




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

Agenda Item #10

Memorandum

Date: February 12, 2025
To: Water Resources Subcommittee
From: Drew Ratkovec, Projects Coordinator 
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – February 2025

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on February 11, 2025, at the NRD office, at 5:30 pm to take action on 3 items. Subcommittee members who participated included Don Jacobson- committee chair, Melissa Baker, Deborah Eagan, Gary Hellerich, Luke Petersen, Larry Ruth, and Anthony Schutz. Others participating included NRD Staff Mike Sousek, Dick Ehrman, Steve Herdzina, Tyler Benal, Logan Hutt, and Drew Ratkovec. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. A quorum was present for the meeting.

A. Consideration of a Professional Services Proposal for Ground Water Database Reconfiguration [ACTION]–

Steve Herdzina, Water Compliance Specialist, presented background information on the district's ground water database. The current database contractor used by the LPSNRD is no longer in business. Staff found another contractor, Longitude 103, as the next best option moving forward. Longitude 103 is used by 17 of the 23 NRD Districts and provides the same capabilities needed for LPSNRD to continue its groundwater activities such as well owner communication, annual reports, and certified acres. The breakdown of the costs is as follows: One-time data migration fee of \$10,000.00 (paid directly by NeDNR), Annual Service Fee of \$8,500.00, and Cost of the modification/migration of \$4,000.00. Longitude 103 will then cost \$8,500 per year as an annual service fee. Questions were answered about budget costs, any remaining contracts, and recovering data.

- Work Type: Ground Water Data
- Budget: Included in FY25 Budget
- Funding: NRD/NeDNR
- Proposal: \$12,500
 - Cost-Share Assistance from NeDNR: \$10,000
- Annual Cost: \$8,500
- Start: Upon Board Approval (February 2025)
- Completion: February 2026
- Delays: N/A
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Longitude 103, NeDNR
- Legal Counsel Review: Ongoing
- Deliverables: Online Database Repository

It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Eagan, and approved (6 voting yes, Schutz abstaining) by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the proposal from Longitude 103 for the ground water database for \$12,500, pending legal counsel review.

B. Consideration of the Agreement with HDR for Services Regarding Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP) [ACTION]–

Dick Ehrman, Water Resources Coordinator provided information on the RFQ process for selecting a consultant to update the Ground Water Management Plan. Three firms were interviewed with HDR being selected as the preferred contractor. HDR's scope of services is for the amount of \$315,700.00. The current plan is thirty years old and due for an update. The main topic of questions involved the FY25 budget. Not knowing what the proposal would be when preparing for FY25, NRD staff included a conservative dollar amount towards this effort. There were no concerns about the budgeted amount to last until July 2025, and from there staff will plan what is needed for the next budget cycle (FY26).

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Eagan, and approved 7-0 by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement in the amount of \$315,700.00 with HDR to provide services to the District in revision and update of its Ground Water Management Plan, pending legal counsel review.

C. Consideration of Bids for the Construction of the Weeping Water Creek 5K Structure Rehabilitation Project [ACTION]–

Ratkovec provided background information on the project. At the September 2024 Board Meeting, the LPSNRD approved a Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering on the Weeping Water 5K rehabilitation project for design, permitting, and construction administration services. Since then, Houston has designed plans to repair the structure. The project consists of regrading and armoring the dam structure as well as the plunge pool with rock rip rap. The construction project was advertised for bids on January 17th, 24th, & 31st, with a bid opening on February 7th, at 2:00 pm. The LPSNRD received fourteen (14) bids from contractors, with a low bid of \$50,794.00 from Yost Excavating. See the attached recommendation memorandum from Mike Sotak, Houston Engineering, Inc. Yost Excavating has completed satisfactory work on similar projects for the NRD. This dam is classified as significant hazard.

- Work Type: Construction – Dam Structure
- Budget: Included in FY 25 Budget
- Funding: NRD
- Proposal: \$50,794.00
- Start: Upon Board Approval/March 2025
- Completion: June 2025
- Bid Using Unit Prices (Quantity per Unit)
- Delays: Weather
- Permits: NeDNR Permit, USACE 404 Nationwide Permit
- Access: No Concerns
- Payers, players, & Partners: NRD, Houston, Yost Excavating
- Legal Counsel Review: Ongoing
- Deliverables: Rehabbed Structure

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Hellerich, and approved 7-0 by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors accept the low bid from Yost Excavating for \$50,794.00 for the construction of the Weeping Water Creek 5K Structure Rehabilitation Project, pending legal counsel review.

Updates:

- The LPSNRD received 52 applications for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) program. This covered 5,130.61 acres for a total dollar amount of \$54,744.21. LPSNRD was only allocated \$26,089.64 through the NiRIA. At the recent legislative conference, the NeDNR gave an update and informed all NRDs that submitted applications meeting specifications will receive an incentive payment. Recognition was given to staff member, Tyler Benal for his boots-on-the-ground approach to making this program move forward.
- The Janssen Road Structure is located in Seward County south of Garland. In the 2025 annual inspection, it was found to have a separated pipe structure. NRD staff met with Seward County officials and discussed a plan moving forward. Staff from both agencies agree this pipe needs to be fixed and will take the necessary steps to do that. A proposal could potentially be brought to the next subcommittee meeting.
- The Pine Lake Association dam rehabilitation project was completed in mid-2024. The LPSNRD Community Assistance Program helped fund this project through the study, design, and construction phases. Drone video footage was provided of the construction phase during the meeting and questions were asked about the program.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23

Enclosures:

Cc: Bob Andersen

Corey Wasserburger