



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: March 9, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Mike Murren Projects Coordinator *mm*
Subject: Water Resources Subcommittee meeting minutes

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on Wednesday March 9, 2023, at 6:00pm. Subcommittee members present included Susan Seacrest, Larry Ruth, Melissa Baker, Mark Spangler, Luke Peterson, and Gary Hellerich. Others present were Dave Landis, Dick Ehrman, Paul Zillig, Dave Potter, and Mike Murren, all with the LPSNRD. There was one agenda item the Subcommittee took action on and heard three reports. The meeting was called to order by Director Seacrest at 6:00 p.m.

9A. Groundwater Management Plan Annual Review (Attachment)

Dick Ehrman presented the 2022 Groundwater Management Plan Annual review of our programs and answered questions from the committee. Dicks PowerPoint presentation had a one-page summary of the report, and it has been added as an attachment. The Groundwater program document is too large to attach, but there is a link on the LPSNRD website where it can be accessed. That link is:

[https://www.lpsnrd.org/sites/default/files/2022 annual review draft.pdf](https://www.lpsnrd.org/sites/default/files/2022%20annual%20review%20draft.pdf)

If someone would like a hard copy or having a hard time accessing the link, please give Kathy or Dick a call to get a copy.

9B. Water Well Permit Study Assistance Program (Attachment)

Earlier this year Director Hellerich had brought up a suggestion to establish a cost share program for wells that require an aquifer test/hydrogeologic analysis that is part of the districts well permit. This test is essential to help staff analyze this data to determine if there is adequate groundwater quantity and quality and the long-term pumping does not affect the aquifer or neighboring landowners. Murren handed out a draft Water Well Permit Study Assistance proposal that was prepared by staff. Hellerich led the discussion and answered questions from other subcommittee members.

Discussion centered of whether this cost should be solely a cost of the applicant or there are reasons the taxpayers should help pay for a portion of the cost. **It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Ruth to recommend the Board of directors approve the Water Well Permit Study Assistance Program as presented. Roll call vote taken, voting aye was Hellerich, Ruth, and Seacrest. Voting nay was Peterson, Spangler, and Baker. Motion failed.**

9C. NDEE Section 319 Drinking Water Specialist Position

Dick Ehman gave an update on the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) which NDEE has sent to the EPA Region 7 for approval. Once the PIP is approved, he will bring a grant agreement to the board for approval.

9D. Update on NRCS Dam Assessment Study

Murren gave an update of the NRCS dam assessment study of two high hazard dams within the LPSNRD. One of the structures is Wildwood/North Oak 1-A in northwest Lancaster County (built in 1979) and the other structure is Plattsmouth 4-A (built in 1961) which is owned the city of Plattsmouth. These two dams are part of a total of eighteen other high hazard dams throughout the state that will have assessments completed. Dustin Wilcox at NARD is administering the contract. These assessments are to be completed by late summer. There is no cost to the district and funding is provided by NRCS.

Enc.

Cc: Steve Seglin

Corey Wasserburger

2022 Highlights

- Completed annual groundwater network sampling and level measurements
- Nitrate levels in several designated management areas steady or in slight decline (Hickman, Union, Valparaiso); Elmwood declined to slightly below Phase III trigger
- LSC GWR increased to slightly above Phase II trigger (below trigger for past several years)
- Sprague CWSPA continued to exceed Phase II trigger; designation in 2023
- Received 12th annual reports of water usage from 358 metered wells; calculated water usage for these wells pumping a total of about 5.5 billion gallons (compare with 4.6 billion gallons for 2021); 67% of total used for irrigation (11,300 acre-feet)
- Groundwater levels increased in 25 measured wells and decreased in 123 wells but most changes were small; District-wide average decrease of 1.33'
- Issued five well permits (compare with 10 in 2021); one completed
- Continued development of voluntary Integrated Management Plan & participation in Lower Platte River Basin Coalition
- Installed new weather station for DVB SMA at Red Cedar Lake
- Applied for \$300,000 grant from NDEE to create Drinking Water Protection Specialist position; approval expected early 2023
- Received \$247,500 WSF grant to be matched by \$165,000 NRD funds for 3-D Hydrogeologic Framework & AEM data entry into GW models; selected consultant and project is on schedule

DRAFT

WATER WELL PERMIT STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Purpose: LPSNRD water well permit rules & regulations may require the applicant to complete a detailed analysis (aquifer test and hydrogeologic analysis) to ensure adequate groundwater is available to meet the purpose of installing the well and to evaluate the likelihood of impacting neighboring wells with the same or higher preference. This analysis also provides the District with information that is beneficial to the District and the District is considering cost-sharing on that expense.

Terms:

- 1. The applicant submits the estimated cost to complete an aquifer test and hydrogeologic analysis for the proposed well.**
- 2. The District considers agreeing to cost-share with the applicant on 50% of the cost of the aquifer test and hydrogeologic analysis, not to exceed \$10,000 of cost to the LPSNRD.**
- 3. Applicant completes the aquifer test and hydrogeologic analysis and submits the report to LPSNRD.**
- 4. LPSNRD reviews the report and verifies the report is complete and accurate.**
- 5. LPSNRD submits the cost-share assistance to the applicant.**