



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 7, 2025

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 Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife subcommittee met in the NRD Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present were Seth Hawkins, Chair; Christine Lamberty, Suzanne Mealer, Mark Spangler, Don Jacobson, Anthony Schutz, and Melissa Baker. Other attendees were Mike Sousek, David Potter, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. One item was on the agenda for consideration.

The only item on the agenda was the consideration and agreement with the Nebraska Environmental Trust to accept grant funds. LPSNRD staff applied for and was awarded a Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant titled Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management. This project would provide funding to install three solar livestock wells to enable grazing management on 505 acres of restored tallgrass prairie and associated ecosystems. The wells will also be integrated into the LPSNRD's groundwater monitoring network to monitor water quality metrics and groundwater levels. The wells will be located on Bobcat Prairie Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Kapke Prairie, and Honvlez Prairie, which are owned and managed by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) in partnership with the City of Lincoln, and part of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch project. The development of grazing infrastructure will allow the LPSNRD to manage these sites to achieve the following outcomes: provide outdoor recreation opportunities, enhance habitat for several Tier 1 species and other wildlife, promote plant diversity, enhance soil health, and improve air quality. The LPSNRD and City of Lincoln would each provide \$10,000 cash match for a total of \$20,000. NET would provide \$40,000 with a total project cost of \$60,000. It has been some time since the NRD has applied for an NET grant and we were thrilled to see this project awarded. Staff indicated that there is money in the budget for this and that this project. Staff gave kudos to Eric Zach who did a great job putting together a great application packet. Staff recommended accepting the NET grant award.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Baker, and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the grant contract agreement with the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funds awarded to LPSNRD for our "Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management" project, pending legal counsel review.

Motion Passed: 7-0

Staff also provided updates on the status of the Rails with Trail grant that will be resubmitted towards another funding opportunity. Staff also provided some educational information and updates on prescribed fire activities, trail projects, and LRIP/budget discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file