

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Bids for Aerial Application of Herbicide by Helicopter in the Channels of the Lower Platte and Elkhorn Rivers

Date: August 6, 2010

From: John Winkler, General Manager

In July of last year the Papio Missouri River NRD entered into an Inter-local Agreement with the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD and several county weed management authorities to begin the control and elimination of invasive vegetation in the Lower Platte River Basin. The purpose of the program was to eliminate vegetation which was choking the Platte River and compounding ice jam flooding issues, as well as, eliminating vegetation that utilizes a significant amount of valuable water. A third goal of the program was to create endangered species habitat by clearing sandy islands of vegetation and allowing a more natural nesting environment for the Piping Plover and Least Tern.

In evaluating last year's efforts, it is evident that aerial application of herbicides is one of the most efficient and cost effective means to control phragmites and should be continued. This program provides a cost share arrangement with the counties and the landowner to maximize the financial resources to effectively contain the spread of invasive vegetation. Estimated cost of the work is \$60,000. The Lower Platte North NRD and Lower Platte South NRD will contribute \$20,000 each for the work.

An invitation for bids for aerial application of herbicide by helicopter was published in the Omaha World Herald on July 28 and August 4, 2010. Bids were received on August 6, 2010.

The District received one bid:

Company	Bid Price
Sky Copters, Inc.	\$150/acre

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute a contractor agreement with Sky Copters, Inc., for the aerial application of herbicide by helicopter in the channels of the Lower Platte and Elkhorn Rivers for the sum of \$150/acre for each acre not to exceed \$60,000 per year for five years.**