

Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2017 1:30 PM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. Call to Order

NOTE: The agenda is on file at the LPNNRD office and may be changed up to 24 hours prior to the meeting as scheduled.

1.A. Meeting Notice

1.B. Inform Public on Location of Copy of "Open Meeting Act"

1.C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

2.A. Introductions

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Comments - Advisors/Guests

4.A. Guest Comments

4.B. NRCS Report

4.C. NARD Report

4.D. NRC Report

4.E. Managers Report

4.F. Education Program

5. Approval of Minutes

6. Report of Standing Committees

6.A. Executive Committee - Action as Required

6.A.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.A.1.a. Off Site Table Concerns Near Sand Creek

No new information or updates

6.A.2. MEETINGS

6.A.2.a. Pending

6.A.2.a.1. 2017 Water and Natural Resources Tour - June 27-29

The 2017 Water and Natural Resources Tour will focus on surface and groundwater irrigation and the importance of the Central Platte River basin to Nebraska. Possible tour highlights may include: Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's facilities at Johnson Lake, Lake McConaughy and Kingsley Dam, NPPD's Gerald Gentlemen Station, Monsanto Water Utilization Learning Center, Frito Lay Corn Handling hub, new NCORPE facilities, canoe/kayaking trip and overnight in North Platte and Ogallala. Tour will begin and end in Holdrege, NE. Any directors interested in attending should let Jill know.

6.A.2.a.2. Angle's Retirement/Open House - March 3rd

The Open House to honor Larry Angle's retirement was held Friday, March 3 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the NRD office. A large glass water droplet with inscriptions was presented to Larry from LPNNRD to honor his 30 years of service to the district. Thank you to all of the directors and friends who attended and/or sent notes.

6.A.2.b. Reports

6.A.3. MANAGEMENT ITEMS

6.A.3.a. Directors Absence

6.A.3.b. Monthly Education Program

Phoenix Work Group is scheduled to give an update on the Master Data Base.

6.A.3.c. Ourada Claim

Ourada's attorney Tom Thompson has asked to address the board during our March Meeting.

6.A.3.d. Murren Claim

No new information for discussion.

6.A.3.e. Fiscal Year 2017 Audit

Last month Cindy Love discussed the need to hire a new firm to perform our annual audit. A list of firms was sent to us from HBE. We can take proposals from these firms or advertise for proposals to be opened next month.

6.A.4. EQUIPMENT

6.A.4.a. Replacement of Telephone System

Our current phone system is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced. We have budgeted for a new system this year. We have visited with Diode Communications from Diller, Nebraska and are very impressed. Our choices are to take RFPs for a new system or work with one company to fit our needs.

6.A.5. PERSONNEL

6.A.5.a. Manager Selection Process

At Directors Retreat we outlined a process for hiring a new General Manager. The Committee made several additions to the draft plan that was outlined at director's retreat but will leave the final version to Chair Birkel and his appointed committee. The general guidance is to have applications in to Birkel by May 18 and the goal to hire the new general manager at the July 10 board meeting.

6.A.5.b. Leave Payout for Angle

With Larry Angle's retirement we need to make a payout on leave balance. His annual leave balance is 191 hours and his sick leave balance is 740 hours of which 380 is payable (first 360 hour of sick leave is not payable) bringing his total payable balance to 571 hours. The payout total is \$21,502.55 with deductions the estimated amount is \$11,790.28.

6.A.6. FINANCE

6.A.6.a. Approval of Financial Reports

Grant Nuttelmann and Cindy Love from HBE were present to give the October and November monthly financials. A least one will also be present at board meeting to make sure the format for reporting meets our goals. The goal is to have the December and January financials ready next month to put us back on our normal schedual. Following the April 27 Executive Committee Meeting HBE will meet with Hilger, Birkel, Miyoshi, Mountford and Breunig to review the view only access to the accounting software.

6.A.6.b. Approval of Managers Time and Expense Sheets

6.B. Education, Operations & Rural Water Systems Committee - Action as Required

6.B.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.B.2. WILD NE/CREP REPORT

The tree removal contractor, Standing C Excavating, finished cutting, treating and piling trees at Czechland Lake. The contract cost was \$3,750.

6.B.3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The crew burned tree piles at Homestead and Wanahoo. Cut volunteer trees in different locations on the Wanahoo property. Put the docks in at Wanahoo.

6.B.3.a. Olsson Associate Wanahoo Dam Monitoring

Olsson Associates has presented a Lake Wanahoo Dam Instrumentation Monitoring/Data Evaluation contract for one year at a cost of \$14,212.50. They monitor the dam twice a year (spring & fall).

6.B.3.b. Lake Wanahoo Lake Level

The Lake Wanahoo Lake Level Panel met on February 28, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. at the LPNNRD Office in Wahoo.

A primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the unopened Requests for Qualifications/Proposals from engineering firms JEO and Olsson Associates, to submit a Section 408 request to the U.S. Army Corp's of Engineers for lowering Lake Wanahoo's permanent water level. Alternate proposals from FYRA, JEO and Olsson opposed to pursuing the 408 process were also presented. An update on Wahoo Creek Flood reduction and water quality efforts was also given.

After much discussion on the engineering firm proposals, the following recommendations were passed by the Lake Wanahoo Lake Level Panel:

It was recommended by Jim Gibney, seconded by Mike Lawver, to not pursue the 408 request with the Army Corp's of Engineers for lowering Lake Wanahoo at this time and to return the unopened 408 proposals to JEO Consulting Group and Olsson Associates. Recommendation carried unanimously by voice vote.

It was recommended by Mike Lawver, seconded by Jim Gibney, to hire FYRA Engineering for completing the Lake Wanahoo Reservoir/Gate Operation Policy/Study Proposal. Recommendation carried unanimously by voice

The O, E & RW Committee supports the first recommendation from the Lake Level Panel and the second motion if the FYRA Proposal will coincide with the final Operations & Maintenance Manual for the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project. Therefore, the District may want to wait to see how FYRA's proposed project timeline will work within the O & M Manual.

Folsom also recommends that a fisheries biologist be present some time in the future to explain the entire spawning season for all fish species that inhabit Lake Wanahoo.

6.B.3.c. Lake Wanahoo SRA

Staff met with Game & Parks on February 9th to review the 2016 SRA revenue and expense reports. The District had \$61,080.91 in expenses and Game & Parks \$98,707.41. Income revenue (park permits, camping fees & shower fees) is \$120,408.91. The net profit is \$21,701.50 which will be placed in an account and used for future needs on the SRA as jointly agreed by G&P and LPNNRD.

There was discussion at our Directors Retreat on amending items in our current Interlocal Agreement with Game & Parks, such as a) how the net profit should be used, b) G & P provide an itemized list of expenditures as the District does at our annual meeting, c)

Staff hiring issues and timeliness, d) expenses by the District on the breakwater structures and jetties do not count toward expenses in this agreement, e) items listed under O & M obligations.

Agreement Attached

6.B.3.d. Fremont GI Study

Narrative from Mike Sotak (first two paragraphs).

The majority of the look at the hydrologic records is near completion. The gage and subsequent skew analysis indicates that the design discharge could potentially be modified from 132k to somewhere between 104k and 114k cfs. The skew analysis would support a design discharge as low as 104k cfs (a 21.2% reduction), but some more aggressive arguments need to be made regarding skew. We are doing a preliminary analysis of the ice jam magnitude to ensure this will not dramatically change the numbers above. This will not provide the entire ice jam analysis required, but will give us confidence in these assessments.

The bottom line is that the news is good...we feel that this is close to the right answer. As the COE mentioned during the discussion in Fremont, the flood stage due to ice jams causes a significant amount of the flooding potential that the levees are designed to protect against. If after this work, you are comfortable with our analysis, we can discuss next steps which would include the ice jam assessment. We do feel that there are several differences in approach that we would take as compared with what the COE has done. We will also have to look at the big picture and include Schuyler and North Bend some time, there is some question as to how to go about this politically.

6.B.3.e. Sand/Duck Creek Dams Update

To date it looks like 2 of 3 landowners have agreed to do conservation work on adjacent property to Sand/Duck Creek Dams 6 and 24. They will sign up for SWCP cost-share and plan to do fall construction.

6.B.3.f. Rawhide Land Partnership Paul Gifford Box Culvert

Jovan Lausterer prepared an agreement that the District provide \$55,000 to the City of Fremont for the construction of a box culvert for Paul Gifford in his housing area. Paul Gifford has declined the offer and we will now put it in his court to make a decision on what and how he wants to accomplish this project. Gifford has stated he wants the drive (culvert) further north on our wider, deeper ditch. The District does not agree.

The Committee would like to hear from Lausterer regarding the original agreement and how specific it may be regarding the location of this box culvert.

6.B.4. ROCK AND JETTY

6.B.5. EROSION & SEDIMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

6.B.6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

6.B.6.a. Information

6.B.6.a.1. Radio & eAds

The KTIC radio ad and the Wahoo Newspaper eAd will focus on tree orders. Both ads will run through March.

6.B.6.a.2. 2017 County Fairs

We have received the exhibitor application/contract for the 2017 Platte County Fair (July 5th-9th). The booth cost is \$220.

In 2016, we had booths at Platte, Butler, Colfax, and Saunders County fairs. The interns with NRCS attended and passed out NRD/NRCS materials.

2017 county fair dates:

- Platte County: July 5th-9th
- Boone County: July 8th-12th
- Madison County: July 11th-16th
- Butler County: July 18th-23rd
- Colfax County: July 19th-23rd
- Saunders County: July 23rd-July 30th
- Dodge County: August 16th-20th

6.B.6.a.3. 2017 Long Range Plan

The Long Range Plan has been completed for fiscal year 2017. A copy of the document has been distributed to all directors.

6.B.6.b. Education

6.B.6.b.1. Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Program Scholarship

Destiny Johnson and Joseph O'Brien received the 2016 Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Program Scholarship. Both students submitted their first semester transcripts and have met the requirements for receiving the \$1,000 scholarship. The awards have been mailed to each student.

6.B.6.b.2. Soil & Water Stewardship Week

Soil & Water Stewardship Week is April 30th-May 7th. The 2017 theme is "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life". Order forms have been sent via email to elementary schools in the district.

6.B.6.b.3. Test Your Well Night

East Butler

Test Your Well Night at East Butler High School was on February 8th in partnership with the East Butler FFA Chapter and the Lower Platte South NRD. TePoel and Schomer attended with Lower Platte South NRD staff, Adam Sutton, Environmental Education Assistant, and Ryan Rezac, Water Resources Compliance Specialist. There were around 30 attendees and the students tested 46 water samples.

Bishop Neumann

Test Your Well Night at Bishop Neumann High School was on February 22nd in partnership with the FFA Chapter. TePoel, Schomer, and Benal attended. There were around 38 participants and the students tested 62 water samples.

6.B.6.c. Computer

6.B.7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

6.B.7.a. Colon System

Water samples were taken, delivered to State and returned clean. Quarterly sewer billing charges will be developed this month for Colon and deducted from our payment to the village after the end of March.

Monthly billings have been totaled and sent out to customers.

Our department has been contacted by two potential new customers along the line.

Work should be completed later this month to repair dead-end service line on Oak street.

6.B.7.b. Bruno System

Water samples were taken, delivered to State and returned clean.

Bills have been totaled and sent out.

6.B.7.c. Other

6.C. Water Committee - Action as Required

6.C.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business from last Water Committee.

6.C.2. REGULATORY

6.C.2.a. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

6.C.2.a.1. Variance Request in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

6.C.2.a.1.A. Rohwer Variance Application

The District received a letter, signed by Keith Rohwer and David Woita, relinquishing variance LPN-V-013-0312 for 100 acres approved at the October 2016 Board meeting. The approved acres in the Hydrologically Connected Area for 2017 is now 2389.52. The Board has the authority to approve up to 2500 per year.

Attached is the submitted letter from Mr. Rohwer and Mr. Woita as well as the HCA spreadsheet from the October Board meeting.

6.C.2.a.2. Variance Requests in the Non-Hydrologically Connected Area (Normal Development Area)

No new updates.

6.C.2.a.3. Variance Requests in the Restricted Development Areas

Martin Erickson is asking the Water Committee to review the variance condition regarding the size of the monitoring well that is to be drilled on the northwest boundary of the field. Staff recommends a 4" well to allow adequate room for a dedicated sampling pump as well as a data logger. Mr. Erickson would like to have a 2" well drilled instead of the 4". The well will be approximately 220' and the cost is \$6.50/ft for a 2" well and \$15.00/ft for a 4" well. This results in a cost savings of ~\$1,870 for Mr. Erickson.

Due to the variable water quality that is present in the Dakota aquifer, staff feels that a 4 inch diameter well is required in order to allow proper monitoring of the water quality and quantity in the aquifer. The diameter of a dedicated pump is at least 1.5 inches leaving little room for water flow around the pump itself. In addition the diameter of the connecting cables needs to be taken into account, to again allow adequate water flow within the pump casing of the monitoring well.

The Committee members discussed this and took no action to modify the variance condition for a 4 inch diameter monitoring well.

6.C.2.a.4. Well Permit Program

6.C.2.a.4.A. Well Permits Approved

Wells Permits Approved: 5

| Landowner | Number Of Wells | Number Of New Irrigated Acres | Type Of Well | County | Subarea |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Rainer Resource Holdings 1 | 1 | 0 | Irrigation | Saunders | Todd Valley |
| Brian Stuart | 1 | 34 | Irrigation | Butler | Bellwood |
| Fremont Health | 1 | - | Dewatering | Dodge | Fremont |
| Charles Divis | 1 | 65.84 | Irrigation | Saunders | Todd Valley |
| Martin Erickson | 1 | 151 | Irrigation | Saunders | Swedeburg |

The total number of approved permits for 2017 is 7

Location of Approved Well Permits for 2017: Correct as of 2/1/2017

| County | Irrigation - New | Irrigation - Replacement | Stock | Commercial | Municipal | Other | Total |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Butler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Colfax | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dodge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Boone | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Madison | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Platte | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Saunders | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 |

6.C.2.a.4.B. David Rasmussen Well Permit

David Rasmussen is requesting a new well to irrigate 0 new acres in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 7, T20N, R4W, Upper Newman Grove Subarea, Platte County. The ground was previously irrigated from well G-148938, but due to a family discrepancy, he can no longer irrigate the 62.4 certified irrigated acres with this well. Attached is the well log from G-148938 as well as a map of the field in question.

