

**Programs, Projects & Operations
Subcommittee Meeting
May 11, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Agenda**

Programs, Projects & Operations:

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

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. Report on Green Hearts – Jim Becic and Ken Finch
7. Review and Recommendation on Fontenelle Nature Association Request for Assistance – Gerry Bowen and Gary Garabrandt, Director of Science & Stewardship, Fontenelle Nature Assn.
8. Review and Recommendation on City of Omaha Request for Financial Assistance for Adams Park Master Plan – Gerry Bowen and Melinda Pearson, City of Omaha Parks Director
9. Review and Recommendation on Lake Dredging Program – Westin Hills SID Request – Gerry Bowen
10. Review and Recommendation on Bids for Tillage Services in the Platte River Channel – John Winkler

11. Review and Recommendation on Computer Services Agreement with the Upper Republican NRD – Trent Heiser
12. Review and Recommendation on Farm Process Pilot Groundwater Flow Model (Laid Over at the March 11, 2010 Board Meeting) – Brian Henkel
13. Washington County Service Center – Ralph Puls, Dick Sklenar, Marlin Petermann
 - a. Review and Recommendation on NRCS Lease Agreement
 - b. Review and Recommendation on Final Design and Bidding Phase
14. Adjourn

Agenda Item 6

Report on Green Hearts – Ken Finch will be giving the Subcommittee an update on the Green Hearts activities at the meeting.

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fontenelle Nature Association – Request for Assistance

Date: April 20, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

The District has received a request (see attached) for financial assistance from the Fontenelle Nature Association (FNA) to assist them in the purchase of approximately 9.5 acres of land adjacent to FNA's property. The parcel is a portion of the former Fontenelle Hills Golf Course (see attached map).

The parcel of land is located in the "Mill Hollow" drainage basin. This basin is one of three basins currently being studied by the Corps of Engineers to identify solutions to erosion and sedimentation at FNA. The other two basins are called "Chiles Hollow" and Coffin Springs Hollow." The District contributed \$10,000 to the \$160,000 study, along with the City of Bellevue and FNA.

The parcel of land is to be used to install a water quality basin to help solve the erosion and sedimentation problem.

FNA has set a fund-raising goal of \$150,000 to purchase the property. They have requested a \$50,000 pledge from the District. FNA has asked for a letter indicating the District's support that can be used to induce other donations. The funds would only be used if a purchase agreement between the seller and FNA is executed. It is anticipated that the funds would be included in the FY 2011 Budget.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the District approve the request from the Fontenelle Nature Association for \$50,000 for the purchase of land in the Mill Hollow Drainage Basin.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: City of Omaha Request – Adams Park Master Plan

Date: April 29, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

The City of Omaha has requested financial assistance (see attached) from the District to develop a master plan for Adams Park located near 35th & Bedford. They are requesting \$40,000 to assist with the plan development.

As noted in the request letter, there is currently a great deal of interest in North Omaha, particularly Adams Park. Groups such as the Learning Community, Malcolm X Birthsite Foundation, the Empowerment Network, Activate Omaha , and the Omaha Housing Authority are working on plans in the Adams Park area.

The City Parks Department would like to develop a master plan for the park so that the efforts of these groups can be focused on a plan acceptable to the Parks Department.

The City would provide approximately \$10,000 and staff time to manage and coordinate the planning effort.

Funds would need to be included in the FY 11 Budget, if the Board approves the request.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the District partner with the City of Omaha and provide \$40,000 towards the Adams Park Master Plan Project, subject to funding in the FY 2011 Budget.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Lake Dredging Program – Westin Hills SID Request

Date: April 28, 2010

From: Gerry Bowen

The District received an application (see attached) for assistance under the Lake Dredging Program from Westin Hills (SID #415). The “lake” in question is Papillion Creek P.L. 566 Structure D-18. The District maintains the structure, but the pool area is the responsibility of the SID.

The SID proposes to excavate approximately 19.8 acre-feet of sediment from the pool area. The total estimated cost of the project is \$270,138, of which \$171,700 are the excavation costs. The SID is requesting 50% of the excavation costs, or \$85,850. The remainder of the costs will be borne by Westin Hills.

