

MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance, Expenditures and Legal Subcommittee

FROM: Philip Paitz, Groundwater Management Engineer

SUBJECT: Lower Platte River Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling
Professional Services Account over 110%

DATE: April 25, 2025

The Papio NRD is the contract manager for the Lower Platte River Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling project in conjunction with Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. This is a three-year project with a contract total of \$612,823.

During fiscal years 2024 and 2025, it was planned during budgeting that the initial planning and the bulk of the model construction phases would occur during those two fiscal years and the calibration phase would primarily occur in FY26. Model construction is moving along at a quicker pace and initial calibration began in March 2025.

More billable hours accrue during the calibration phase of groundwater model construction. Since this phase is occurring toward the end of FY25, with three months of billing left, a large portion of the budget that would be applied to FY26 will need to be invoiced and paid in FY25.

In FY24 \$150,000 was budgeted and \$139,717.99 was expended for the planning and data collection phase. Another \$150,000 was budgeted for FY25 to do the initial model construction and for work to be done to make the new model “talk” with the larger NeDNR LPMT Regional model as a parent-child model. With model calibration work beginning last month, FY25 has been invoiced for \$258,692.83 worth of work. Up to another \$203,307.17 worth of invoices is estimated to be received by the end of FY25 for a total overage amount of \$312,000. In effect, the bulk of FY26 has been shifted forward to FY25 due to the quicker than anticipated model construction.

Staff recommends that the FEL Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors, that the account for Lower Platte River Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling Professional Services (01-05-4400-191) be allowed to exceed the budgeted amount up to \$312,000.00.