

Projects Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2016 8:00 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
No unfinished business to discuss.
2. SWCP
Gottschaulk presented the updated SWCP Spreadsheet as attached to the Projects Committee Minutes.
- 2.A. SWCP Application Approvals

Larry Muhle	Colfax Co.	Emergency Terrace/Basin Repair	\$ 1,000.00
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2.B. SWCP Payments

15-B-5	William Perk	Terraces/Tile	\$ 11,408.59
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2.C. SWCP Cancellations

None

2.D. Nebraska Buffer Strip Payments

Nebraska Buffer Strip Program 2016 Payments

Charles Barjenbruch	9.5 acres	\$ 229.24
James Barjenbruch	13 acres	\$ 341.77
Lavaine Gaskill	5.5 acres	\$ 155.38
Hill Valley Farms	16.5 acres	\$ 3,712.50
Rodney Julsen	23.1 acres	\$ 5,197.50
Ed Luetkenhaus	4 acres	\$ 900.00
Francis Shanle	9.5 acres	\$ 247.00
Ronald Anderson	12.9 acres	\$ 759.93
Tom Sprunk	15.4 acres	\$ 3,465.00

TOTAL 2016 PAYMENTS: \$ 15,008.32

2.E. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals

None

2.F. Wahoo Creek Grant Payments

Ed Sladky	Septic System upgrade	\$ 3,300.00
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2.G. SWCP Policy Changes

NRCS District Conservationist, Mark Walkenhorst and Jami Thoene were present to discuss some suggested changes to our Soil and Water Conservation Program. Attached is our Policy showing Mark's and Jami's suggested changes which would allow small project applicants to apply directly for LPNNRD funding

instead of first applying for federal EQIP funds. By allowing small projects to bypass the EQIP application process, it will help NRCS operate more efficiently as these small projects applications generally do not rank out high enough for EQIP assistance but require as much work to evaluate as a large project.

3. WATERSHEDS

3.A. Shell Creek Watershed

3.A.1. Shell Creek Environmental Enhancement Plan Implementation

NDEQ has notified us that EPA has approved the Shell Creek Environmental Enhancement Plan Implementation. This is a long awaited huge step as we can now move forward with completing four designed creek bank and tributary stabilization projects.

The largest of the designed group of project ("Kramer Bank Stabilization Project") which is to stabilize the Shell Creek bank located near Colfax County's bridge (C001901915) on County road 10, just north of road H. We just learned that the Army Corp's of Engineers has issued the 404 permit to proceed. We have a planning meeting with NDEQ at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 8, 2016, at the Columbus NRCS Office, to discuss next steps. We have about \$145,000 of approved NET grant funds and it appears that will could have another \$100,000 - \$150,000 available from NDEQ to assist with these projects. Hopefully we can get all four projects constructed in 2017.

3.B. Wahoo Creek Watershed

3.B.1. Wahoo Creek Watershed Water Quality Plan Phase II

Mountford has been working with NDEQ on completing a Project Implementation Plan for Wahoo Creek Watershed Water Quality Plan Phase II. As you may recall, we have \$106,000 approved from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and are working to increase our initial \$168,215 grant approval from NDEQ to \$265,950. These funds will be combined with LPNNRD and Saunders County funds to hopefully build at least three multi-purpose road dams in the Wahoo Creek Watershed. One of the many benefits of these dams will be flood reduction. Mountford met with Saunders County Road Superintendent Steve Mika on November 29 to inspect several potential road dam sites. Other grant and EQIP funds will be used to help complete landowner conservation practices during this project phase.

4. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

4.A. LPRCA Monthly Report

Miyoshi and Mountford attended the November 15th quarterly LPRCA meeting at Papio NRD. A meeting has been scheduled at the Army National Guard Camp at

Ashland on February 24, 2017, with Board members from LPNNRD, LPSNRD and PMRNRD to discuss the future of the LPRCA. As you know, we are presently a non-dues paying member, but involved with a few prior commitments. As discussed last month, one of biggest topics for continuing with the Alliance is the opportunity with the upcoming Army Corp's of Engineers Lower Platte River new Watershed Restoration Authority. This authority may lead to new federal funding opportunities for various projects in the Lower Platte River Watershed. Another topic that was mentioned was the importance of completing the LPRCA Water Quality Plan that has been underway for a couple years.

After the Projects Committee Meeting, Dave Potter, LPSNRD Assistant Manager, sent the attached November 15th LPRCA minutes which note that NDEQ is willing to provide a grant for \$17,225 (50%) to help with the total cost of \$34,450 to complete the LPRCA Water Quality Management Plan. The remaining \$17,225 will need to be a non-Federal match which is proposed to be divided three ways by LPSNRD, PMRNRD and LPNNRD. The expected cost to each of the three NRDs to complete this effort would be \$5,741.67.

To date, LPNNRD has been an equal partner on completing this plan, that when finished, will encompass the majority of our district that is not covered by our Shell Creek and Wahoo Creek Water Quality Plans. This would only leave about the eastern 1/3 of Dodge County in LPNNRD that would not be uncovered by a plan. As we have witnessed with completing our Wahoo Creek and Shell Creek Watershed Water Quality plans, opportunities emerged for receiving state and federal funding assistance from NDEQ and NET for various priority projects.

We have been asked that at this topic be discussed at our December 12th Board meeting to know if we will continue to be equal partners with LPSNRD and PMRNRD to complete the LPRCA Watershed Water Quality Plan and provide up to \$5,741.67 toward this effort.

5. OTHER

5.A. Army COE 205 Projects

5.A.1. Fremont 205

The Corps of Engineers and our non-federal partners met on Nov. 10 in Fremont. The COE has informed us that the cost of the project is now estimated to be over \$150 million causing the cost benefit ration to go below 1:1. The Corps has stated the best way to ensure federal funding is to have a ratio of 1-1.5:1. By the Corps estimates the project cost would have to be around \$90 to be 1:1. It will be difficult to cut \$60-65 million from the current design. FYRA Engineering has performed a Hydrological and Flood Frequency Analysis on the Platte River for the Papio NRD from the Louisville area to the confluence of the Missouri River. As part of this study, the previous flood frequency analyses were investigated to ascertain the nature of the large divergence in the most recent flood frequency analysis. They are estimating that

discharges are of lesser value which in turn could affect the entire Platte River corridor, therefore affecting the Fremont Study. FYRA suggests a two-step approach; first we have to spend 3-4 days to figure out if the number is wrong. This involves data/report review, model and gage analysis. If we do find that the number is wrong, it will take another 3-4 days to calculate the new number...so each step w/ Bob's time would be conservatively estimated at 32 hours at \$125/hr = \$4,000.00.