As noted in the attached narrative, the pool was last excavated in 2000. The SID is now fully developed which will greatly reduce future sedimentation in the pool.

The current guidelines (attached) for the program require Board approval of all applications.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the application from SID #415 (Westin Hills) be approved under the Lake Dredging Program in the amount of \$85,850, subject to funds being included in the FY 2011 Budget.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Tillage Services in the Platte River Channel

Date: May 3, 2010

From: John Winkler, General Manager

The District has entered into Phase III of the Lower Platte River Weed Management Program. Phase I entailed aerial spraying of roughly 715 acres of phragmites and other invasive vegetation on sand bars in the Lower Platte River. Phase II entailed the mulching of this vegetation on areas that could be reached by the equipment employed and Phase III will conclude the program with double disking of roughly 330 acres of area in the program area (Fremont to the mouth of the Platte and Missouri Rivers).

Request for Proposals were advertised in compliance with District Policy, in addition, four contractors were contacted directly with bid specifications who were known to have done this type of work throughout the State of Nebraska. Bids were received and opened on April 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. (cst).

One bid was received from Dirt works Inc. of Fremont, Nebraska. This bid met all equipment and bid specifications.

- **Management recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that Dirt Works Inc. be awarded the contract to provide primary tillage services in the Platte River Channel for the bid amount of \$235.00 per acre subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manger and District Legal Counsel.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects & Operation Subcommittee

Re: Upper Republican NRD Computer Services Agreement

Date: May 10, 2010

From: Trent Heiser

In December of 2009, Jasper Fanning (General Manager of Upper Republican NRD) contacted us about the possibility of providing Information Technology (IT) services to their District. After conversations about the services requested, and a visit to their site, we believe it may be feasible for us to take on the task of assisting them in their IT needs. This opportunity will help our IT staff continue to grow and develop as well as defray some of the costs associated with our own IT needs. The attached agreement will provide services for a minimum of one year with the ability to renew it as deemed acceptable by both parties. The Papio-Missouri River NRD would invoice for said services provided to the URNRD at a rate of \$50 per hour for the support of the network. All equipment & software costs would be paid directly by the URNRD.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Computer Services Agreement 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

Re: Farm Process Pilot Groundwater Flow Model

Date: May 11, 2010

From: Brian L. Henkel, Groundwater Management Engineer

District staff contacted Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North Natural Resources Districts to request funding for a cooperatively created pilot groundwater flow model utilizing MODFLOW and the Farm Process Package (FMP). The pilot model would cover a portion of the Platte River valley near Ashland, Nebraska (Attachment 1) and include portions of both Lower Platte NRD's and the Papio NRD. Both Lower Platte NRD's agreed to contribute \$10,000 toward the cost of developing the pilot model, pending final budget approval (Attachments). The following is a review of the pilot study.

The study area was selected based on the availability of highly detailed topographic and geologic data collected through other cooperative efforts of the District. The Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) completed a pilot study in the same area which resulted in the collection and processing of detailed, three-dimensional, hydrogeologic information. Additionally, the area is included in the planned LiDAR collection area scheduled for this spring through the Nebraska-Iowa Regional Orthophoto Consortium and Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance. The LiDAR collection will provide highly accurate and detailed topographic information for inclusion in the pilot model. These two detailed datasets, combined with other existing information, will improve the pilot models ability to effectively assess the benefits of using FMP in the Platte River system.

The completed pilot model could be utilized to assess current and proposed District programs related to water conservation measures, on farm conservation practices or controls on invasive species. The level of detail of the model and the advanced tools of FMP would afford a greater understanding of the alluvial system than that available with more standard approaches. This would give the District the opportunity to better understand the benefits of ongoing and proposed programs as they relate to the overall water budget in the Lower Platte River Basin.

A pilot scale model can also guide the Districts continued data collection and future river and basin analyses. The Annual Evaluation of Availability of Hydrologically Connected Water Supplies, completed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department), is an assessment of available supplies. The compiled report is the basis for the Departments determination of 'fully appropriated' and is comprised of water budget analysis, extrapolations of current levels of development and comparisons to historic conditions. A more complete understanding of the interactions of the various components of the water budget in the Lower Platte can assist the District with the additional steps needed in assisting the Department's evaluation.

