

Agenda Item: 7.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Amanda Grint, Water Resources Engineer

SUBJECT: Review and Recommendation of Submittal of Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application for Playground at Elkhorn Crossing

DATE: July 31, 2015

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Park improvements have been ongoing since 2007 at Elkhorn Crossing, the District's public river access and campground is located on the Elkhorn River just east of the intersection of 252<sup>nd</sup> and Bennington Road. With the renovated campsites and more usage from tubers and tankers, the site is seeing an increase in visitors. Planned improvements continue and in this fiscal year a playground is scheduled. Through preliminary discussions with Big Muddy Workshop, the consultant, and park staff, a concept was developed to include the historical significance of the site in with the playground design and create an informational/educational kiosk.

This site was a river crossing for the Mormon community as they settled west. Those ideas would be incorporated in the design with a covered wagon element worked in to the play equipment. Additionally, the playground area would be designed with recycled materials for the play surface and other environmentally friendly practices as we further develop the concept. In order to help fund this project, it is requested that the Board approve an application for the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant.

Project requests are due on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and it is necessary to confirm matching funds in the application submittal. Staff is requesting approval to submit an application for a 50% of the cost of the playground and educational signage up to \$150,000.

**Staff recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to submit a \$150,000 project request to the Nebraska Environmental Trust at a 50% NET (\$150,000), 50% District (\$150,000) cost share for the construction of a playground and educational kiosk at Elkhorn Crossing.**