6.C.2.a.4.C. Kment Well Permit Application

Dave Kment is requesting a new well for 0 new acres in the NW1/4 SE1/4 S34-T17N-R3E Octavia Subarea, Butler County. The new well will help supplement

well G-162426 which currently irrigates 86.59 certified irrigated acres. Attached is the well log from G-162426 as well as a map of the field in question.

6.C.2.a.5. Special Quantity Subareas

Butler Saunders SQS Area (SQS #1)

There are 30 irrigation wells in this area. 25 of these have a flow meter; the other five wells were not used in 2016. All 25 flow meter reporting forms have been returned. Angle has completed the allocation calculations for these wells. 2017 will be the third year of their allocation for this SQS area.

Platte-Colfax SQS Area (SQS #2)

Flow meter cost-share applications continue to be received. Flow meter reporting forms are also being returned – reports for about 30 registered irrigation wells are yet to be received. Reporting deadline was November 1, 2016. Staff is working on allocation calculations.

6.C.2.a.6. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition (LPRBC)

No new updates.

6.C.2.a.7. Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan - LENRD and LPNRRD

Staff met with Amy Zoller of DNR on February 23, 2017 and discussed our V-IMP between our two agencies. LPNRRD would like to move forward with our plan and no longer wait on possible changes involving the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition (LPRBC). These changes (such as water transfers) will be incorporated into our V-IMP at a later date. Since our V-IMP will only cover the hydrologically connected portions of our District, this V-IMP will be a subset of the District wide GWMA. Some changes were made to the current V-IMP plan and these will be taken back to DNR for further review.

6.C.2.a.8. Cost Share Programs

6.C.2.a.8.A. Irrigation Well Sample Kits

A couple of requests have been received for 2017. Kits will be mailed out prior to the irrigation season.

6.C.2.a.8.B. Flow Meter Maintenance Program

For our meter maintenance program via our contract we are responsible for providing the cable and crimper tools that are needed to make sure the meters are not tampered with. In order for this to happen we need the steel stainless twist sealing cable, 5 crimper tools, the lead seals, and also the die engravers that are used in the crimpers to stamp on the lead seals. The crimper tool will engrave the LPN logo and year it was inspected with the engraved dies. We contacted McCrometer

for the order and the order has been placed. The total price for these items is \$1562.10. Since we are inspecting a 1/4 of the meters per year we will need to purchase 4 more die engraved seals in 2021. The die engraved seals that were purchased on this order are for the years of 2017-2020.

The contract between the LPNNRD and Tri-Cities Meter Inc. has been sent to our contractor for their review (see attached contract).

6.C.2.a.8.C. Flow Meter Cost Share in SQS #2

6.C.2.a.8.C.1. Question on Flow Meter Cost Share Program

Mark Luchsinger has submitted a flow meter cost share application for improvements to his 2005 flow meter to bring it up to LPNNRD approved flow meter requirements. He installed anti-reverse, changed units on the register from gallons to acre inches, etc. for a total cost of \$538.50.

Points of discussion:

- Water comm. currently cost-share on flow meters previously installed. This meter was installed in 2005 so we could pay him \$770 which is from the WSF.
- Pay him 60% of \$538.50 or \$323.10 (which is from WSF).
- If part of our FMMP, cost of parts are to be paid by producer. LPNNRD share would be for site visit and labor by Tri-City meters, but contract not signed yet. Therefore \$0 to Mr. Luchsinger.

After some discussion the Committee members felt that Mr. Luchsinger showed a good faith effort in upgrading his existing flow meter at a lower cost of \$538.50 when purchase of a new flow meter would have cost \$770 in cost share funds.

6.C.2.a.8.C.2. Flow Meter Cost Share in SQS #2

A second mailing was sent to producers in January to encourage them to take advantage of this cost-share program. We have had a little up-tick in the number of applications received as a result.

As of February 28, 2017 we have received a total of 175 applications. Several of these still need to be inspected to insure that the meter is installed properly. Seven well sites have applied for 2 meters each, but following motion of the Water Committee, only one meter per irrigation system will receive funding. Therefore, for the March 13, 2017 Board Meeting, we will have a total of 8 cost-share applications to approve.

| Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 8 inch meters | 6 x 8" meters or 6 x \$770 = \$4,620 |
| 6 inch meters | 2 x 6" meters or 2 x \$577 = \$1,154 |
| WSF Total | \$5,774 |

| | |
|--|---|
| | So Running Total WSF Grant = \$118,188 of \$200,000 grant |
| | So Remaining Total of WSF Grant = \$81,812 |

| LPNNRD For GWEL Cooperators | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8 inch meter | 1 x 8" meters or 1 x \$230 = \$230 |
| 6 inch meter | 0 x 6" meters or 0 x \$172 = \$0 |
| Carry over (8 inch meter) | 0 x 8" meter or 0 x \$230= \$0 |
| LPNNRD Total | \$230 |

| Total For Flow Meter Cost Share Program | |
|--|--|
| WSF & LPNNRD | For approval at March 13, 2017 Board Meeting = \$6,004 |

Staff plan to send in our first reimbursement request for our Flow Meter cost share grant to the WSF later this week. The request will be for \$96,226.

