

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Justin Novak and Amanda Grint

SUBJECT: NDEQ 319 Application for the Papillion Creek Watershed Enhanced Water Quality Conservation Practices Program

DATE: August 2, 2018

Through an NDEQ grant, the Papio-Missouri River Basin Water Quality Management Plan (“Plan”) for the District was developed to create a watershed plan that address 9 water quality elements specified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It provided water quality planning for all counties in the District to identify priority areas and priority projects that then could be eligible for NDEQ 319 funding. The Plan is now approved, and the identified priority area is the Papillion Creek Watershed.

The District is pursuing a project which involves the agricultural areas of the Papillion Creek Watershed. To improve water quality, the District proposes to create a program that utilizes the USDA and NRCS conservation programs, CRP and EQIP, and then adds to the individuals cost share by using 319 and District funds. The intent is to hire a watershed coordinator to manage the program and set priorities for practices that give the best result of E. Coli bacteria reduction in the watershed. The details of the program are being worked out however the anticipated costs in the application include a 3-year commitment of \$150,000 for FY19, and \$250,000 in FY20 and FY21. The 319 program is a 60/40 cost share and so the District would be required to match the 319 funds at 40% up to \$60,000 in FY19 and \$100,000 in the following two fiscal years.

An application will be prepared for the September 4th deadline.

Staff recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute and submit a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality 319 application for 60% of the eligible project costs for the Papillion Creek Watershed Enhanced Water Quality Conservation Practices Program, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager.