




# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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## Memorandum

**Date:** August 13, 2024  
**To:** Urban Subcommittee  
**From:** Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator   
**Subject:** Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – August 2024

The Urban Subcommittee met on August 13, 2024, at the NRD Office, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members participating included John Yoakum- committee chair, Gary Aldridge, Luke Peterson, Larry Ruth, Anthony Schutz, Greg Osborn, and Ray Stevens. Others participating included NRD staff Mike Sousek, Al Langdale, Craig Matulka, Jodi Delozier, and Drew Ratkovec. Tim Zach from the City of Lincoln, Mike Sotak and Connor Kelly from Houston Engineering, Troy Weatherby and John Frost from Beaver Lake Association were also in attendance. Director Yoakum called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. There were five (5) items the Subcommittee took action on. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **A. Consideration of CAP Application Request – Beaver Lake Association Study [ACTION]–**

Craig Matulka, Stormwater/Watershed Specialist presented background information to the subcommittee. Beaver Lake Association submitted a Community Assistance Program request for the Dam Rehabilitation investigative stage. NeDNR has requested Beaver Lake to complete a study to investigate potential repair and replacement alternatives to address any issues occurring with the structure. Beaver Lake has hired Houston Engineering to investigate the structure. They are currently applying for financial assistance with FEMA through their High Hazard Potential Dams funding assistance program. This is the tallest dam in the district at 96 feet tall. It typically has a 12-foot flood pool providing flood storage. Questions were answered by staff and Houston about the history of the CAP and the potential size of the project. Beaver Lake discussed the history of the lake. They currently have 1100 homes in their district and have been budgeting for this project, as well as looking for assistance through other programs.

- Work Type: Engineering—Investigation of dam structure
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Proposal: \$110,614.00 NRD Funds –
- Start: August 2024
- Completion: June 30, 2024/FY25
- Delays: n/a
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Houston, Beaver Lake, FEMA (if approved)
- Deliverables: Alternatives for repair and replacement

**It was moved by Osborn, seconded by Schutz, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Community Assistance Program application request for the Beaver Lake Association Dam Rehabilitation project at a cost share amount of 50% of the total eligible study costs, not to exceed \$110,614.00.**

**B. Consideration of Bids for the Salt Creek Channel Culvert Rehabilitation [ACTION]—**

Al Langdale, Operations and Maintenance Coordinator presented background information on the Salt Creek Channel Rehabilitation project. This project was designed by Houston Engineering and has three Salt Creek projects grouped into one package. Two projects are culvert repairs and rehabilitations. The third project is to construct a new driveway to access the levee. There were five bids with M.E. Collins having the lowest bid. Houston recommended accepting M.E. Collins bid. The NRD has worked with M.E. Collins in the past in which they have provided satisfactory work. Questions were answered by Langdale about the history of the culverts and if they have been repaired before.

- Work Type: Construction
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Proposal: \$414,436.43
- Start: October 2024
- Completion: January 2025
- Bid Using Unit Prices
- Delays: Weather
- Access: n/a
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Houston, M.E. Collins
- Deliverables: Completed repairs and rehabilitations, as well as a new access driveway
- Legal Counsel Review: Will be reviewed before contracts are signed

**It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Osborn, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the low bid of \$ 414,436.43 from M.E. Collins Contracting for the Salt Creek Rehabilitation and Repair Project.**

**C. Consideration of the Oak Creek Mitigation Conservation Easement [ACTION]—**

Al Langdale, Operations and Maintenance Coordinator presented information on the Oak Creek Mitigation Conservation Easement. This easement is part of the 40<sup>th</sup> and Scott Ave. Antelope Creek project. The NRD was required by the Army Corp of Engineers to provide a mitigation plan in order to acquire a 404 permit. Acquiring the conservation easement is the last step before finalizing the mitigation plan. Langdale answered questions from Directors on what was done to mitigate and work completed on the property. He explained that certain plant species were planted on the bench of Oak Creek that would mitigate what was damaged from the Antelope Creek project. A fence was also installed around the area with a locked gate. There will be inspections for the next five years to monitor this area.

- Legal Counsel has Reviewed
- Deliverables: Finalize mitigation plan

**It was moved by Stevens, seconded by Ruth, and approved 7-0 by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve that the General Manager is authorized to execute the Oak Creek Mitigation Conservation Easement.**

**D. Consideration of Amendment #3 with the UNL Deadman’s Run Flood Reduction Project [ACTION]-** Mike Sousek, General Manager discussed the agreement and how it has been changing as this Deadman’s Run project moved forward. The third amendment was created to spell out items such as moving away from the Army Corps and making this a local project. It also has language on wetland components that will be designed and built in the future. The NRD will help with design and construction of the grading for these wetlands. UNL will then take over the specifics on the wetland details. Another component of this agreement is the potential opportunity to move spoils from the excavation of the project to East Campus or Innovation Campus if the spoils meet UNL standards. Questions were answered by NRD staff, City of Lincoln, and Houston. It was noted the 38<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge is no longer needed to be replaced. A description of the location of the detention basin on east campus and how it functions was also discussed.

- Completion: 2028 (depending on delays)
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD (lead), UNL, City of Lincoln, Water Sustainability Fund
- Deliverables: site for detention basin, potential for spoil removal
- Legal Counsel has Reviewed
- Easement: Will be granted to NRD for O&M of detention basin

**It was moved by Ruth, seconded by Stevens, and approved 5-2 (Aldridge voting no and Schutz abstaining) by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve Amendment #3 between the Lower Platte South NRD and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the Deadman’s Run Flood Reduction Project.**

**E. Consideration of Professional Services from Houston Engineering on the Deadman’s Run Flood Reduction Project [ACTION]—**

Mike Sousek, General Manager, presented information on the professional services agreement from Houston Engineering. The NRD and City of Lincoln are continuing to move forward with the Deadman’s Run Flood Reduction project. Houston Engineering has provided a cost estimate for alternate ‘G’ to perform site investigation, design, permitting, development of plans and specifications, bidding assistance, construction administration, and observation services. The original project was \$60 million dollars. With Houston’s value engineering study lowering the costs to \$18.5 million dollars, the project is now feasible while still providing the initial benefits and goals from the original plan. Questions from the Directors were answered by all representatives at the meeting on costs, delays, and budget. The NRD and City of Lincoln are splitting funds 50/50 for this project.

- Work Type: Engineering
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD, City of Lincoln, Water Sustainability Fund
- Proposal: \$2,590,009.00
- Start: August 2024
- Completion: August 2026 (depending on delays)
- Permits: Local (floodplain), State (water quality), Federal (404)
- Delays: Weather
- Access: n/a
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD (lead), City of Lincoln, Houston, UNL, Water Sustainability Fund
- Deliverables: design, permitting, development of plans and specifications, bidding assistance, construction administration, and observation services
- Legal Counsel Review: Currently under review

**It was moved Stevens, seconded by Osborn, and approved 5-2 (Aldridge voting no and Schutz abstaining) by the Subcommittee to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering for \$2,590,009.00, pending legal counsel.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

cc: Dave Landis  
Corey Wasserburger