

**Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittees
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2004**

A meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District’s Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 South 154th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, on May 11, 2004. Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on May 4, 2004.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Conley at 8:00 p.m.

QUORUM CALL

Quorum call was taken. The following subcommittee members were in attendance.

| Subcommittee Members Present | Subcommittee Members Absent | Other Directors Present | Others in Attendance |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| John Conley | | Jim Thompson | Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA |
| Tim Fowler | | Dick Connealy | Kevin Strehle, BCDM |
| Rich Jansen | | | Craig Mielke, Olsson Associates |
| Joe Neary | | | Laurie Carrette-Zook, HDR |
| Rich Tesar | | | Paul Peters |
| | | | Steve Oltmans |
| | | | Marlin Petermann |
| | | | Dick Sklenar |
| | | | Trent Heiser |
| | | | Jean Tait |
| | | | Bill Warren |
| | | | Jerry Herbster |
| | | | Gerry Bowen |

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

*** It was moved by Jansen, seconded by Fowler, that the agenda be adopted.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Conley, Fowler, Jansen, Neary, Tesar
 Voting Nay: none
 Abstaining: none
 Absent: none

Elkhorn River Canoe West Maple Access Site

Dick Sklenar described the project to establish a public canoe access area along the Elkhorn River at West Maple Road near Waterloo, Nebraska. He noted that two other sites near W. Dodge and Q Streets have also been selected. The consulting firm of BCDM had prepared a proposal for designing and developing the W. Maple Road site. He also mentioned three potential grant programs administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and that some additional studies were required as a condition of the grant. The total estimated cost of the consultant services was estimated at \$57,056.16. The current estimated construction cost for the site is \$146,000.

Kevin Strehle with BCDM answered questions from the subcommittee.

- * It was moved by Jansen, seconded by Fowler, that the subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute a professional services contract with BCDM, Inc. for the Elkhorn River Maple Street Access Site, for a fee not-to-exceed \$57,056.16, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and accepted as to form by the District's Legal Counsel.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Conley, Fowler, Jansen, Neary, Tesar
Voting Nay: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA)

Bowen noted that there were four issues related to the LPRCA on the agenda, of which three required action by the subcommittee. It was the consensus of the subcommittee to consider all of these issues together. Rodney Verhoeff, LPRCA Coordinator, discussed these three items with the subcommittee.

Verhoeff discussed the possibility of joining the Nebraska Community Foundation to provide a means of accessing charitable donations for LPRCA activities. He briefly described the costs associated with membership in the Foundation, but noted that in most cases contributions to the fund covered these fees. A disbursement committee would be established to control funds utilized by the "Lower Platte River Fund". This committee consisted of Glenn Johnson (LPSNRD), John Miyoshi (LPNNRD), Steve Oltmans (PMRNRD), Steve Gaul (DNR), Frank Albrecht (NGPC) and Rodney Verhoeff.

He then discussed the proposed LPRCA FY 2005 Budget. He noted that the budget showed an increase from \$27,700 (FY 2004) to \$29,000 (FY 2005).

He then briefed the subcommittee on the status of the Lower Platte River Cumulative Impacts Study. He noted that UN-L had assisted with facilitating the scoping meetings on the project. Their efforts also identified an EPA Grant program (no required match) to help gather and analyze data for the GIS-based. He noted that UN-L agreed to be the sponsor of the grant and that each LPRCA member had been asked to submit a letter of support for the grant application.

There was general discussion on all three items.

*** It was moved by Neary, seconded by Fowler, that the subcommittee recommend to the Board;**

That the District approve the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance's affiliation with the Nebraska Community Foundation, and;

That the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance's FY 2005 Budget request be approved, subject to inclusion of funds in the District's FY 2005 Budget, and;

That a letter of support be provided to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for an application for an EPA grant to collect and analyze land and water features along the Lower Platte River to be used in the Lower Platte River Cumulative Impacts Study.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Conley, Fowler, Jansen, Neary, Tesar
Voting Nay: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Bowen then briefly discussed a request for proposals being issued by Sarpy County to study the water and wastewater needs for the Platte River Watershed in Sarpy and southwestern Douglas Counties.

Petermann noted the proposed funding for the approximately \$400,000 study would come from contributions from Sarpy County, MAPA, Bellevue, Papillion, Gretna, Springfield, Omaha, Douglas County, and the District. The District's contribution was to be \$50,000, which will be included in the draft FY 2005 Budget. General discussion of this information item ensued.

Platte River Trail

Bowen noted that the District had been cooperating with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) on the inclusion of a trail adjacent to Highway 50 between Highway 370 and Springfield. He noted that NDOR anticipated bidding of the project in January, 2005. Designs for the trail portion had been complete and some additional right-of-way had been acquired by the NDOR. It was intended that Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds would be used on the project. The District would apply for TE funding in June, 2004. Final approvals for the TE

funding would not be known until December, 2004, however, the agreement needs to be approved now to meet bidding requirements of NDOR by January. The agreement allowed for the District to reimburse NDOR over two fiscal years for the project. In FY 05, the District would reimburse NDOR \$499,381 (\$79,441 for design, \$289,940 for right-of-way, and \$130,000 for construction). In FY 06, the District would reimburse the remaining costs for the project currently estimated at \$676,000 (less \$500,000 TE funds if approved).

- * **It was moved by Jansen, seconded by Neary, that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the construction of Segment 3 of the Platte River Trail between Springfield and Highway 370, subject to minor changes deemed necessary by the General Manager, and approved as to form by the District Legal Counsel.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Conley, Fowler, Jansen, Neary, Tesar
Voting Nay: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

FY 2005 Equipment Needs

Jean Tait summarized the staff recommendations for equipment needs for FY 2005 in the areas of machinery, automotive, and computer needs. The total equipment needs for FY 2005 are \$383,675. The FY 2004 budget for equipment was \$309,050.

- * **It was moved by Jansen, seconded by Fowler, that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the FY 2005 Equipment requirements be approved, subject to inclusion in the FY 2005 Budget.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Conley, Fowler, Jansen, Neary, Tesar
Voting Nay: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: none

Other Items of Interest

GM Oltmans noted that the report regarding the cracked concrete on the Big Papio Trail between Center and Blondo was anticipated to be completed by June 1, 2004.

The preliminary results of the primary election for NRD Directors were discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:23 p.m.