

Agenda Item: 6.

Memorandum

To: PPO Subcommittee
From: Amanda Grint, Water Resources Engineer
Date: November 4, 2013
Re: NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) Grant Application for Glacier Creek/Allwine Prairie west parcel

The University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) and the NRD have been working together for a number of years to acquire additional property adjacent to the Allwine Prairie at 144th and State Streets. To date the District has helped to fund the purchase of 86 acres east of Allwine Prairie, which is planned to be a District wetland and stream mitigation bank, and the 76 acres north of Allwine Prairie (Hayes Overlook). These purchases provide a unique ecosystem in an urban area and also protect a viewshed which allows an undisturbed view of the prairie.

One of the remaining parcels that UNO hopes to acquire for the expansion of the prairie is the 227.84 acres to the north and west of the existing prairie. This property is currently owned by NS-The Heritage, LLC and has been preliminary platted as single and multi-family residential. UNO has applied for Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund dollars to put toward the land purchase. To help fund this acquisition, UNO would like the District to pursue the NRCS Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP) grant funding. Through the FRPP the District could receive federal funds in an amount up to one half the appraised value to administer an easement over the property, preserving the 227 acres as farm and ranchland. The FRPP application, if successful, could fund \$1,861,000 of the acquisition costs.

Staff recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to apply for NRCS Farm and Ranch Protection Program funding for the 227 acres north and west of Allwine Prairie as part of the Allwine Prairie/Glacier Creek Expansion Project.

Glacier Creek Preserve Project

21 October 2013

Contact: Tom Bragg (UNO) (tbragg@unomaha.edu)

Red Dashed Line (on right) = Approximate outline of 228 acres (North Tract and West Watershed Tracts) that are our present focus for land acquisition. Must be purchased together.

Yellow Solid Line (center) = Boundary of the Glacier Creek Preserve.

Yellow Dashed Line (lower right) = Kobs Farm (Not for sale, at least not yet)

Dashed blue = Glacier Creek and North Creek drainages.

Glacier Creek Preserve Project Objective: To provide present and future generations a unique, easily accessed educational and research resource situated within a complete tallgrass prairie watershed and managed to approximate historic environmental conditions. The preserve supports environmental education and research while also managing for a broad diversity of prairie and prairie-wetland ecosystems within an ecologically diverse and sustainable watershed that provides students and visitors the *feel* of our historic prairie landscape.

The Barn at Glacier Creek (education and research center) (fully funded in 2012 by private donor)



Proposed Land Management Building