The potential benefit is huge. The summary of the work we did on the Platte River study pertaining to the Louisville gage analysis and this was reviewed and accepted by the USACE and we are now working w/ FEMA, but they have seen it and know it's coming. If we can get a similar reduction in the Fremont area, what Bob says is now some very shallow flow depths in the project area may be able to be reduced to significantly narrow up the floodplain/floodway width. While he has not looked specifically in this area yet, Bob is confident that since this was all done as part of the same study, we are likely to see similar errors from the study in the Fremont area as well...

We will also look at the seasonal vs. annual discharges. If we were able to use the annual discharge the reduction would have been even greater.

Our non-federal partners would like to meet and discuss all the above situations.

5.A.2. Schuyler 205

Kohl Construction from Schuyler has been hired to preform the highway ditch cleaning contract.

5.B. Shell Creek Landowner Levee Project Update

Director Bailey reported that the project has received a no-rise certificate and are now waiting for levee height information from the Army COE before proceeding.

5.C. Review of Projects Financial Statement

6. WESTERN SARPY/CLEAR CREEK LEVEE REPORT

No new business to report. We are still waiting for the completed operations and maintenance manual from the Army Corp's of Engineers which is due by the end of the year.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Projects Committee adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

SWCP Monthly Report

November 30, 2016

SWCP LOCAL	\$20,000.00
SWCP TREE ALLOCATION	\$3,000.00
STATE ALLOCATION	\$114,161.19
AMOUNT SPENT	\$42,104.32
CASH BALANCE	\$95,056.87
ALLOCATION %	184%

SWCP #	STATUS	NAME	AMOUNT	PROJECT	SHELL CREEK FUND
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APPROVED SMALL DAM PROJECTS:

15-S-12	Approved	Mike Chvatal	\$	16,742.31	Small Dam
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APPROVED SUMMER PROJECTS:

15-C-15	Approved	Randy Brabec	\$	1,200.18	Diversion	
15-B-17	Approved	Randy Fendrich	\$	12,500.00	W/S Basins w/Tile	
15-B-20	Approved	Tom Smaus	\$	7,753.52	Terraces/Tile	
15-S-23	Approved	Glen Treptow	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile	Wahoo Creek
15-S-24	Approved	Doris Treptow Rev. Trust	\$	6,812.72	Terraces/Tile	Wahoo Creek

TOTAL SUMMER APPROVALS \$ 57,508.73

APPROVED PROJECTS:

15-B-5	Approved	Bill Perk	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-S-1	Approved	Edward Kratky	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-S-2	Approved	Bob,Rich,Tim Bartek	\$	12,379.13	Terraces/Tile
16-D-3	Approved	Vering Feeyard, LLC	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-S-4	Approved	Paseka Family Rev. Tr.	\$	1,748.25	
16-B-5	Approved	Kirk Marushad	\$	11,576.49	Terraces/Tile
16-B-6	Approved	Bonita Jisa	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-B-7	Approved	Laverne Kucera	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-B-8	Approved	Richard Voboril	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile
16-D-9	Approved	Darrell Umscheid	\$	507.45	Diversion
16-S-10	Approved	Margie Vrana	\$	12,260.00	Basins/Terraces/Tile
16-D-11	Approved	Darlene Kroeger	\$	3,496.50	Tile Extension

TOTAL FALL APPROVALS \$ 116,967.82

APPROVED SHELL CREEK PROJECTS:

TOTAL

TOTAL

\$0.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED \$ 174,476.55

PAID PROJECTS

SWCP #	STATUS	NAME	AMOUNT	PROJECT	
			\$ 6.00		
15-S-14	Approved	Mike Chvatal	\$	12,187.14	Terraces/Basins/Tile
15-S-16	Approved	David Hartman	\$	10,962.26	Terraces/Tile/Basins
15-S-21	Approved	James Fujan Trust	\$	6,454.92	Terraces/Tile
15-S-22	Approved	David Sousek	\$	12,500.00	Terraces/Tile

LOCAL FUNDS

PAID PROJECTS COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED

SWCP PAID: \$ 42,104.32 \$0.00

PAID PROJECTS COORDINATING - SAND & DUCK CREEK

Total SWCP PAID: \$ 42,104.32

**Lower Platte North
Natural Resources District**

**Soil & Water Conservation Program
(SWCP)**

LPNNRD Board Approved

**New Additions in Red
Deletions in Orange**

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**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT POLICY
2017 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SWCP)**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide guidance for administering federal (EPA 319 grants), state (NSWCP, Environmental Trust grants) and local cost-share assistance as an incentive to landowners for the construction and application of soil and water conservation practices.

II. ELIGIBILITY, DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- A. Any landowner within the Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD), individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity is eligible to apply for SWCP funds.
- B. Cost-share program funds will be approved and distributed based on the number of high priority applications received each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- C. Funds may be reserved and targeted toward high priority watersheds and projects as determined and approved by the LPNNRD Projects Committee and Board.
- D. Unobligated or unused SWCP funds in priority watersheds may be redistributed to other areas if not used in a timely manner.
- E. The LPNNRD may supplement the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) state funds with available federal, other state & local funds. The amount of local funds budgeted and available will be decided each year.
- F. Landowners will be expected to apply for available federal EQIP cost-share funding when applicable and available **for eligible high priority practices A, C though M**, before state and local cost share funding is approved. It is also generally expected to approve available state funding before local funds are considered.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Eligible SWCP applicants are to apply at their local NRCS Service Office (also the LPNNRD office if for tree planting or windbreak renovations). Applications with appropriate NRCS comments/recommendations are to be forwarded to the NRD for consideration.
- B. Applications will contain sufficient information to include:
 - 1. Date construction (summer or fall) is expected to be completed.
 - 2. Type of Project to be installed.
 - 3. Whether the proposed project is located in a priority watershed area or if other special conditions exist.
 - 4. An aerial photograph showing the project location.
 - 5. Total estimated cost-share needed for the project.
 - 6. When applying for a small dam or grade stabilization structure, the estimated percent of land treatment draining to the proposed site (Attachment C).

