\$5,000.00
E) High Diversity Seeding and Planting (125 ac. @ \$300/ac.).....	\$37,500.00
Total Project Cost.....	\$51,780.00

Budget Table:

Description	Landowners*	NGPC**	USFWS+	Total
Tree Removal	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Haying	\$2,2800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,280.00
Discing (125 ac. @ \$20/ac. @ 2 times)	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Herbicide Treatment (125 ac. @ \$40/ac.)	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
High Diversity Seeding (125 ac. @ \$300/ac.)	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$37,500.00
Total	\$29,280.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$51,780.00

**The Landowners' funds for this project (\$29,280.00) are being provided as cash and in-kind match towards the project.*

***NGPC funds for this project (\$10,000.00) are being provided through a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Lincoln.*

+USFWS funds for this project (\$12,500.00) are being provided through a Cooperative Agreement (#F19AC00854) between the USFWS and Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Exhibit B
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
N1/2 Section 35 Township 9 North Range 5 West
Lancaster County

FWS 3-2454
08/14



Melichar-Martens Property

- ~80 acres
- Haines Branch in NW corner of property
- Contains good stand of CRP
- Pond
- Mainly cedar control and a few noxious weeds
- Property in good shape
- Solidago Conservancy would close with LPSNRD in mid-December





2200 N. 33rd St. • P.O. Box 30370 • Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 • Phone: 402-471-0641

November 4, 2022

Board of Directors
Lower Platte South NRD
3125 Portia Street
PO Box 83581
Lincoln, NE 68501

Board of Directors,

I am writing to request approval from the Board of Directors of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) to proceed with plans to renovate the boat launch facility at Wildwood Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Planning and coordination of this project have taken place between LPSNRD staff and Nebraska Game and Parks (NGPC) staff. NGPC, in cooperation with LPSNRD, has hired JEO Consulting Group Inc. to oversee this project.

The boat launch facility renovation project will be a significant upgrade to Wildwood WMA. The plans include replacing the existing boat ramp which is currently heaved and difficult to use. This will be accomplished by using a coffer dam so no reservoir water level manipulation will be needed. There will be a shore launch area constructed near the SE corner of the parking lot for kayak/paddlecraft users. The coffer dam will be used in this location as well. The parking lot will be redesigned to maximize parking, improve visibility by removing the overgrown vegetation in the current medians which will also improve visibility throughout the parking lot. Finally, the ADA parking pad will be restored, and ADA sidewalks will be restored to connect to both the boat ramp and to the fishing jetty.

NGPC has secured a Federal Sportfish Restoration Boating Access Grant to fund this project. Matching funds for this grant will come from both LPSNRD and NGPC. Additional funding may be available through the Boating Access Grant should it be needed to complete this project.

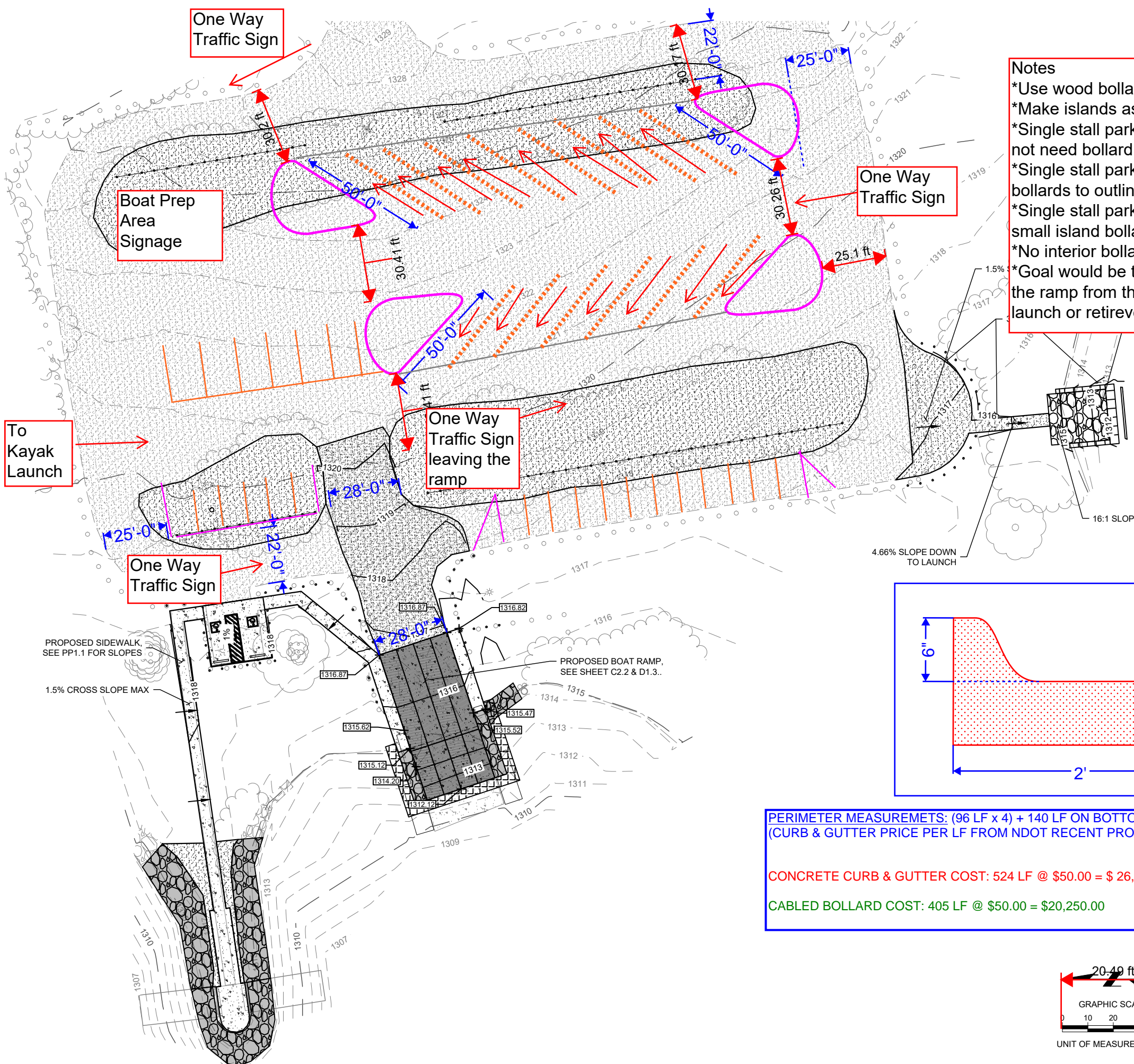
JEO has submitted 50% design plans which are being reviewed by both LPSNRD and NGPC. The construction timeline for this project would have a contractor on site August through October 2023.

