



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 10, 2022

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Ariana Kennedy, Resources Conservationist *AK*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met via Zoom. Subcommittee members on the Zoom meeting; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Tom Green, Christine Lamberty, Luke Peterson, Mark Spangler, Ray Stevens and John Yoakum. Other attendees were Deb Eagan, Paul Zillig, David Potter, Trent Henry and Ariana Kennedy.

The action item on the agenda was the Two Creeks Prairie property transfer from the City of Lincoln to Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD). Zillig reminded the subcommittee there are three properties within the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch that the City of Lincoln and LPSNRD have worked together to obtain. These three properties lie outside the City of Lincoln's 3-mile jurisdiction and the City has requested LPSNRD accept ownership of these properties in a phased approach. Denton Prairie was previously transferred to LPSNRD. The City is now requesting LPSNRD accept ownership of Two Creeks Prairie property. Two Creeks Prairie is south of the Stiefel Johnson Trailhead across the railroad tracks. This transaction would be fee title interest at no cost to LPSNRD. Attached is a letter and map from Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, dated September 11, 2020. An additional map titled, 'Haines Branch Prairie Corridor – Two Creeks' is attached.

It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Green 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, located in the southwest quarter of section 11, township 9 north, range 5 east, Lancaster County, Nebraska, known as Two Creeks Prairie, subject to legal counsel review.

Next were reports/updates. Reports/updates: Landscape Tree Program, LPSNRD Forester Agreement, Wildwood Interlocal Agreement with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Rosa Parks Way Trail project, Oak Creek Trail landslide repairs, Wabash Trailhead, Homestead Trail bridge #9, and Prairie Pines connector trail Recreational Trails Program grant.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file



LINCOLN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
3131 "O" Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68510-1514
402-441-7047 fax: 402-441-8260 lincoln.ne.gov

September 11, 2020

Paul Zillig, General Manager
Lower Platte South NRD
PO Box 83581
Lincoln, NE 68521

RE: Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Property Transfers

Dear Paul:

Thank you to the District for the multi-year partnership on the Prairie Corridor project. We are grateful for the collaboration, and very pleased with the success on the project to date. Per our discussions and the District's Long Range Implementation Plan, this letter is to request consideration of the phased transfer of three Prairie Corridor properties that lie outside the City's 3-mile ETJ from the City to the District: Denton Prairie, Two Creeks Prairie, and Bobcat Prairie (see attached map and table below). Consideration for a shift in title is appropriate based on the demonstrated success of the project, the division of ownership contemplated in the Interlocal Agreement, and our mutual pledge to share equally in the costs of land management responsibilities regardless of which agency owns the property. As our partnership continues to mature and we each plan for operations during upcoming budget cycles, we believe this is a good time to set forth a timeline for these property transfers.

As you know, the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the District for the Prairie Corridor states that as a general practice, the City will acquire and hold land in areas that are within the City's 3-mile ETJ, and the District will acquire and hold land in areas that are outside the ETJ. It also indicates that in the long term, the District will serve as the primary agency in charge of land management. The agreement acknowledges there is land outside the ETJ that was acquired by the City prior to the effective date of the agreement, and states that the City will continue to hold that land unless otherwise agreed to by the parties. This request is for the District to indicate its intent to accept ownership of these properties according to a timeline for phased transfer as follows:



Year	Property	Acres	Notes
FY 2020-21	Denton Prairie	54	This property was acquired by the City of Lincoln in May 2013 and seeded to high-diversity tallgrass prairie in 2014. Haines Branch runs through this parcel with a wooded riparian corridor. It is adjacent to two parcels recently acquired by the District and seeded with native prairie: the Kapke and Honvlez properties. A trailhead was recently completed on Denton Prairie, and the City entered into an agreement with the Village of Denton to construct and maintain a driveway from Cass Ave – a responsibility which would transfer to the District with the Denton Prairie/Trailhead land transfer.
FY 2021-22	Two Creeks Prairie	100	Originally a 100-acre conservation easement acquired by the NRD in 2014, with fee simple acquisition of the property by the City of Lincoln in 2017. This property has a variety of grasslands (including 52 acres of re-established high diversity tallgrass prairie) and wooded riparian corridors. It also includes the confluence of Holmes Creek with the Haines Branch of Salt Creek, and a future railroad underpass to connect with the Stiefel-Johnson Trailhead owned by the District.
FY 2022-23	Bobcat Prairie	297	This includes 134 acres acquired in December 2013 (“Bobcat 1” – Stent property) and 163 acres acquired in September 2018 (“Bobcat 2” – Petersen property). This property has a combination of grassland (including 35 acres of virgin prairie), woodlands and a riparian corridor on the west end. About 25 acres in the central part of Bobcat 2 is part of a long-term prairie restoration experiment being conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources. The NRD Board previously took action in 2018 in support of accepting the conveyance of Bobcat 2 on an unspecified timeline.

