

Agenda Item: 6.

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee
From: Brian L. Henkel, Groundwater Management Engineer
Date: July 12, 2011
Re: Elkhorn River Research Station

Dr. Alan Kolok, Director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's (University) Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory requests funding for equipment for an environmental science laboratory on the Elkhorn River. The Elkhorn River Research Station (ERRS) is being constructed at the T. L. Davis Prairie on The University of Nebraska Foundation property on 240th Street, South of Q Street. The ERRS will serve as a three season laboratory for real time data collection and distance education.

The District previously entered into an agreement with the University for the construction of the ERRS (formerly the Davis Prairie Data Shack) in October of 2009. That previous agreement was for construction of the ERRS which is now mostly complete. This requested cost share would be used to install the necessary laboratory and communications equipment for the operation of the research station. Water quality research, like that of the ERRS, is an important component of the mission of the District and supporting this research will help to supplement the Districts ongoing water quality programs.

Staff recommends that the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to amend the existing agreement with the University of Nebraska at Omaha to provide cost share of \$20,000 for equipment for the Elkhorn River Research Station subject budgeting and to approval as to form by District legal counsel.