6.C.2.a.8.C.3. Expansion of Flow Meter Cost Share Program

We have seven applications that were recently received (which still need processing) and all of these are 8 inch meters. If later approved this would make the running total for our WSF grant with ~\$76,400 remaining. Staff recommends opening this up the SQS #1 producers. We will need to go back to the WSF to get their approval.

6.C.2.a.8.C.4. No Flow Meter Installed in SQS #2

Letters and cost share forms were sent to the nine producers (on 12 irrigation wells) who have not yet installed flow meters (see attached list). As of March 1, 2017 one of these people has applied for cost share, Lawrence Kasik. Cease & Desist action should be considered on the other individuals and whether or not we want to impose an acre inch penalty for not installing a flow meter last irrigation season.

The average water use in SQS #2 was around 4.5 to 5 acre inches during the summer of 2016. Committee members discussed imposing a water use allocation penalty of 9 acre inches on those producers who failed to install flow meters.

6.C.2.a.9. Bellwood Phase 2 Area

2016 is the fourteenth year for this Phase 2 Area. Phase 2 information packets with order were mailed to producers in June, before the start of irrigation. This area was reduced from 32 sections to 21 sections in 2015.

| Year | Nitrate-Nitrogen Range | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2015 | 0 to 32.3 ppm | 43% (31 of 72) | 8% (6 of 72) | 49% (35 of 72) |
| 2016 | 0 to 35.1 ppm | 37% (25 of 68) | 12% (8 of 68) | 51% (35 of 68) |

Hough Farms water sample of G-065461 collected in August had a **93.6 ppm** result for G-065461. After talking with Tommy Hough it was determined that this sample was collected while they were chemigating at this well. Oaklund arranged with Tommy Hough to re-sample this well. The result of the second sample was 13.6 ppm, which is within the range of previous sample results (3.70 to 18.5 ppm). *[Note: The 93.6 result was removed from the above table.]*

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|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2015 | 0 to 32.3 ppm | 43% (31 of 72) | 8% (6 of 72) | 49% (35 of 72) |
| 2016 | 0 to 35.1 ppm | 34% (25 of 74) | 11% (8 of 74) | 55% (41 of 74) |

129 Annual Fertilizer Application Reports for 2016 have been received. Both Mike Ebel and Daryl Finecy have turned in reports. Oaklund spoke to Finecy regarding

reports for section 13. Finecy said that he didn't farm these tracts in 2016 as the owner, Stuart Gerhold, had a different tenant. Oaklund spoke with Gerhold on Friday and mailed the Phase 2 information to the tenant, Matt Mimick, on Monday after speaking with him on the phone.

6.C.2.a.10. Richland - Schuyler Phase 2 Area

2016 is the first year of this Phase 2 Area. There are 45 registered active irrigation wells in the ten sections of this new area.

| Year | Nitrate-Nitrogen Range | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2016 | 1.47 to 41.8 ppm | 29% (10 of 34) | 9% (3 of 34) | 62% (21 of 34) |

57 Annual Fertilizer Application Reports for 2016 have been received. Still awaiting reports from Chuck Emanuel, Brian Goff, and Mark Horejsi. Reporting deadline was December 31st.

6.C.2.a.11. Richland - Schuyler Phase 3 Area

2016 is the first year of this Phase 3 Area. This Phase 3 area went into effect September 1, 2015. The 55 sections of this area first went into a Phase 2 Area in 2004.

| Year | Nitrate-Nitrogen Range | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm | Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2015 | 0 to 53.3 ppm | 23% (55 of 238) | 12% (29 of 238) | 65% (154 of 238) |
| 2016 | 0 to 50.5 ppm | 25% (58 of 228) | 10% (22 of 228) | 65% (148 of 228) |

399 Annual Fertilizer Application Reports have been received. Reports from Dan Zoucha, Leander Rerucka, and Chad Sukstorf were received in February. Mark Horejsi still has not sent in his reports; he has reports for both of these Phase 2 areas. Report deadline is December 31st.