The proposed pilot model would be a cooperative effort involving the District, the Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North NRDs, the USGS Nebraska and California Water Science Centers and ENWRA. The total project cost and the agency contributions are listed in the following table:

Agency	Cost
USGS	\$25,000
LPSNRD	\$10,000
LPNNRD	\$10,000
ENWRA	\$10,000
P-MRNRD	\$63,000
Total	\$118,000

- **Staff recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute an interlocal agreement with Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North NRDs and a Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for the development of a pilot model for a maximum fee of \$63,000, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Council.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Review and Recommendation on NRCS Lease Agreement for Washington County Service Center

DATE: May 6, 2010

FROM: Ralph Puls, Land and Water Programs Coordinator

The District was notified by the NRCS on May 3, 2010 that the lease proposal submitted by the District for the Blair Natural Resources Center had been approved. An agreement was included for the District's approval and signature. The basics of the lease agreement are the same as was presented to the Board at their March 12, 2010 meeting. The District would lease to the NRCS 4,275 square feet of space at a rate of \$17 per square foot with utilities and maintenance included for a period of ten years. The NRCS required that the Agreement be signed and returned by May 7, 2010. Since this is before the Directors May 14, Board Meeting the NRCS was notified that it was not possible for the Board to approve the agreement until they had considered it the May 14, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting.

The NRCS was also advised some requirements stated in the agreement were not possible primarily because of Board Policies. The NRCS required that a contract for construction be awarded much sooner than the District's policy for solicitation of formal sealed bids. The agreement calls for the facility to be ready for occupancy on November 1, 2010. This completion date is also not possible given the time required to advertise for bids and award a construction contract and the time required for construction.

Staff has developed a proposed schedule that calls for a contract to be awarded and the contractor be given a Notice To Proceed on September 1, 2010. The District's architects for this project advise that a realistic time for construction is 9 to 10 months, which would result in a completion date of approximately June 1, 2011. (A copy of the Schedule proposed by the District is attached.)

There are questions about security requirements for the facility that were included in the letter sent to NRCS. NRCS was advised that any extensive changes in the facility design that would result in additional costs would be costs that the NRCS should bear. It was proposed that the NRCS approve less costly and easily achieved security measures such as an adequate setback distance from the building to the parking lots.

The requirements noted above would have been raised with the NRCS following their review of the District's offer, but the District was not given the opportunity to negotiate any issues it had. The opportunity to negotiate was part of the process involved in coming to an agreement. This was noted in our response to the NRCS.

At this time we await word from NRCS and are optimistic that these issues will be resolved, because the proposal made by the District is realistic and achievable. In the event the issues are resolved to the District's satisfaction, the lease would be essentially the same as what was submitted to the NRCS originally.

- **Management recommends that the PPO Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed lease with USDA/NRCS for office space in the Washington County Service Center in Blair, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approved as to form by District Legal Counsel.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Review and Recommendation to Proceed with Final Design and Bidding Phase for Washington County Service Center

DATE: May 6, 2010

FROM: Ralph Puls, Land and Water Programs Coordinator

At their March 3, 2010 meeting the District Board of Directors approved the design development phase for the Blair Natural Resources Center prepared by Alley-Poyner Macchietto. This approval was subject to the review and approval of a lease with NRCS. Subsequently, the lease proposal submitted to the NRCS has been approved by the NRCS and the lease award documents forwarded to the District on May 3. The District was asked to sign and return the lease award agreement by May 7, 2010. Management has responded to the NRCS notice; the details of that response are contained in the Memo to the PPO Subcommittee: Review and Recommendation on NRCS Lease Agreement. There are issues with the agreement that must be resolved. If resolved to the District's satisfaction, the recommendation by management would be for the Board to approve the lease.

This memo is intended to provide an update to the Subcommittee regarding the lease process and to recommend that the Subcommittee reiterate their recommendation to the Board that the Architect continue with the project through the bidding phase.

- **Management recommends that the PPO Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the Architect proceed with the bidding phase of the Washington County Service Center project**