

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Interlocal Agreement Amendments

Date: September 26, 2007

From: Gerry Bowen

The Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Project is a cooperative venture between the Nemaha, Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North, Lower Elkhorn, Lewis and Clark, and the Papio-Missouri River NRDs to assess groundwater issues in the glaciated region of the eastern part of the state.

Due to recent developments, some minor changes to the ENWRA interlocal agreement are proposed. The original agreement (see attached) was approved by the District in December, 2006. Two amendments are proposed as follows, with explanations provided.

Amendment #1 (see attached) provides for the following:

1. The original project budget anticipated hiring a project coordinator, but the agreement did not specifically address that eventuality. Ms. Dana Divine has been hired to fill that position. It is proposed that Article III, Section 3.01 be completely rewritten to include the duties, the office arrangements, and the compensation (salary and expenses) for the project coordinator position.
2. It is proposed that Article IV, Section 4.01 be amended to provide for the General Managers of the six NRDs to meet annually to review project accomplishments, goals, and the next year's budget.
3. It is proposed that Article V, Sections 5.02 and 5.03 be amended to provide an additional two years to the project life span (a total of five years) at the same funding level per year as in the original agreement.

Amendment #2 (see attached) specifically acknowledges the hiring of Dana Divine as the Project Coordinator, and that her work station be located in the Lower Platte South NRD.

Management recommends approval.

- **It is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to execute Amendments #1 and 2 to the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Project Interlocal Agreement, subject to approval as to form by the District Legal Counsel.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee:

Subject: City of Fort Calhoun – Water Quality Grant

Date: October 1, 2007

By: Gerry Bowen

The District received a request (see attached) from the City of Fort Calhoun (2004 estimated population – 908) for a water quality grant to address wastewater treatment needs for their community. Fort Calhoun's existing wastewater treatment plant is under restriction by the Department of Environmental Quality with overflows currently flowing down a county road ditch, and eventually to the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge (see attached refuge map).

The City compared the option to installing a new wastewater treatment plant with the option of transporting the wastewater to the City of Blair for treatment. The City selected the latter as being the most economical solution for the next 40 years. The City of Blair has agreed to this solution and plans are being prepared to install the pump and transmission line (see attached map).

The regional option with the City of Blair has a higher initial cost, but a lower annual cost when a 40 year life is used in the analysis. The regional option carries a higher initial construction cost (\$323,000) than building a new plant, but is less expensive when the costs are amortized over a period of 40 years (\$283,000 vs. \$210,000).

The City has requested a grant of \$300,000 from the District to offset a portion of the costs to regionalize their wastewater treatment needs. The amount requested is similar to the grants provided to the Villages of Kennard and Arlington, based on population

- a. Kennard population – 389; \$250,000 water quality grant
- b. Arlington Population – 1202; \$350,000 water quality grant

Management supports this regionalization concept, as it has with Kennard and Arlington and recommends approval for the following additional reasons:

1. Removes an existing plant from the Missouri River floodplain.
 2. Improve water quality by eliminating a point source of pollution from the county road ditch and protecting a national wildlife refuge.
 3. Provides a long term (probably permanent) wastewater solution to the citizens of Fort Calhoun, and the District.
- **It is recommended that the City of Fort Calhoun be awarded a \$300,000 grant (FY 09 funds) for construction of a regional wastewater line to the City of Blair, and that the General Manager is authorized to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Act agreement, approved as to form by District Legal Counsel, providing for said grant.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Fiscal Year 2008 Long Range Implementation Plan

Date: September 27, 2007

From: Gerry Bowen

State statutes (see below) require NRDs to prepare and submit a “Long Range Implementation Plan” (LRIP) each year.

“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 LRIP (see attached) is intended to summarize the current year’s budget (revenues and expenditures) 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. The LRIP is shown in a “redline” format, while the tables in the back of the document are complete re-writes.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Fiscal Year 2008 Long Range Implementation Plan be approved.**

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Re: Lighting retrofit/replacement contract

Date: October 2, 2007

From: Jim Becic

Over the last several months – during and after the writing of the District’s White Paper - an energy audit was completed by OPPD and follow-up meetings were subsequently held with their lighting contractor – *Superior Lighting Incorporated*. Both OPPD and their sole source, pre-approved contractor’s personnel agreed to spend a considerable amount of time reviewing our facilities with both myself and Jerry Herbster to determine methods of reducing our energy consumption needs.

Following these meetings, and numerous follow-up phone conversations, we have been presented with what staff considers to be a very reasonable cost for the retrofit and/or replacement of ALL (over 330) of the lights in the main headquarters building as well as the shop with more efficient ones. Not only more efficient – but better light quality - similar to those installed in our new Dakota County Building. The quote also includes twenty new LED exit sign fixtures, and motion/sound sensors in the bathrooms, storage, maintenance shop, hallways and areas of minimal usage.

This proposal from *Superior Lighting Incorporated* - to complete this entire retrofit/replacement is: **\$17,050.00**. This quote is for a “turn key” cost to include materials, labor AND certified recycling of all of the existing lights to a mercury recovery facility in Des Moines.

Jerry Herbster (NRD Building and Site Manager) has indicated that there are sufficient funds in his building maintenance budget to accommodate this quote.

As a final plus - the energy usage – based upon our cost per kilowatt hour from OPPD and averaging the previous three years of consumption – indicates that once this work is completed, a payback period will be less than 4 years!! OR, a return on our \$17,050.00 investment of 25.28%!

Once an agreement is finalized, it will take approximately 4 – 6 weeks to order the materials and another two weeks to complete the work.

It is understood that approval of this agreement technically does not need to go before the Board (less than \$20,000.00) but it was felt that this would be an opportunity for the entire Board to begin to see the results of their “New Environmental Direction”- White Paper.

Therefore, it is the staff recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board to approve the 17 September, 2007 proposal by *Superior Lighting Incorporated* in the amount of **\$17,050.00 to retrofit/replace the lighting in the Natural Resources Center and the Operations and Maintenance Shop.**