6.C.2.a.12. LPNNRD Operator Certification

6.C.2.a.12.A. LPNNRD Operator Certification Classes

Online testings in February:

| Cert # | Cert date | Name | Re-cert | Comments |
|--------|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|
| 6881 | 2/9/2017 | Kevin Tobin | No | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

2017 Certification Classes for Nitrogen and Water Management

| Class | Date & time | Location | Attend | First-Timers |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|
| # 1 | Thursday, January 5th @ 3:00 p.m. (after Corn Expo) | Fremont - Christensen Field | 36 | 6 |
| # 2 | Wednesday, January 18th @ 1:00 p.m. | ARDC - Mead | 42 | 12 |
| # 3 | Thursday, January 26th @ 1:30 p.m. | Columbus - Ag Park | 46 | 5 |
| | | | | |
| # 4 | Thursday, February 7th @ 9:30 a.m. | David City – Hruska Library | 28 | 3 |
| # 5 | Friday, February 10th @ 10:00 a.m. | Lindsay - Village Office | 22 | 5 |
| | | | | |
| # 6 | Wednesday, March 1st @ 9:30 a.m. | Columbus - Pinnacle Bank | 25 | 5 |
| #7 | Tuesday, March 7th @ 9:00 a.m. | Fremont - Extension Office | | |
| # 8 | Thursday, March 9th @ 1:30 p.m. | David City – Hruska Library | | |
| # 9 | Wednesday, March 15th @ 7:00 p.m. | ARDC - Mead | | |
| # 10 | Thursday, March 16th @ 7:00 p.m. | Columbus - Ag Park | | |

199 36

316 letters with class schedule for those expiring 4/1/2017 were mailed in December.

84 letters with class schedule for those that expired 4/1/2016 were mailed in December.

88 letters with class schedule for those that expired 4/1/2015 were mailed in December.

320 reminder letters for the March classes were mailed in February, after Lindsay class.

6.C.2.b. CHEMIGATION

The final summary report for 2016 is attached. Also attached is a chemigation procedural guideline that will help out to follow and be our standard operating procedure. There are different scenarios that are presented in the field when meeting and inspecting the permits with the certified applicators. This guideline is also attached.

Chemigation renewals will be mailed March 27, 2017 to the permit holders of the 573 approved permits. We have already received 2 renewal permits from a couple of individuals who always get them in early.

6.C.2.c. LIVESTOCK WASTE PERMITS

The LPNNRD has received no new livestock permit applications from DEQ since the last Water Committee meeting.

6.C.3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

6.C.3.a. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

6.C.3.a.1. Well Estimates

One new well has been reviewed and approved by Gottschalk for decommissioning since the last Committee meeting.

| Well Owner | Type of Well | Cost Share Estimate | County |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Morbach Inc. | 16" Irrigation well | \$654.34 | Butler |

6.C.3.a.2. Plugged Wells

No wells have been plugged, reviewed, or ready for cost share payment approval this month.

6.C.3.b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

6.C.3.b.1. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)

6.C.3.b.1.A. ENWRA Annual Membership

Attached is our Annual membership in ENWRA.

6.C.3.b.1.B. ENWRA Geo-Cloud Program

Attached is the latest Geo-Cloud contract with ENWRA. ENWRA obtained a grant from the WSF to fund the majority of money for the Geo-Cloud program. This will take all the AEM data collected in the State, C&SD test hole data, registered well logs of selected high capacity wells, NRD's ground water energy level

measurements, and MODFLOW software to model the aquifers in selected areas of Nebraska.

Denmark has already developed software to perform these mapping capabilities (called Geo-Scenes) and this project will now be designed to also work in Nebraska. Part of this program will allow the general public to create maps as well.

6.C.3.b.2. Lower Platte River Consortium

The latest meeting of the Lower Platte River Consortium met at LPSNRD on February 23, 2017. Agenda and minutes of the last meeting are attached. The next steps are to submit a work plan to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in February, an annual report to WSF, and obtaining property access for the instrumentation of river sites during the Spring of this year. The proposed monitoring sites are on the attached map.

6.C.3.c. GROUND WATER ENERGY LEVELS

Staff will begin the Spring readings from our GWEL network later this month.

6.C.3.d. WATER USE REPORTS

482 water use reports were sent out on 2/23/2017. Staff is recommending that all permits and variances that were approved prior to May 8th 2008 be excluded from future water use report mailings if they were only reporting the hours that the well was on. This makes up 43 of the 703 total reports. Also, efforts are being made to bring well permits and variances that have not installed a flow meter into compliance.

6.C.4. OTHER

6.C.4.a. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

6.D. Projects Committee - Action as Required

6.D.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business to report.

6.D.2. SWCP

Gottschalk review the attached SWCP spreadsheet with the committee.

6.D.2.a. SWCP Application Approvals

None

6.D.2.b. SWCP Payments

None

6.D.2.c. SWCP Cancellations

None

6.D.2.d. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals

6.D.2.e. Wahoo Creek 319 Payments

Douglas Kavan Conservation work \$ 3,339.14

6.D.2.f. SWCP Policy Review

Once again is attached the draft SWCP Policy for committee review. Final input for changes will be presented at the March 30, 2017 Projects Committee for approval at the April 10, 2017 Board Meeting.