IV. ELIGIBLE HIGH PRIORITY PRACTICES

- A. **Establishment of warm and cool season grass on crop land.**
- B. ***Small conservation project (terraces, basins, diversion, grass waterways and/or underground outlets) applications.** This priority practice includes newly established grass waterways and/or replacement grass waterways.
- i. Small projects are only eligible on fields where a complete no-till cropping management system is currently being applied.
 - ii. Existing grassed waterway applications must be over 10-years old and part of an approved terrace system or on 100% no-tilled fields)
 - iii. Small Projects may involve the construction of a new terrace and/or sediment & water control basins systems or it may include the extension of an existing terrace system with the inclusion of sediment & water control basins (this priority does “NOT” include the replacement of functionally obsolete terrace systems, waterways and sediment & water control basins in excess of 10-years old).
 - iv. Small projects do not include practice of installing tile outlets into existing functional terrace outlet systems (refer to priority G).
 - v. Small projects will not exceed \$5000.00 in cost incentive request.
 - vi. For small projects, landowners will not be expected to apply for available federal EQIP cost-share funding for eligible high priority practice B. It will generally be expected to approve available state funding before local funds are considered.
- C. ***Construction of new terrace systems where cost incentives exceed \$5000.00** (includes replacement of functionally obsolete terrace systems in excess of 20-years old).
- D. ***Construction of sediment & water control basins when part of a new terrace system where cost incentives exceeds \$5000.00** (Attachment A).
- E. ***Construction of Diversions, where cost incentives exceeds \$5000.00, when part of a new terrace system or dam** (Attachments A & C).
- F. **Planned Grazing Management Systems** (Attachment B).
- G. *** Installation of Tiled Outlets into Existing Terraces** (includes the storage portion of the terrace).
- H. **Water Impoundment and Grade Stabilization Structures** (Attachment C)
- I. **Tree/Shrub Planting** (Only when NRD stock is provided and planted by the District) For riparian buffer strips, field, acreage and farmstead windbreaks and for wildlife habitat 200- tree/shrub minimum is required for riparian buffer strips, and for field and farmstead windbreaks. A 300-tree/shrub minimum is required for wildlife habitat.
- J. **Windbreak Renovation** (Attachment D)
- K. **Supplementing EOIP Contracts in Priority Areas**
When federal EQIP funds are approved in LPNNRD priority areas, the District may approve additional local and/or state cost share not to exceed the established maximum cost share percentage approved for a practice or the specific area.
- ~~L. **Grass Waterways** (when part of an approved terrace system or on 100% no-tilled fields)~~
- ~~M. **Replacement of Grass Waterways** (will be considered on a case by case basis, if over 10 years old and part of an approved terrace system or on 100% no-tilled fields)~~
- L. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices** (Attachment E)

***NOTE:** Cost share only applies toward the tile outlet portion of approved terrace systems to establish a stable outlet. A stable outlet is considered to be on land that has a 2% grade or less. A landowner may choose to install a portion of the outlet without cost share

assistance provided that it meets NRCS design standards and specifications.

V. INELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- A. Any application that would allow the installation of terraces on land that has established grass will not be approved.
- B. The LPNNRD will not approve any conservation practice that will encourage the conversion of grassland, including CRP land, to crop land. This includes CRP land in the last year of the contract.
- C. Rebuilding grassed waterways or tile outlets if under 10-years old. Note: Cost share for replacing grass waterways will be considered on a case-by-case basis when over ten (10) years old and part of an approved terrace system or on 100% no-till fields (see IV. M.).
- D. Work that is considered normal maintenance of existing conservation practices.
- E. Rebuilding terraces on existing terrace lines.
- F. Terraces systems on Class VI land or greater.
- G. Sediment removal from small dams or other impoundments and/or from adjacent lands of said structures.
- H. Work started or constructed prior to approval.
- I. Livestock Waste Pits.
- J. The District will not provide cost share for practices on farmland that does not have a certified Nitrogen operator or on irrigated land where the irrigated acres are not certified by LPNNRD.
- K. Any practice on fields that are determined sod-busted by the NRCS.
- L. Repair of damage to conservation practices that is determined to be landowner negligence in performing normal maintenance as outlined in NRCS specifications.

VI. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL, APPROVAL & PROJECT COMPLETION PERIODS

A. Summer Construction Applications (For June through September 15):

To insure LPNNRD consideration, **applications for summer construction must be submitted by February 1.** Most generally, the Projects Committee will review, rank and recommend summer application approvals at the **February/March Projects Committee Meeting.** However, consideration and approval of summer applications received after **February 1** may occur depending on available funds. All **summer construction projects are to be completed by September 15** and **final paperwork submitted to the LPNNRD office by October 15.** The Projects Committee will review all uncompleted or unpaid applications at the end of each period to determine if application extensions and/or cancellations are warranted. **The field must be available for construction by August 1. The area must be planted to a cover crop or a crop preceding or after construction. The crop or cover may be harvested or pastured during the contract period.** Work not **completed by September 15,** may be canceled or receive reduced cost share as determined by the **Projects Committee/Board.**

NOTE: Cooperators who are approved for incentive payments within special designated watersheds, must follow these same summer construction requirements (refer to the “Lands for Conservation Program” – Attachment F).

B. Fall Construction Applications (September through December project completion):

To insure LPNNRD consideration, applications for fall construction must be received by **July 1.** Most generally, the Projects Committee will review, rank and recommend fall construction application approvals at the **July/August Projects Meeting.** However, additional approvals for fall work may occur after July/August as funds are available.

Approved fall applications will be given until December 31 to complete the work.
The Committee will review all unpaid applications at the end of each year to determine application extensions and cancellations.

C. **Grass, Tree Planting, Windbreak Renovation Applications:**

Application periods for grass establishment will be approved based on NRCS seed and seeding specifications. Applications for trees are generally considered for approval just before the spring planting season. For approved Windbreak Renovation applications, tree removal will normally be completed in the summer or fall so the site will be ready before spring tree planting.

D. **Small Dam Application (Attachment C):**

To ensure consideration for approval, the **District will need NRCS/NRD technician recommended applications by December 15.** The Projects Committee will review and prioritize and submit a recommendation for approval at the January Board Meeting.

E. **LPNNRD Signatures on Approved Applications & Related Documents:**

The Manager, Assistant Manager and Projects Coordinator are authorized to sign Board approved SWCP applications, Completion and Document Certifications and other related documents on behalf of the LPNNRD.

VII. 2016 PRIORITY AREAS & ELIGIBLE COST-SHARE PERCENTAGES

Priority areas for 2016 listed below are given first consideration for District cost share assistance. Each year, high priority practice applications located in priority areas are reviewed and approved by the Projects Committee and Board for the upcoming program year. The cost-share assistance payment may not exceed a total of the eligible percent for an area when combining all sources of federal, state and local assistance. **If there is not available funding for all applications for all listed priority areas, the Projects Committee will rank areas for approval.**