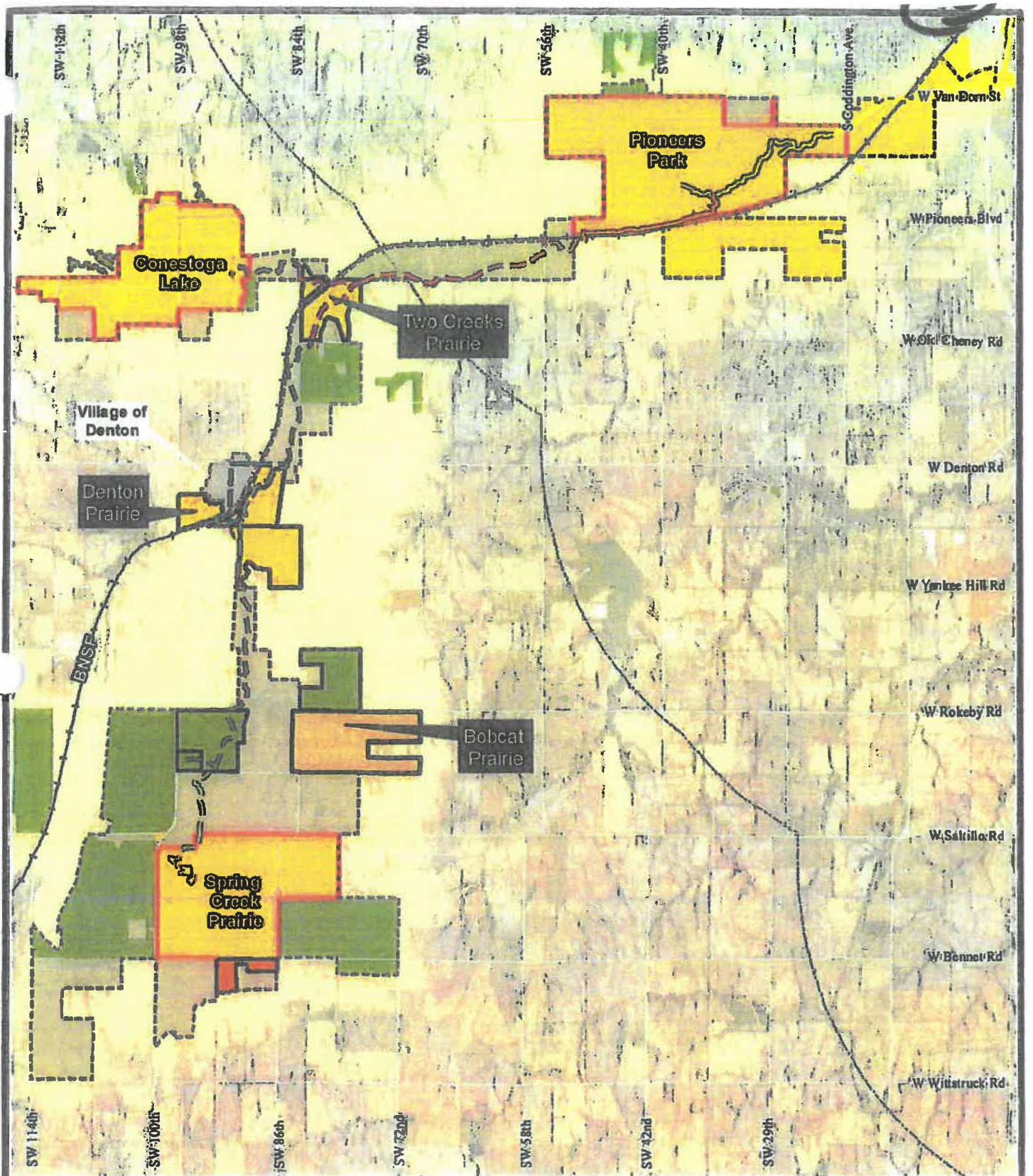
We envision having a continuing role in a cooperative approach to habitat development and other land management activities as these transfers occur. In addition, Lincoln Parks and Recreation will continue to lead improvement projects to complete the trail and trail connections. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