6.D.3. WATERSHEDS

6.D.3.a. Shell Creek Watershed

6.D.3.a.1. Shell Creek Environmental Enhancement Plan Implementation

Attached is the last invoice for \$443.92 toward our \$15,000 commitment to design the Kramer Shell Creek Bank Stabilization Project. We are hoping to begin construction on the Kramer Bank Stabilization Project this spring. We met with Elbert Traylor, NDEQ, and Colfax County Engineer Mark Mainelli on February 22 to discuss project funding and construction timelines.

6.D.3.a.2. Shell Creek Science Group Assistance

As you know, we have been assisting Newman Grove High School's Science Club for many years with helping purchase water testing supplies and equipment for their Shell Creek monitoring efforts. We have received their request for help with purchasing supplies and equipment for the 2017 sampling season. While the final cost were not exactly known at the time of the committee meeting, it is estimated the total will not exceed \$1,300. Since then we have received the actual estimate of 1,126.73 as attached to the Projects Committee Minutes.

6.D.3.b. Wahoo Creek Watershed

6.D.3.b.1. Wahoo Creek Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Update

On February 22, Miyoshi, Mountford, and Janel Kaufman from FYRA met with NRCS to discuss paperwork requirements needed for completing an RCPP agreement for Wahoo Creek Dam Sites 26 and 27. As mentioned, NRCS has agreed to contribute up to \$1.5 million (approximately 50%) on the total estimated \$3 million cost for

completing these two dams. We will continue to work with NRCS on a final agreement to bring to the Board by July, 2017.

6.D.3.b.2. Wahoo Creek FYRA Contract Approval for RCPP & WSF Tasks

As directed by the Board, last month FYRA Engineering presented a proposed scope of work for updating the Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan for Sites 26 and 27 as required by NRCs for our approved Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Attached is a contract proposal from FYRA for completing this work. Committee recommendation for approval is requested.

6.D.3.b.3. Water Creek Watershed Water Quality Plan Phase I

We are wrapping up the Wahoo Creek Watershed Water Quality Phase I grant with NDEQ which involved completing Wahoo Creek plan priority analysis with JEO and landowner conservation practices including lands for conservation contract payment. We will have received \$250,000 from NDEQ and received another \$115,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. In addition, NRCS provided at least another \$1.5 million in special Water Quality Initiative EQIP funds to landowners during the Phase I period.

As part of wrapping up Phase I, we have received a final \$354 invoice, as attached, from JEO that is part of an approved contract. While there is \$23,746 remaining for unfinished work under this contract, this work (establish stream monitoring sites) will not be completed by JEO under Phase I. These unused contract funds have been allocated toward landowner conservation projects and programs.

6.D.3.b.4. Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan Water Quality Plan Phase II

We met with NDEQ and Saunders County on February 22, 2017, to discuss funding and timelines for implementing the Wahoo Creek Watershed Water Quality Plan Phase II. NDEQ is completing a Project Implementation Plan to contribute \$400,000 for constructing several road dams (to replace old bridges) that will provide water quality and flood reduction benefits, lands for conservation and education in the Wahoo Creek Watershed. This funding will be combined with \$106,000 of Nebraska Environmental Trust Funds and local match from LPNNRD and Saunders County to complete project priorities.

6.D.4. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

6.D.4.a. LPRCA Monthly Report

The LPRCA Quarterly Meeting/Planning Retreat was held on February 24, 2017, at the National Guard Camp near Ashland. This meeting had several partner representatives present to discuss the future of the LPRCA. LPNNRD Directors Bob Clausen, Lon Olson, Jim McDermott, Don Veskerna were present along with LPNNRD staff, Miyoshi, Heimann and Mountford. Most the planning discussion revolved around how the LPRCA has been structured in the past, what projects it has been involved with and what

could be changed to keep all three NRD partners together. While most partners present supported staying in the Alliance, there was varying opinions on how this should be done. At the LPNNRD Directors Retreat, it was clear that there was little support for continuing with a full time LPRCA coordinator. Other partners at the planning meeting supported the need for a full time coordinator, so there was discussion on how the Alliance would be structured with only two NRD's contributing for a coordinator. Each NRD Board will need to make a decision on this matter in the upcoming weeks. The Projects Committee discussed their continued thoughts about our future LPRCA partnership and will share their thoughts with the full Board.

6.D.5. OTHER

6.D.5.a. Army COE 205 Projects

6.D.5.a.1. Fremont General Investigation Study

Narrative from Mike Sotak (first two paragraphs).