- A. **LPNNRD Lands North of the Platte River (Platte, Boone, Madison, Colfax & Dodge Counties): 75% ~~90%~~** (Shell Creek is also in ET & EPA 319 grant area - actual percent depends on priority area and practice as defined in approved grant application)
- B. **Lake Wanahoo (Sand/Duck Creek) Watershed: 75% ~~90%~~** - ~~This designated EPA/NDEQ 319 grant priority area extends through March 2016 to complete existing approved land treatment contracts. The actual percent to be paid depends on approved practice as defined in approved grant application)~~
- C. **Czechland Lake Recreation Area Watershed: 75%**
- D. **Homestead Lake Recreation Area Watershed: 75%**
- E. **Wahoo Creek Sub-Basins: Dunlap Creek; North Fork Wahoo Creek; Miller Branch Creek: 75%** - These Wahoo Creek Sub-Basins are designated EQIP WQI, EPA 319 and Environmental Trust Priority Areas.
- F. **Skull Creek Watershed: 75%** (It is anticipated to alternate this watershed with the Bone Creek Watershed every two years)
- G. **Watersheds Above All Existing and Planned LPNNRD Flood Control Structures (non-public structures that are or will be operated and maintained by the District): 75%**
- I. **Watersheds Above Proposed or Completed Landowner SWCP Cost Share Dams (That will or have received LPNNRD assistance): 75%**
- J. **Voluntary Compliance of Verified Erosion & Sediment Complaints District-wide: 75%**
- K. **All High Priority Practice Summer Applications District-wide (June 1 through September 15 completion): 75%**
- L. **Tree/Shrub Planting District-wide: 75%**
- M. **Windbreak Renovation - District-wide: 50%**
- N. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices District-wide: 50%**

~~**Cottonwood Creek Watershed: 75%** - This designated EPA/NDEQ 319 grant and EQIP WQI priority area extends through March 2016 to complete existing approved land treatment contracts.~~

VIII. COST SHARE PERCENTAGE - PRACTICE EXCEPTIONS

The maximum cost share percentage for most high priority conservation practices will be 75% ~~90%~~, depending on where the practice is located (**Refer to VII. above**). The exception to this is for the following high priority practices:

- A. **Water Impoundment Dams and Grade Stabilization Structures: 65% - 75%**
(Attachment C)

- B. **Windbreak Renovation Practice: 50%** (Attachment D)
- C. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices: 50%** (Attachment E)

IX. MAXIMUM COST SHARE LIMITS

- A. **General Maximum Limit:**
A cooperators may receive up to \$12,500 SWCP funds within any program year (July 1 - June 30) for most high priority practices unless otherwise specified below.
- B. **Priority Areas with Federal or State Grant Funding:**
Within priority areas that are receiving reimbursable federal or state grant funding, the maximum limits may be exceeded to expedite use of those special funds within the specified grant period time line.
- C. **Planned Grazing Systems – Livestock Well Pumping Plants:**
The maximum limit for planned grazing systems is \$12,500, however a maximum cost share limit of \$5,000 will also apply toward the livestock well and well pumping plant components (combined) when part of the approved system (Attachment B).
- D. **Water Impoundment & Grade Stabilization Structures:**
The maximum limit for water impoundment dams and grade stabilization structures is \$15,000 upon NRCS recommendation and Projects Committee/Board approval on a case-by-case basis (Attachment C).
- E. **Windbreak Renovation:**
The maximum limit for windbreak renovation is \$1,000 per landowner per year (Attachment D).
- F. **Emergency repair of conservation practices:**
The maximum limit for emergency repair of conservation practices is \$1,000 per landowner per year (Attachment E).

X. AMENDMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL COST SHARE

When applications are approved under the maximum limit, additional funds, up to the limit, may be approved if notified by the landowner or technician before construction. LPNNRD staff is authorized to approve an additional \$1,000 above the original approval (up to the maximum limit) if the request is received from the landowner and/or technician prior to construction. Staff will notify the Projects Committee of any staff authorized changes.

XI. APPLICATION EXTENSIONS

Extensions may be granted for inclement weather or for other conditions beyond the landowner's control. All extension requests will be considered by the Projects Committee and Board on a case-by-case basis. No more than one 6-month extension can be approved for the same application.

XII. CONSERVATION PRACTICE DESIGN, STAKING & PERMITS

- A. All conservation measures must be designed and staked by Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel (NRCS), NRD technicians or other NRCS approved technical service providers. All completed conservation work must be according to the NRCS design standards and specifications as outlined in the NRCS Procedures

Handbook for LPNNRD.

- B. The landowner is responsible for contacting the NRCS office to secure funds and schedule the layout (design and staking) of the approved work
- C. The landowner is responsible for obtaining all required local, state and federal permits.

XIII. SUBMITTING BILLS & PAPERWORK ON COMPLETED WORK

- A. The landowner is responsible for submitting all bills to the NRCS office. The NRCS will calculate the eligible cost share payment (on NSWCP form # 3) and submit completed and properly signed paperwork to the LPNNRD.
- B. Drawings of the completed practices at to be provided by the NRCS/NRD technician on an aerial photo and submitted with the payment request.

XIV. COST SHARE PAYMENTS

- A. LPNNRD has approved use of NRCS's 2016 EQIP conservation practice payment rates for calculating SWCP contract cost-share payments (see attachment G). Payments will be based on NRCS's EQIP ~~cost-share~~ practice payment ~~schedule~~ rates that were in force at the time the application was approved. The cost-share percent may be lowered if summer work is extended into fall.
- B. The LPNNRD calculates and pays cost-share on terraces only by the linear foot, not by the cubic yard.
- C. The cost-share percentages are calculated by multiplying the eligible cost share percentage by the approved cost share practice payment schedule rate or actual cost whichever is less. The cost-share assistance payment may not exceed a total of the eligible percent for an area when combining all sources of federal, state and local assistance.
- D. **Splitting Cost-Share Percentages:** When a field splits two cost-share priority areas, the corresponding eligible cost share percentage will be applied to each portion of the field being treated. When a field splits into a non-priority area, that area will be allowed up to 50% cost share assistance, if the non-priority area is 50% or less of the entire field being treated.

XV. PAYMENT OVERRUNS AND LANDOWNER REQUESTED REFUNDS

- A. **Payment Overruns:**
Overruns of up to 10 % above the approved project amount may be approved by staff. Overruns above 10% will need Board approval. Payments are not to exceed the maximum cost share limits set for the various practices. Exception to this is when payments are combined with grant funds in priority areas.
- B. **Landowner Refunds:**
If an SWCP practice is purposely damaged, removed or destroyed within ten years after completion (25 years for a small dam), the cooperators who received cost share, will be requested to reimburse the District, all or a portion of the SWCP cost share funds, as determined by the Projects Completion (25 years for a small dam), the cooperators who received cost share will be required to reimburse the District all or a prorated portion of the funding assistance, as determined by the Projects Committee and Board.

SWCP ATTACHMENT A
SEDIMENT & WATER CONTROL BASINS AND DIVERSIONS

This attachment is to help clarify the use of sediment & water control basins and diversions as an eligible cost-share practice. Basins and diversions are to be used as a part of an approved conservation system according to the NRCS technical guides and field manual.

