

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fiscal Year 2009 Long Range Implementation Plan

Date: October 24, 2008

From: Gerry Bowen

State statutes (see below) require NRDs to prepare and submit a “Long Range Implementation Plan” (LRIP) each year. A current LRIP needs to be on file with the state to make the District eligible for certain state cost share programs.

“2-3277 - Districts; long-range implementation plans; prepare and adopt; contents; review; filing; department; develop guidelines. Each district shall also prepare and adopt a long-range implementation plan which shall summarize planned district activities and include projections of financial, personnel, and land rights needs of the district for at least the next five years and specific needs assessment upon which the current budget is based. Such long-range implementation plan shall be reviewed and updated annually. A copy of the long-range implementation plan and all revisions and updates thereto as adopted shall be filed with the department, the Governor’s Policy Research Office, and the Game and Parks Commission on or before October 1 of each year. The department shall develop and make available to the districts suggested guidelines regarding the general content of such long-range implementation plans.

Source: Laws 1978, LB 783, §3; Laws 1979, LB 412, §3; Laws 2000, LB 900 §61. Operative date July 1, 2000.”

The draft LRIP (see attached) is intended to summarize the current year’s budgeted revenues (Table 7) and expenditures (Table 3) in terms of the various programs and projects and the intended accomplishments during the fiscal year. It also projects the financial and personnel needs for these projects and programs for the next five fiscal years.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Fiscal Year 2009 Long Range Implementation Plan be approved.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Mopac Trail Repairs

Date: November 5, 2008

From: Gerry Bowen

The Mopac Trail between Springfield and Schramm Road was built as a part of the Highway 50 reconstruction and widening project. The trail design included minimal drainage (i.e., shallow ditches along the trail draining to culverts under the highway or off site to existing drainageways).

Runoff from the rains last spring caused severe damage to portions of the trail between Schram and Fairview Roads, demonstrating deficiencies in the drainage system along the trail and not entirely accounting for runoff from surrounding areas, including the highway itself.

A consultant was retained (WLA Consulting, Inc. from Lincoln) to evaluate the drainage system and recommend a more comprehensive solution to the situation. The solution includes drainage ditches with more capacity, relocating two culverts, upsizing one existing culvert, and reseeding the affected areas.

Bids for this work were opened on November 5, 2008, with one contractor submitting a bid. Valley Corporation, Valley, Nebraska bid \$101,890. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$105,952.

These repairs must be made to the trail as soon as possible. Therefore, Management recommends approval.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute a construction contract with Valley Corporation in the amount of \$101,890 for repairs to the Mopac Trail (Schramm to Fairview Roads).**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Martin P. Cleveland and Dick Sklenar

SUBJECT: Elk Creek Channel Stabilization Project #3

DATE: October 29, 2008

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District received and opened bids for the Elk Creek Channel Stabilization Project #3 on October 29, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.

There was one contractor, L.A. Carlson Contracting Inc. who submitted a bid of \$198,743.75. Attached are a bid summary, location map and typical repair cross-section. The bid has been reviewed by the NRD staff. L. A. Carlson Contracting Inc. satisfactorily completed nearby Elk Creek Channel Stabilization Project #2 (installing a sheet pile weir and rock riprap grade control structure in creek) for the District several years ago.

The project consists of repairing the right bank levee at 2 locations along Elk Creek where channel bank erosion has eroded the river bank levee slope. The project includes installing 8,600 cubic yards of embankment soil and 1,650 tons of rock riprap. This project was previously bid in September 2008 and one bid of \$264,070 was received from K&L Landscape. It was decided by the Board of Directors to rebid the project with hope of receiving more bids and possibly a lower cost. The Engineer's opinion of cost is \$166,821.

- **It is Management's recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the bid submitted by L.A. Carlson Contracting for \$ 198,743.75 be accepted and they be awarded the contract for the Elk Creek Channel Stabilization Project #3.**

Review of the Best Use of the District Property at Rumsey Station Wetlands – This item is on the agenda at the request of Director Patterson. The memo presented to the September PPO Subcommittee follows (memo and background information from the September PPO meeting is posted to the website).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Jim Becic

DATE: 3 September, 2008

RE: Green Hearts Institute for Nature In Childhood Nature Center at Rumsey Station – Project Development and Management Agreement.

The Rumsey Station Wetland is a high quality, urban wetland - located approximately one mile east of the City of Papillion and ½ mile north of Highway 370, between 54th and 66th Street. In 1993, as a part of the West Branch Papillion Creek channelization project, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District purchased a 52 acre tract that includes the majority of the wetland along with a section of abandoned railroad right-of-way. In early 1995, an additional 4.4 acres of springs that feed the wetland were acquired with a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund. In May, 2008 an additional 26 acres were acquired to extend the site west to 66th street. The site now totals nearly 83 acres.

