

**Programs, Projects & Operations
Subcommittee Meeting
August 10, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Agenda**

Programs, Projects & Operations:

John Conley, Chairman
Rich Tesar, Vice-Chairman
David Klug
Rick Kolowski

Alternate Members: Fred Conley
Tim Fowler

Staff Liaison: Gerry Bowen *
Martin Cleveland
Amanda Grint
Ralph Puls
Dick Sklenar

1. Meeting Called to Order – Chairperson John Conley
2. Notification of Open Meetings Act Posting and Announcement of Meeting Procedure – Chairperson John Conley
3. Quorum Call
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Proof of Publication of Meeting Notice
6. Review and Recommendation on Urban Conservation Program Application for Eastern Nebraska Veteran’s Home – Lori Laster and Phil Davidson, City of Bellevue
7. Review and Recommendation on Bids for Washington County Service Center – Ralph Puls and Nate Gieselman, Alley Poyner Macchietto
8. Review and Recommendation on Bids for Aerial Application of Herbicide by Helicopter in the Channels of the Lower Platte and Elkhorn Rivers – John Winkler
9. Review and Recommendation on Amendment to USGS Farm Process Pilot Groundwater Flow Model Agreement – Brian Henkel
10. Review and Recommendation on Emergency Watershed Protection Program Application – Gerry Bowen and Chuck Leinen, NRCS
11. Discussion of Hours of Operation for Platte River Landing – Director Thompson
12. Adjourn

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Urban Conservation Assistance Program – Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home

Date: August 2, 2010

From: Lori Ann Laster, Stormwater Management Engineer

The City of Bellevue has submitted an application for the Urban Conservation Assistance Program to address erosion issues at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home. The site was constructed in 2007 without stormwater best management practices (BMPs). As a result, stormwater is allowed to run off approximately seven acres of impervious area into Quail Creek.

While planning for a Veterans' Memorial Garden, erosion issues were identified. Before the memorial can be constructed, the drainage issues must be resolved. The City is proposing to install ten bioretention gardens and two bioswales to allow water to infiltrate rather than drain overland to Quail Creek.

At this time, only seven of the proposed twelve BMPs will be constructed. The cost estimate for the BMPs is \$58,354. The City is requesting a cost share of \$29,177.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the District approve the City of Bellevue application for the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home in the amount of \$29,177 for District Program 17.0 Urban Conservation Assistance Program, subject to inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

From: Ralph Puls, Michael Alley, Alley-Poyner Macchietto Architecture

Date: August 2, 2010

Re: Bids for Washington County Service Center

On Wednesday, July 28, sealed bids for the construction of the Washington County Service Center were opened; the results of the bid opening are shown in the table below. This project began with the selection of the architectural firm, Alley-Poyner Macchietto Architecture, by the Board of Directors at their May 14, 2009 meeting. The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a professional services contract with Alley-Poyner Macchietto for the architectural design and other services necessary for the construction of a Natural Resources Center in Blair.

The project consists of building a facility to house the District's Rural Water employees and USDA agencies including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the NRCS Wetland Team. Currently the FSA, NRCS and the District's Rural Water employees occupy space in the District's office in Blair. The recent addition of Rural Water employees working out of the Blair office and the plans to relocate the NRCS Wetland Team to a location in Blair, have led to a need for office space larger than the current facility provides.

The facility would provide the convenience to the public of having a One-Stop-Service Center. The facility would also make the agencies housed more efficient and effective since they work closely together on programs and projects. The District has two employees that work in the NRCS office, the District's Washington County Field Representative and the District's Program Assistant. Both of these employees are assigned to work with the NRCS through a long standing Agreement with the NRCS; the same Agreement that assigns District employees to work with the NRCS in the other counties within the P-MRNRD. Planning with these agencies resulted in the design of a 10,125 square foot facility with an estimated cost of \$1,867,500.

On January 21, 2010, the NRCS sent out a Solicitation For Offers (SFO) for office space for the FSA and NRCS. The District submitted a lease proposal to provide the 4,275 square feet of office space required by the USDA agencies. The lease would be for a term of 10 years at a rate of \$17 per square foot with utilities and maintenance costs included. At their June 9, 2010 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the minutes of the Executive Subcommittee that authorized the execution of a lease to provide office space requested by the USDA.

Company	Bid Price
Fauss Const.	\$1,899,000
MCL Const.	\$1,930,000
Construct Inc.	\$1,940,000
Weitz	\$1,995,000
Prairie Const.	\$1,961,000
Meco-Henne	\$1,965,000

Nelson Hill	\$1,999,000
DR Anderson	\$2,047,000
Vrana	\$2,071,000
Lacey Const.	\$2,120,275
All Purpose Const.	\$2,270,000

As noted above, sealed bids for the construction of the facility were opened on July 28. It has been determined that Fauss Construction from Hooper, Nebraska, submitted the lowest and best bid of \$1,899,000; the architect's estimate for the facility is \$1,867,500. If awarded the contract, it is anticipated that Fauss Construction would be given a Notice to Proceed by September 1, 2010, with construction completed and the facility available for occupancy by June 1, 2011.

Attached is a letter from Alley-Poyner Macchietto stating that Fauss Construction's references check out and that they found no cause not to accept their low bid. Also attached to the letter are the contractor's references, their qualification statement, the contractor's personnel and the contractor's projects in process and completed.

Also attached is the facility floor plan, views of the exterior of the facility, and a drawing of the lot showing parking and landscaping.

- Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute a contract with Fauss Construction Company for \$1,899,000, subject to approval as to form by District legal counsel.**

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.**

Memorandum

To: Programs Projects and Operations Subcommittee
 Re: Amendment to USGS Farm Process Pilot Groundwater Flow Model Agreement
 Date: May 11, 2010
 From: Brian L. Henkel P.E., Groundwater Management Engineer

In May 2010 the Board approved an agreement with the USGS to develop a pilot groundwater flow model (Pilot Model) utilizing the Farm Process for MODFLOW (MF-FMP2). The USGS recently offered the District an additional cost share amount of \$15,000 toward the Pilot Model. The cost share proposed is a 50% share with a District match of \$15,000. The cost share rate in the original USGS is 25%. There would be no increase from the other agencies. The amendment would improve the implementation of the Farm Process within the Pilot Model, improve the calibrated results of the Pilot Model to better match surface and groundwater conditions and improve the Districts ability to utilize the Pilot Model for management purposes. The original contribution amounts and the proposed contribution amounts for each of the contributing agencies are outlined in the table below.

Agency	Original Contribution	Amended Contribution
USGS	\$25,000	\$40,000
LPSNRD	\$10,000	\$10,000
LPNNRD	\$10,000	\$10,000
ENWRA	\$10,000	\$10,000
P-MRNRD	\$63,000	\$78,000
Total	\$118,000	\$148,000

The USGS proposal is to add technical training for USGS staff and District staff with the authors of the computer code utilized in MF-FMP2. Technical training for USGS and District staff would be completed over a three day period and be conducted by Wolfgang Schmid, of the University of Arizona and Randy Hanson, of the USGS California Water Science Center. This technical training would provide an opportunity for USGS and District staff to get hands on training specific to applying MF-FMP2 and will help ensure that the Pilot Model is constructed and calibrated to best utilize the MF-FMP2 on the Platte River system. The authors are already making modifications to the MF-FMP2 code to incorporate additional capabilities specific to the Pilot Model project and the technical training would be an opportunity to provide input from the District to the development of those capabilities. Additionally, this technical training would greatly improve the ability of District staff to apply the model to assess potential management strategies.

- **Staff recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute an amendment to the Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for the modification of the scope of the pilot model study for a new total cost of \$148,000, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Date: August 6, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

Several instances of streambank erosion and flooding have been experienced along the Elkhorn River in Douglas and Washington Counties, and along Elk Creek in Dakota County this past June. In an effort to secure outside financial assistance to correct these problem areas, Management requested the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Emergency Watershed Protection Program (see attached letter).

The sites were investigated on July 27th and 28th by NRCS and District staff with the following results. A memo from Arlis Plummer, NRCS, is attached that indicates a preliminary determination of eligibility of these sites for EWP assistance.

1. Elkhorn River IPA – This District project installed bank protection along the Elkhorn River on the seven-mile river reach above King Lake in 1990. The site inspection revealed that the majority of the rock placed at that time was still there performing as expected. Several sites experienced damage and will be addressed by the District under routine operation and maintenance. NRCS noted that the damages would not be eligible under EWP.
2. Elkhorn Crossing Recreation Area – The area was damaged by flooding and sedimentation, but streambank erosion did not occur. Thus, NRCS EWP funding was not a possibility (Note: The NRD has applied for FEMA/NEMA financial assistance to repair both Elkhorn Crossing and Grasske Crossing recreation areas.).
3. Elkhorn Breakout Improvement Project Area – This joint project with the Lower Platte North NRD (lead agency) was installed in 1997 to control streambank erosion and attempt to constrain Elkhorn River flows to the banks of the river. The design elevation of the bank protection attempted to mirror the 10-year storm for the river. The benefitted area covered a large area in northwestern Douglas County. The streambank protection installed in 1997 is in place and continues to protect the streambank from erosion. NRCS has also indicated that this site does not appear eligible for assistance under EWP.
4. Elkhorn River near Arlington, Nebraska – Bruce Schmidt, a landowner along the Elkhorn River located northwest of Arlington, experienced severe streambank erosion. He has obtained a provisional 404 permit for bank protection. Mr. Schmidt asserts that if the erosion continues and progresses downstream, the former Fremont landfill (currently under private ownership) would be in jeopardy. NRCS also determined that since the landfill is privately owned and is not currently experiencing erosion, the erosion on the Schmidt property is not eligible for EWP assistance.
5. Elk Creek in Dakota County – Spoil bank levees along Elk Creek in Dakota County east of Jackson, Nebraska are maintained by the District. The levees, particularly the east side of the creek, experienced erosion and sloughing during the recent high water events. The NRCS

has determined that the correction measures will be eligible for EWP assistance. The cost of the corrective measures (bank protection and grade control) is estimated to be \$750,000 (see attached). Of this, \$187,500 would be the District's share.

6. Cambridge Estates/Oaks – This area in suburban Omaha near 160th & Pacific on the West Branch Papillion Creek was repaired under a previous District-sponsored EWP project in 2008. It was cooperative effort between the City of Omaha and the Cambridge Estates and Cambridge Oaks Homeowners Associations. An additional bank failure has occurred and has been determined to be eligible for a second EWP project. NRCS estimates the cost to correct the bank failure to be \$280,000 (see attached). Of this, \$70,000 would be the District's share.

It is proposed that the District sponsor the Elk Creek and Cambridge Estates/Oaks emergency projects and provide the local matching funds. It is further proposed that the General Manager be authorized to retain a consultant for this emergency work, if necessary.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to provide necessary professional engineering services and execute local sponsorship agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Emergency Watershed Protection Projects on the Elk Creek levee project near Jackson, Nebraska in Dakota County, and on the West Branch Papillion Creek near 160th & Pacific in Douglas County, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.**

10. Discussion of Hours of Operation for Platte River Landing –
Director Thompson

This item is for discussion only.