I would be happy to discuss this project further with the Board of Directors. If the Board is satisfied with this project, I would request a written letter giving NGPC approval to proceed.

Sincerely,

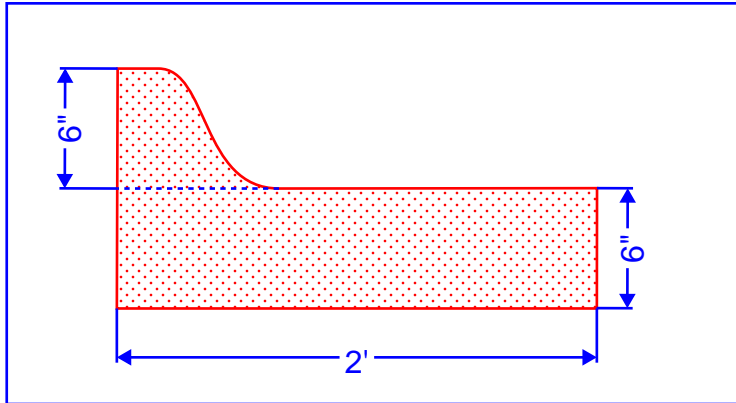
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan D. Katt", written over a white background.

Jordan D. Katt
Boating Access Coordinator
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Notes

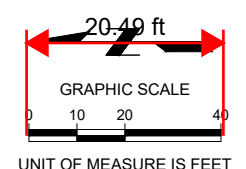
- *Use wood bollards w/cable to make islands
- *Make islands as small as possible
- *Single stall parking in middle lane, does not need bollard designation
- *Single stall parking in NW lane only needs bollards to outline
- *Single stall parking in SW lane only needs small island bollards
- *No interior bollards for boat parking
- *Goal would be to have boat traffic all enter the ramp from the N, whether coming to launch or retrieve vessel



PERIMETER MEASUREMENTS: (96 LF x 4) + 140 LF ON BOTTOM LEFT = 524 LF TOTAL
(CURB & GUTTER PRICE PER LF FROM NDOT RECENT PROJECT = \$48.57)

CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER COST: 524 LF @ \$50.00 = \$ 26,200.00

CABLED BOLLARD COST: 405 LF @ \$50.00 = \$20,250.00



Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's Backyard Prairie Pollinator Program Rules:

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District ("District") has budgeted funds for the purpose of providing local-ecotype native seed to homeowners for enhancing native grass and forb diversity within the District. Below are the program rules and District administering guidelines.

- Applicants will be considered in order based on application submission date.
- Maximum of 1 application per household AND property per year.
- Maximum of ¼ acre of seed will be provided per applicant. *There is no minimum plot size.
- Applicants will be required to provide the approximate dimensions of area to be planted (e.g., 30 feet x 60 feet or 1/8 acre).
- Applicants will be considered until all available seed is expended.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Resources Coordinator and approved by the General Manager.
- Applicants and the planting locations of the seed must be within the District. See Map.
 - Must be on private ground, either residential or commercial.
 - Planting site cannot be owned by the United States government, the State of Nebraska, and/or any division of government of the State of Nebraska (i.e., county, city, local government).
- Applicants will provide the District with address or approximate location of the planting site.
- Site preparation, seeding, and maintenance will be the responsibility of the applicant.
- The District will provide technical guidance for seed establishment and maintenance.