The primary environmental element of the Rumsey Station Wetland project is to restore and preserve this significant wetland within the urban environs of Sarpy County. Past channelization projects and urbanization have destroyed the majority of wetlands in the Papillion Creek watershed. Restoration and management of the remaining wetlands, wet prairie and upland vegetation will contribute to the maintenance of the site's diversity of habitat types and provide significant surface water quality benefits. This wetland preservation focus, coupled with a significant, environmental education element to include trails and interpretive signage, will enable individuals to learn about critical habitats, observe the area plants and wildlife or simply enjoy the site's solitude.

In 1995, a Concept Plan was developed for the Rumsey Station Wetland area (attached). A key element in this Concept Plan has been the need to identify an "organization" willing to locate to the site and implement a majority of the elements in the Concept Plan.

An additional role for any "organization" locating to the site will be that of a "caretaker". The site has historically been used by some of the public as a "gathering point". Certainly before the site is open to the general public, and until a "presence" is established by this organization, the area's relative remoteness will continue to attract this type of use.

The District has been approached or has attempted to secure a number of organizations in the past to fill this "caretaker" role, none of which have resulted in a compatible partnership.

The non-profit **Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood** has approached the District with a unique proposal that appears to fulfill all of the goals of the Concept Plan for the Rumsey Station Wetland site. Their proposal (attached) combines all of the elements the District has included their Concept Plan and adds a number of unique and exciting possibilities. An 8,000 square foot education and visitors' center is planned to provide a focal point for the site.

The attached proposed Development and Management Agreement and associated 50 year Lease Agreement to develop and manage the Rumsey Station Wetland in partnership with Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood would be similar to that developed for the Nebraska Wildlife Rehab., Inc. or the highly successful relationship the District has enjoyed with the Audubon Society of Omaha at the Heron Haven Wetland.

The agreement calls for the District's retention of Big Muddy Workshop to prepare a Master Plan for the site along with Green Hearts. The NRD would pay the first \$60,000 necessary for Big Muddy Workshop's preparation of the Plan. Once detailed plans commissioned by Green Hearts have been approved by the NRD, the lease will be executed and Green Hearts will have 120 days to commence and 275 days to complete construction of all facilities. Operation and Maintenance of the facilities will be performed by Green Hearts.

- **Management recommends that the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors, that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Develop and Management Agreement with the Green Hearts Institute For Nature In Childhood for the Green Heart's Children's Nature Center at Rumsey Station Wetlands Project, including the District's compensation of up to \$60,000.00 to Big Muddy Workshop for a site Master Plan, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approved as to form by District Legal Council.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Keystone East Trail Interlocal Agreement

Date: November 5, 2008

From: Gerry Bowen

The Keystone East Trail will be a connection of the Keystone and Field Club Trails. It will ultimately connect to the Boulevard Trail system through the central part of Omaha.

The City of Omaha is in the process of designing Phase 1 of the Keystone East Trail from Karen Park (N of 63rd & L) and approximately 45th Street. They are also acquiring right-of-way intending to build this phase next summer. The City has been approved for Transportation Enhancement funding from the Nebraska Department of Roads for Phase 1, and the District approved funding half of the local share of the project under the Trails Assistance Program. Phases 2 and 3 will finish the connection to the Field Club.

In an effort to accelerate the completion of Phases 2 and 3, it has been proposed that the District, in cooperation with the City, design and build these phases of the trail. The District has been working with the City's consultant (Big Muddy Workshop, [BMW]) on the preliminary design of the entire trail (Phases 1, 2, and 3), and in securing outside, private funding (Kiewit Foundation) for the project. An interlocal agreement is being drafted by the City and will include the following duties and functions.

The City functions are:

- a. Retain the design consultant (The City's contract with BMW for Phase 1 allows use of the same consultant for future phases of the trail)
- b. Bid and administer construction of all phases of the trail project.
- c. Acquire all necessary right-of-way for Phase 1.
- d. Operate, maintain and repair the completed trail.
- e. Maintain accounting records for each phase of the trail, including receipts of private sources of funds.

The District functions are:

- a. Cost share with the City on the local share of Phase 1 design and construction.
- b. Reimburse the City for all costs related to engineering (design and construction administration) and construction of Phases 2 and 3.
- c. Acquire the necessary right-of-way for Phases 2 and 3.

The City and District will mutually agree to the following:

- a. Engineering plans and specifications will be mutually approved for all phases of the trail.
- b. Any private sources of funding obtained by either the District or City will be applied to the District's portion of project costs for Phase 2 and 3.

- **It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that an interlocal agreement with the City of Omaha for installation of the Keystone East Trail be approved, subject to review and approval by District legal counsel.**