- A. Sediment & water control basins and diversions may be approved as a high priority practice when in conjunction with terraces or dams.
- B. Basins and diversions will be considered a high priority practice when a part of a terrace system or in conjunction with a 100% no-till system. A 100% no-till system must have the goal of controlling soil erosion to soil replacement levels (“T”). A 100% no-till system is accepted land treatment when ephemeral and gully erosion is controlled or “T” is met. Basins and/or diversions built separately on a terraced field are not considered a part of the terrace system.
- C. Basins and diversions not part of a terrace system, may be considered as a high priority practice on fields where the NRCS or NRD technician determines terraces are not feasible and/or they offer the most practical solution to a problem. This will be determined by the Projects Committee on a case-by-case basis.

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRDSWCP ATTACHMENT B PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM PRACTICE

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. An applicant must have at least 40 acres of connecting grassland to be developed into at least two grazing cells with planned rest periods in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommendations.
- B. Applicants must complete a minimum 10-year planned grazing system developed by the NRCS prior to submitting an application.
- C. Applicants are required to sign a 10-year cost-share agreement with the LPNNRD. (Form NSWCP-10)
- D. All approved cost-share items must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- E. Funds for approved practices may be used on CRP lands if such lands are in the last year of the CRP contract.
- F. The amount and type of eligible practices approved for each application will be determined by the overall grazing system plan and the most cost effective alternative available.
- G. Cost-share on eligible practices will be based on the approved cost-share percentage times the approved practice payment schedule cost share rate or 75 percent of the actual cost, whichever is less.

II. ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- A. **Cross Fencing:** Only fencing designed to facilitate cell division is eligible for cost-share (Standard 382 specifications). Boundary fences are not eligible for cost-share.
- B. **Livestock Water Dugouts:** Dugouts will be sized by daily animal needs and Nebraska Engineering Handbook Standards.
- C. **Livestock Well Installation:** Livestock wells will be sized to provide a maximum of 15 gallons of water per animal-unit per day within each cell. No cost-share will be available for domestic or irrigation wells. Well test holes are not eligible for cost-share.
- D. **Pumping Plants for Livestock Wells:** (As outlined by State NSWCP Guidelines): While a cooperator may receive up to \$12,500 SWCP funds toward completing a Planned Grazing System, a maximum cost share limit of \$5,000 will apply toward the livestock well and well pumping plant component (combined) if part of the approved system.
- E. **Livestock Water Tanks:** Tanks sized according to standard storage requirements in the NRCS Technical Guide, Standard 614, are eligible.
- F. **Livestock Water Pipeline Installation**

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT C
GUIDELINES FOR WATER IMPOUNDMENT (SMALL DAMS) &
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to assist landowners with the construction of water impoundment and grade stabilization structures on their property.

II. ELIGIBLE PROJECT ITEMS

A. Eligible Project Costs Include:

1. Construction (Not to include site preparation)
2. Seeding (Structure and emergency spillway)
3. Fencing when required by the NRCS

III. LAND TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for cost-share assistance, a minimum of 75% land treatment is required within the watershed above each proposed structure site. To calculate this percentage, non-highly erodible land is considered treated.

Land Treatment Definition:

Land treatment is defined as any practice or combination of practices (i.e. terraces, no-till etc.), that control soil erosion rates on highly erodible soils to soil replacement levels or less (Soil replacement level or "T" = 5 tons/acre in the LPNNRD). Any approved NRCS farm plan that treats land to "T" qualifies under this definition (8/2/00 Projects Committee).

IV. COST-SHARE PERCENTAGE AND MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE

The cost-share percent for approved applications outside selected priority areas is up to a maximum of 65%. For small dams approved within selected LPNNRD priority areas, the cost-share rate is up to a maximum of 75%. Eligible assistance will be based on the eligible cost-share percent times the county average costs or 75% of actual costs whichever is less. The maximum cost-share limit will be \$15,000 upon NRCS recommendation and Projects Committee approval on a case-by-case basis (see Special conditions below).

Special conditions: The Board may approve a higher cost-share percentage and increase the maximum assistance if an application site is above an LPNNRD recreation area, within a targeted watershed or when other special conditions exist. The Board may also approve a lower cost-share percent and decrease the maximum assistance for structure sites of lower priority. **Special** conditions will be evaluated by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

V. PRIORITY AREAS

Priority-areas for small dams and grade stabilization structures include the following watersheds:

- A. Sand & Duck Creek
- B. Wahoo Creek

- C. Skull Creek
- D. Shell Creek
- E. Bone Creek
- F. Watersheds above Pubic Recreation Structures (i.e. Czechland Lake, Homestead Lake, Lake Wanahoo)
- G. Above all existing LPNNRD Operated and Maintained Watershed Structures.

VI. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND SIGN-UP

- A. Any landowner within the Lower Platte North NRD who is an individual, a partnership, a corporation or other legal entity.
- B. Applications may be submitted any time during the year; however, only NRCS inspected and recommended applications received by December 15, will ensure consideration for the following construction year. Unapproved applications will expire on May 1 of each year, requiring a new landowner application for future consideration. The Projects Committee will review, prioritize and submit a recommendation for approval at the January Board Meeting.
- C. The applicant shall apply at the county NRCS office on forms provided by the LPNNRD. An aerial photo showing the proposed project location must accompany the application. The application must be signed by the applicant and sent to the LPNNRD before December 15 of each year to insure consideration for the immediate year's construction.
- D. At the time of application, the NRCS will be requested to provide an estimate of drainage acres, percentage of land treatment present, quantities and costs for the project.

VII. APPLICATION EVALUATION AND TENTATIVE APPROVAL

- A. Application sites will be inspected by LPNNRD and NRCS representatives to evaluate feasibility, benefits and cost. Benefits to be evaluated will include but not be limited to: flood control, grade control, erosion and sediment control, wildlife habitat enhancement, livestock water, and protection to public roads and property.
- B. The Projects Committee will most generally review, prioritize, and make recommendations on applications at their January meeting.
- C. The NRD Board of Directors will generally approve, reject, or table each request at the January Board Meeting.
- D. After receiving LPNNRD approval, the applicant will be required to submit a \$500 deposit to the NRD before a survey or design is started. The deposit will be returned to the applicant after project completion. If the deposit is not received by February 1, the application will be canceled. If the applicant withdraws from the project after the design has been complete, the deposit will be retained by the LPNNRD unless conditions in XII. B. apply.
- E. In February of each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be requested to proceed with survey and design of approved projects.
- F. After receiving LPNNRD approval, the applicant will be given two years to obtain necessary permits, complete the structure and submit all required paperwork. If the project is delayed due to adverse weather conditions, or other conditions beyond the

applicant's control, an extension may be granted by the LPNNRD Board of Directors. Extensions will be considered by the LPNNRD Board on a case-by-case basis.