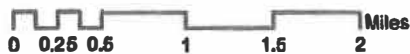


Lynn Johnson, Director

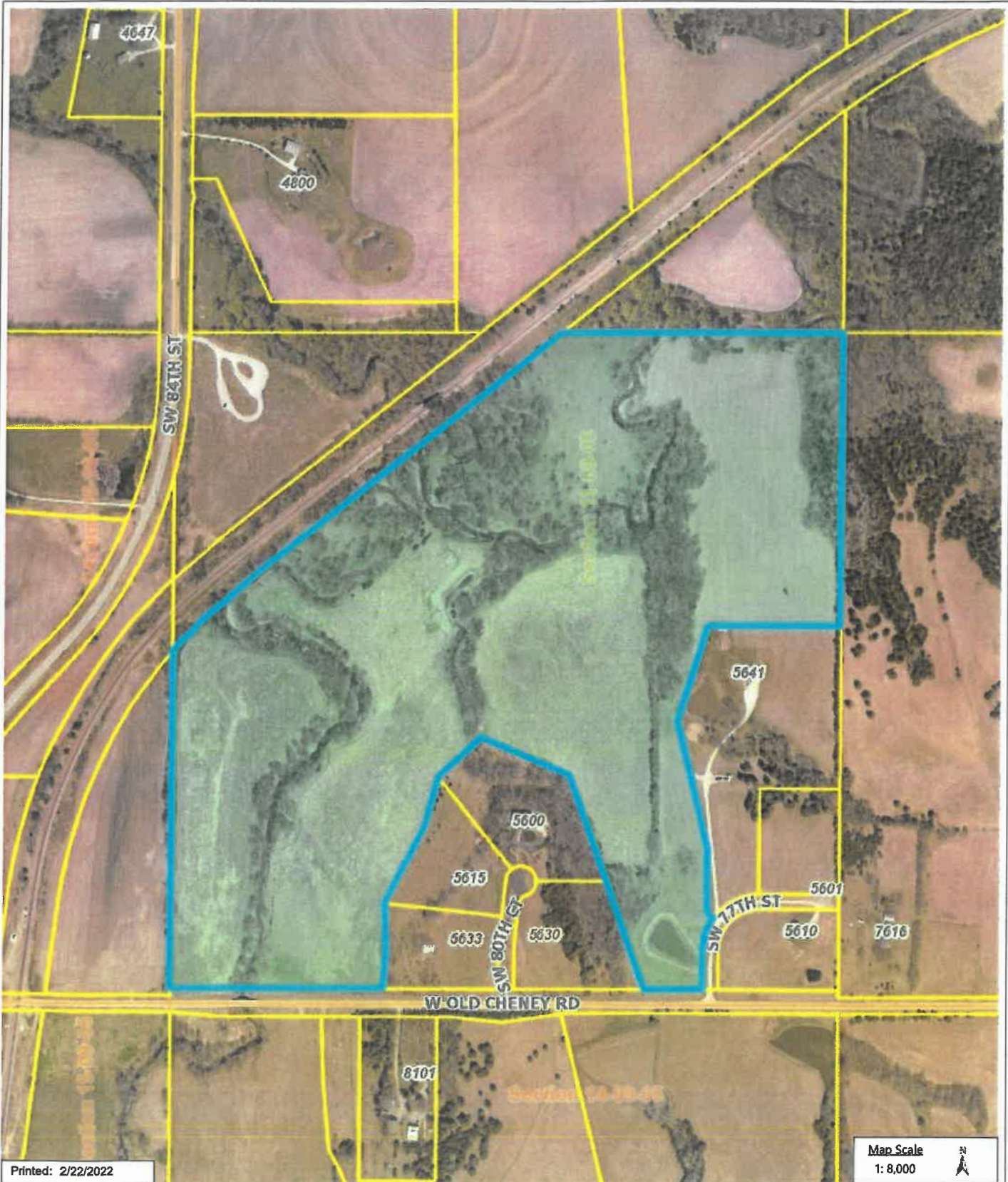
Cc: Jennifer Brinkman – Mayor’s Office
 Nicole Fleck-Tooze – Lincoln Parks and Recreation
 Dan Schulz – Lower Platte South NRD



**Prairie Corridor
on Haines Branch:
City-Owned Properties**



- Priority Area
- Destination Areas
- 3-mile Jurisdiction
- Public/Conservation Ownership
- Public/Conservation Ownership (Addition)
- Spring Creek Prairie (Addition)
- Conservation Easement
- Conservation Easement (Addition)
- BNSF RR
- Existing PC Trail Segments
- Future PC Trail Segments



Printed: 2/22/2022

Map Scale
1: 8,000



DISCLAIMER: The information is presented on a best-efforts basis, and should not be relied upon for making financial, survey, legal or other commitments. If you have questions or comments regarding the data displayed on this map, please email assessor@lancaster.ne.gov and you will be directed to the appropriate department.