VIII. LAND RIGHTS, AGREEMENTS AND PERMITS

- A. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any required easements and any required federal, state and local (i.e. NDNR, Army COE, and County Zoning) permits.
- B. The applicant is responsible for the relocation or modification of water lines, power lines and telephone lines and pay the costs involved.
- C. The applicant will be required to enter into a 25-year cost-share agreement with the LPNNRD. This agreement states that the applicant will refund cost-share funds if the project is removed, altered, or modified without the consent of the LPNNRD.

IX. STRUCTURE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- A. The NRCS will be requested to survey, design, and supervise all structures approved by the LPNNRD Board.
- B. Construction will not commence until formal notice to proceed is given by the LPNNRD. This notice will be given after NRD Board approval, and after receiving the applicant's deposit and signed cost-share agreement.

X. FINAL APPROVAL AND PAYMENT

- A. Final Approval and Payment will occur when:
 - 1. The project is completed and certified by the NRCS/NRD technician to meet all NRCS standards and specifications.
 - 2. The completed application form NSWCP-3 is signed and returned to the LPNNRD with a copy of all project bills.

XI. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The landowner is responsible for all operation and maintenance after project construction.

XII. SMALL DAM DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT & REIMBURSEMENT

- A. The applicant will be required to submit a \$500 deposit to the NRD before a survey or design is started. The deposit will be returned to the applicant after NRCS approves the completed project and all paperwork is submitted and approved by the District. If the deposit is not received by February 1, the application will be canceled. If the applicant withdraws from the project after the design has been complete, the deposit will be retained by the LPNNRD unless conditions in B. apply.
- B. If a landowner does not proceed with the small dam project because the final cost estimate is 40% or more over the original project estimate, the LPNNRD will return the \$500 deposit based on financial hardship. All other conditions will be reviewed by the Projects Committee on a case-by-case basis.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT D
WINDBREAK RENOVATION PRACTICE**

I. PURPOSE

To provide for the restoration of farmstead, acreage or field windbreaks that have been rendered substantially ineffective due to the death of trees or other windbreak plantings as a result of weather, disease, or other natural causes.

II. PLAN REQUIREMENT

A windbreak renovation plan is to be based on a plan reviewed and approved by a forester of the Nebraska Forest Service. The forester is to certify that the windbreak has lost its effectiveness, should be renovated and that they approve the plan of renovation.

III. SITE PREPARATION

Tree removal off the site is required to be accomplished in late fall/early winter at least before the planting occurs the following spring. The only area that is replanted with a new windbreak receives cost share for removal costs. Tree removal work should not be initiated until the application is approved by the Lower Platte North NRD and the landowner agrees to replant the windbreak in the same area.

IV. COST SHARE RATE AND MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE

The windbreak renovation cost-share payment will not be based on a cost greater than the county average unit cost adopted by the USDA-FSA. The renovation practice is not to include the replanting of the windbreak because of different cost-share percentage rates. The windbreak planting cost-share will be separate. The Lower Platte North NRD will cost share at a 50% rate, up to \$1,000.

Tree planting cost-share is eligible for riparian buffers, farmsteads, acreages, field and livestock protection windbreaks. Windbreaks must contain 200 or more trees and shrubs which are purchased through and planted by the NRD. When the planting is strictly for wildlife habitat, a minimum of 300 trees/shrubs purchased and planted by the NRD is required.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT E
FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**

I. PURPOSE

On occasion, the LPNNRD Board of Directors may approve local SWCP funds for the Repair of conservation practices damaged from intense rainstorms. The decision for approving emergency repair funds will be considered annually, with the location and total amount of available funds dependent on the severity of storm damage to conservation practices in designated areas in the District. When approved by the Board, Emergency repair funds will be allocated in the following manner:

- A. The LPNNRD Board will consider approval of the amount and eligible area for emergency repair funds, with a recommendation from the Projects Committee. Typically, this will occur on or prior to the LPNNRD September Board Meeting.
- B. Only eligible Conservation Practices, two years old and newer that were originally built to NRCS design specifications, will be eligible for cost-share assistance.
- C. The committee will consider approval of emergency repair assistance only when it is determined by an NRCS technician that the damage was not due to landowner negligence in performing normal maintenance as outlined in NRCS O&M specifications.
- D. To be eligible for emergency repair funds, the landowner must be following an approved NRCS farm plan.
- E. Prior to LPNNRD approval, applications will receive recommendations from LPNNRD and NRCS staff. The LPNNRD Projects Committee will prioritize application practices and areas.
- F. Eligible assistance will be 50% of the approved amount up to a maximum of \$1,000 per landowner per program period.

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT F
2017 LANDS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM
(Sub-watershed areas: North Fork – Wahoo Creek, Dunlop –
Wahoo Creek and Miller Branch – Wahoo creek)

Purpose: The Lands for Conservation program provides landowners with an incentive to get conservation structures constructed on the land during the growing season.

1. The Lands for Conservation program will be on contractual basis between the landowner (cooperator) and the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District for one year while conservation practices are being established. Applications deadline for each calendar year will be February 1.
 2. Sediment and Water Control Basins with tile outlets and/or terraces with grassed waterways and terraces with tile outlets qualify for this program. Sediment and Water Control Basins/Terraces and/or waterways must be seeded during the contract period.
 3. NRCS and/or NRD personnel will design terraces with waterways or tile drains or Sediment and Water Control Basins with tile outlets. These practices must protect the entire field on which they are established. However, the area under contract will be the smallest practical area to encompass the practices, as agreed upon with the cooperator.
 4. Land enrolled in another program (ex: CRP) may not be eligible for Lands for Conservation contracts.
 5. Sediment and Water Control Basins with tile outlets and terraces with waterways or tile outlets may be cost-shared through the EQIP program administered by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If federal funds are not available, cost-sharing assistance may be available through LPNNRD's Soil & Water Conservation Cost-Share Program.
 6. **Construction must be done between June 1 and September 15.** The field must be available for construction by August 1. The area enrolled in the LPNNRD Lands for Conservation will be planted to cover crop or **a high residue crop (corn, wheat, forage sorghum, etc.)** preceding or after construction. The crop or cover may be harvested or pastured during the contract period.
 7. **For 2017: Payment is ~~\$220~~ ~~\$184~~ \$189 per acre***
*Payment Rate will be reviewed annually. Payment rate is based on **2016** Nebraska Non-Irrigated Cropland Cash Rent Paid per Acre, Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service – September 5, 2014.
Payment will not be processed and forward to the NRD applicant until the project (including the planting of the cover crop) has been certified as completed by the NRCS.
 8. If used for permanent pasture before or after the contract period, these areas are not eligible for the Lands for Conservation Program. Money received through this program resulting in permanent pasture after the contract period, must be returned. Land can be used for hayland as a normal part of the crop rotation.
 9. If ownership of land changes during the contract period, the contract becomes void. The new owner may continue the contract, if agreed to with the Lower Platte North NRD.
 10. Approval of contracts will be on a rotating basis.
 11. The landowner will contract for the construction of Sediment and Water Control Basins, terraces, waterways, tile outlets and any other necessary construction.
 12. Terraces, Sediment and Water Control Basins, waterways and tile outlets must be maintained for 10 years or as long as the current owner has control of the land, whichever is less.
 13. **Eligible Watersheds for the Lands for Conservation Program: Within the Wahoo Watershed, sub watershed that are eligible are; four of the HUC 12 sub watersheds were identified as highest priority areas for this program: North Fork-Wahoo Creek, Dunlop Creek and Miller Branch-Wahoo Creek.**
-

Tom Mountford

From: David Potter
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 1:44 PM
To: John Winkler; Tom Mountford; John Miyoshi; Marlin Petermann
Cc: Paul Zillig
Subject: LPRCA Water Quality Management Plan
Attachments: november 2016 minutes.pdf

Managers:

First of all, please find attached the final minutes of the November 15th LPRCA Quarterly Meeting. There have been some changes made to the items pertaining to the WQMP and the Retreat. I think the minutes give a good explanation of the projects and what the Alliance is doing.

The minutes reflect that NDEQ is willing to provide a grant for \$15,000 help with the necessary amendment to the WQMP that is being proposed by HDR. As you know, this amendment is necessary in order to get the plan approved. Once the plan is approved there are many projects that will become possible through 319 funding. After NDEQ found out that the proposed amendment is at a cost of \$34,450, they now state they will help provide a grant for \$17,225 (50% of the cost). The remaining \$17,225 will need to be a non-Federal match. This match is to be divided three ways amongst the three NRDs that make up the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance. The expected cost to each of the three NRDs to complete this very beneficial project would be \$5,741.67.

On behalf of the Corridor Alliance, I would ask that you share this with the appropriate committee and/or your Board at your upcoming meeting so that we know we have the funding to move forward. Although the representatives in attendance at the quarterly meeting gave direction to move forward, I want to make sure everyone is on board. The LPS NRD Platte River Subcommittee plans to meet on Monday, December 5th at 5:30 to consider a recommendation on the grant agreement with NDEQ and the contract amendment with HDR. Our board will meet on Wednesday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. to consider approval. I would like to have some direction by then.

Thank you.



David Potter
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Lower Platte South NRD
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Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

LEAD. ORGANIZE. INSPIRE. The voice of the Lower Platte.

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

Papio-Missouri River NRD

8901 S. 154th St

Omaha, NE 68138

1. Call to Order / Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. Proof of Legal Notice/Publication: The meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald on November 2, 2016.
3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.
4. Approval of LPRCA Minutes from August 9, 2016 Meeting: The minutes were approved by consensus.
5. LPRCA Coordinator Replacement Timeline – Paul Zillig, LPS NRD

The current status of the Corridor Alliance Coordinator was discussed. Meghan Sittler resigned at the end of September. Since that time David Potter, Assistant General Manager for Lower Platte South NRD, has stepped in to help coordinate a few current projects, distribute the Fall Newsletter, and plan the quarterly meeting. A concern of the Alliance is the funding for the Coordinator. The position is largely funded by the three member NRDs (Lower Platte South, Papio-Missouri River and Lower Platte North), however Lower Platte North has decided to be a non-paying member and has not budgeted for their 1/3 share. Without the share from the LPN NRD, only 2/3 of the Coordinator's position is available for the year. Without a coordinator, the work and coordination of the Alliance is in question. The plan is to continue working to find funding and a coordinator replacement.

6. Water Quality Management Plan

- Requirements and Update on Plan—Carla McCullough and Laura Johnson, NDEQ

McCullough commented that there are many management plans being done throughout the state. The draft plan for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance was completed but needed some

additional information and emphasis on *E. coli*. This is a required addition according to NDEQ and the EPA. All management plans must address the nine elements. In recognizing the needed amendment/requirement, NDEQ will award an additional \$15,000 grant. The original grant has been closed out.

- Update and 3rd Amendment – Matt Pillard, HDR

Pillard gave a brief history of the draft management plan. The original contract dates back to February 2013. The draft plan was finalized in October of 2014. Based on the needed NDEQ and EPA changes, HDR has prepared a 3rd amendment to the management plan. The proposed scope of services addresses the methodology for identification of *E. coli* contributions and reductions, performing the calculations to determine the contributions and reduction potential, and reformulating the plans, goals and objectives, priorities, and the change in focus to *E. coli*, and also includes document reorganization. The Alliance has received the proposed amendment for consideration. The total fee will be \$34,451. It was agreed by those LPRCA representatives present that coordination should be made with NDEQ for the grant and for the Alliance to enter into contract with HDR for Supplemental (Amendment) No. 3.

- Benefits and Potential 319 Projects – Matt Pillard, HDR

There are various projects possible with the plan in place. These projects would now be potentially qualified for 319 funds. NDEQ also indicated that a huge benefit was that the plan is being done by a collaborative effort. The individual plans being done by the NRDs may utilize some of this plan but if projects along the corridor are proposed, the emphasis will likely be weighed more by a collaborative effort.

7. Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Study

- April 13, 2016 Letter of Request – Paul Zillig, LPS NRD

A letter of intent had been submitted for the proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Comprehensive Study. The project had not yet been initiated and we were in the process of finalizing in-kind accounting and cost share. LPS NRD recently received word from the Army Corps of Engineers seeking our interest in proceeding. Lower Platte South on behalf of the Corridor Alliance responded with interest in starting in 2017 and the regional office has submitted the request to headquarters.

- Potential Benefits/Projects from Study – John Miyoshi, LPN NRD

There are many direct and indirect projects that could stem from this study. With such a study in place, opportunities for projects on tributaries up and down the Platte River Corridor may be eligible for funding. Many of these are located in Lower Platte North. A project such as the one on Deadman's Run in Lincoln could also be eligible.

8. Southern Sarpy County Watershed

- Southern Ridge Wastewater Treatment Study – Mark Wayne, Sarpy Co. & Leanne Zietlow, HDR
Mark Wayne, Sarpy County Administrator, introduced the Wastewater Treatment Study and explained the history and intent of the project, the location, and cooperation with the communities within Sarpy County and the Papio-Missouri River NRD. Leanne then described the project in detail. The concern is with the development of Southern Sarpy County and where will the sewer go because of the ridgeline. The study has identified a number of needed temporary treatment facilities but ultimately locating a larger, main facility as an expanded Springfield treatment plant or locating a new one south of Springfield adjacent to Highway 50. The system will discharge into the Platte River. There was some concern about the discharge but both presenters indicated that NDEQ recommended the discharge of treated water into the river in order to keep water levels up during times of drought.

- Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (SSWP) – Marlin Petermann & Eric Williams, P-MR NRD
Because of the potential development of Southern Sarpy County, the Papio-Missouri River NRD and partners have looked at the need to look at this entire area for drainage and flood control. Petermann and Williams walked through the Partnership project and what the intent and requirements will be for future development. The Partnership will be similar to the one developed for Papio Creek Watershed. Developers will need to detain water on their sites and be able to possibly coordinate with other developments for a more regional approach to drainage detention. Identification and location of these regional flood control structures will be important to the development of the area and flows into the tributaries and the Platte River.

9. ESRI Map Gallery (Going Live) – Matt Pillard, HDR

The geospatial data that has been collected and/or developed for or by LPRCA is currently housed on Map Maker on the LPN NRD server. This platform is no longer supported by ESRI, is antiquated, and does not allow for expansion into new technologies. The LPRCA decided to utilize ESRI's services to serve as the platform for sharing LPRCA data for viewing and creation of maps by users. The Corridor Alliance has a contract with ESRI and everything is ready to launch the map galleries which represent many of the LPRCA projects. The LPRCA representatives present gave the go-ahead for the Corridor Alliance to launch the gallery and make the connection available on the LPRCA website.

10. Platte Basin Timelapse Update – Mike Farrell

Farrell presented a series of short videos that described the Timelapse projects that were done on the river and those that they are currently working on. The videos provided a great visualization of

the ever-changing river. One interesting segment illustrated the changes and dynamics of the banks of the river. These images can assist in the maintenance, stabilization, enhancement and protection of the river and its resources. Other projects and education modules described were the Marsh Wren project, agriculture timelapse, and a segment on “the life of a snowflake”.

11. Water Quality Monitoring Network and Sandbar Dynamics Study – Dave Rus and Matt Moser, USGS

Dave gave an update and overview of the Monitoring Network and Matt discussed the Sandbar Study. These projects have been going on for several years. Rus also identified project benefits and gave insight into the future of the Water-Quality Monitoring Network moving forward. The sandbar project will assist with better understanding the availability of in channel habitat for terns and plovers as well as potentially assist with the permitting process. The sandbar project has completed about four years of surveys as well as water level data and time lapse camera imagery.

Water Quality Monitoring Network update

Objective: Provide real-time water quality data at four sites within the Corridor.

- The water quality equipment monitors the rivers continuously from March to October with the data being reported in near-real time to the web
- Parameters that are monitored include Water Temperature, Specific Conductance, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrate (3 of 4 sites), and Turbidity
- Sites monitored include the Platte River near Louisville, Platte River near Leshara, Salt Creek near Ashland, and Elkhorn River near Waterloo (Shell Creek near Columbus is also monitored separately)
- Sampling for E. Coli and other selected nutrients
- Continuous prediction of various contaminants, like E. Coli, available in real-time

Benefits:

- Improves understanding of hydrology and water quality in the Lower Platte Corridor and can lead to more effective resource management
- Continuous nitrate data can serve as an early warning for drinking water utilities
- Useful to municipalities, resource managers, recreational users & fellow researchers
- Captures water-quality variation that traditional sampling misses
- Improves concentration and load estimates over traditional methods
- Better understanding of the incidences of potential contaminants and changes in overall water quality for the purposes of protecting public drinking water supplies, threatened & endangered species, and the overall health of the Lower Platte River.

Status:

- All monitoring has concluded for the 2016 field season. Monitors were removed in mid-October at the four sites
- This is the first year we have had nitrate monitors at multiple sites. Nitrate concentrations vary between the sites
- Current monitoring agreement continues through the 2018 field seasons

Sandbar Dynamics Study update

Study Objective: To characterize the spatial and temporal variation in the height and area of sandbars in the Lower Platte River from the Loup River confluence to the mouth by evaluating:

- Sandbar erosion/survival rates over time and flow
- Sandbar height given a range of flows
- Locations/characteristics more conducive to sandbar formation

Benefits: Sandbar habitat is critical to the management of endangered species in the LPR

- If we know the 'natural' rate of sandbar erosion/survival, we can use that to quantitatively evaluate whether a construction project is having an impact on local sandbars
- If we know locations/characteristics that favor sandbars, we can use that to:
 - Better locate infrastructure projects; or
 - Better mitigate impacts from infrastructure projects by focusing restoration in other areas
- If we know expected sandbar heights given flows, we can manage flows to meet habitat goals, provided that we have the ability to manage flows.

Status:

- The sandbar erosion analyses are complete
- The height vs flow analyses are nearly complete, and is approaching a quantitative estimate of X inches of bar height for every Y cfs above a reference streamflow
- The identification of locations/characteristics conducive to sandbar formation has been hampered by the impact of the hydrocycling wave during the surveys, but is ongoing.
- The target date for the draft report is January 31, 2017.

12. Platte River Venture Parks Update – Matt Pillard, HDR

Matt gave a very brief overview of the project and of HDR's involvement. The Venture Park program will be focused on Mahoney State Park, Platte River State Park, Louisville State Recreation Area, and Schramm State Recreation Area. The Venture Park project will be done in four phases. HDR and JEO are working with NGPC to prepare design documents for the Phase I projects. Included in the Phase I projects are three Platte River Access projects: 1)kayak/canoe launch on Decker Creek at Platte River State Park, 2)kayak/canoe launch at the existing access location near Schramm Park SRA, and 3)Airboat ramp at Louisville Lakes SRA.

13. Planning Retreat – David Potter, LPS NRD

With the resignation of Meghan Sittler and questions about the future direction of the LPRCA, it was discussed and determined that the Alliance should plan for a "planning retreat" instead of a Summit and in place of the January quarterly meeting. The LPRCA Summit has been held every other year with

the last one being held at Camp Joy Holling in 2014. The 2016 Summit was actually being planned for Spring 2017. A Director's Workshop was held back in April 2014. Strategic planning workshops/meetings/surveys look to have been held in 2013, 2008, 2007, 2002 and 2001, however the only professionally facilitated "Strategic Planning Retreats" were held in 2009 at Camp Ashland and in 2005 at Camp Kitaki. It was suggested that an outside facilitator again be brought in to go through a planning/goal setting retreat workshop. It was also suggested that that a survey or questionnaire be sent out prior to the retreat. The Alliance will schedule a planning retreat in late February and look for a central location to have the half day or full day event. The retreat will fall on the 21st anniversary of the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance.

14. Next Quarterly Meeting Date: The first quarterly meetings are usually in January at Lower Platte North NRD but with the decision to hold a planning retreat, it was decided to hold the quarterly meeting in conjunction with the retreat in February.

15. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment.

16. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 a.m.

NOTES

- **To be removed from/ added to our mailing or e-mailing list,** please contact the LPRCA at (402) 476-2729 or via e-mail at dpotter@lpsnrd.org.
- **Meeting information (past and present)** will be kept up to date at: http://www.lowerplatte.org/what_we_do/quarterly_meetings.html