The majority of the look at the hydrologic records is near completion. The gage and subsequent skew analysis indicates that the design discharge could potentially be modified from 132k to somewhere between 104k and 114k cfs. The skew analysis would support a design discharge as low as 104k cfs (a 21.2% reduction), but some more aggressive arguments need to be made regarding skew. We are doing a preliminary analysis of the ice jam magnitude to ensure this will not dramatically change the numbers above. This will not provide the entire ice jam analysis required, but will give us confidence in these assessments.

The bottom line is that the news is good...we feel that this is close to the right answer. As the COE mentioned during the discussion in Fremont, the flood stage due to ice jams causes a significant amount of the flooding potential that the levees are designed to protect against. If after this work, you are comfortable with our analysis, we can discuss next steps which would include the ice jam assessment. We do feel that there are several differences in approach that we would take as compared with what the COE has done.

We will also have to look at the big picture and include Schuyler and North Bend some time, there is some question as to how to go about this politically.

6.D.5.a.2. Schuyler 205 Project

The Army Corp's of Engineers have completed a 1446 page operation and maintenance manual for the completed Shell Creek Levee. It has always been understood that the operation and maintenance of this project is the responsibility of the City of Schuyler. To clarify this responsibility between the local partners, we will be working toward forming an interlocal agreement with Schuyler to outline this responsibility.

6.D.5.b. Shell Creek Landowner Levee Project Update

6.D.5.c. Review of Projects Financial Statement

6.D.5.d. NRCS 2016 Federal EQIP Assistance in LPNNRD

Attached is the 2016 NRCS report for approved Environmental Quality Improvement Practice (EQIP) contracts approved in each NRD. In 2016, LPNNRD had 110 landowner contracts approved totaling \$1.734 million that involve 137,165 acres. Very impressive numbers indeed!

6.D.5.e. Review of LPNNRD Long Range Implementation Plan

The Projects committee is asked to review and discuss the portions of the Long Range Plan that are overseen by the committee. The O, E, & RW committee will forward a recommendation for Board approval of the plan.

6.D.5.f. NRCS/NRD Local Work Group Meeting

It was reported that the annual NRCS/NRD Local Work Group Meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2017, at the LPNNRD office in Wahoo. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate local resource concerns and make recommendations for the 2017 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) conservation incentive payments administered by NRCS. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

6.D.5.g. LPNNRD GPS Survey Equipment

The GPS survey equipment that we purchased 6 or 7 years ago for LPNNRD/NRCS use is outdated and requires costly repairs. This equipment has been used by LPNNRD and NRCS technicians for layout and design of landowner conservation practices. The equipment originally cost approximately \$72,000 which was shared by NRCS (50%), LPNNRD (25%) and the Shell Creek Watershed improvement Group (25%). The equipment is at the point of needing replacement with an updated version. It has been discussed that there may be the possibility for LPNNRD to give ownership of this old equipment to NRCS. In turn, they would upgrade the equipment at no cost to LPNNRD. Since our Conservation Technician is the one presently using this old equipment, it would be to LPNNRD's advantage to turn over ownership to NRCS.

6.D.6. WESTERN SARPY/CLEAR CREEK LEVEE REPORT

It was reported that a meeting will be held to discuss the fuse plug portion of the project located on National Guard Camp property and prepare for having O&M responsibility turned over to LPNNRD. We are still waiting for the Army Corp's to complete the Operations and Maintenance manual for our portion of the project in Saunders County.

7. Additional Action Items

7.A. Wahoo Creek Watershed 319 Grant Approvals

| <u>Lands for Conservation Approvals - Summer 2017:</u> | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Pat Bartek | 80 acres | \$ 15,876.00 |
| Ray Urban | 70 acres | \$ 13,230.00 |
| Jerome Urban | 25 acres | \$ 4,725.00 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Tim Bartek | 80 acres | \$ 15,120.00 |
| Mark Kaspar | 20 acres | \$ 3,780.00 |
| Steve Vasa | 25 acres | \$ 4,725.00 |
| Larry Pacula | 30 acres | \$ 5,670.00 |
| Larry Pacula | 10 acres | \$ 1,890.00 |
| Darrell Kubik | 10 acres | \$ 1,890.00 |
| Darrell Kubik | 10 acres | \$ 1,890.00 |
| Darrell Kubik | 77 acres | \$14,553.00 |
| George Wonka | 22 acres | \$ 4,158.00 |
| Robert Hedges | 25 acres | \$ 4,725.00 |
| Tim Kastl | 20 acres | \$ 3,780.00 |
| Tim Kastl | 15 acres | \$ 2,835.00 |
| John Sousek | 20 acres | \$ 3,780.00 |
| William Laughridge | 22 acres | <u>\$ 4,158.00</u> |
| | TOTAL LFC: | \$106,785.00 |

7.B. Novacek Water Transfer

Dennis Novacek is converting a field to drip irrigation. As part of this change he wishes to transfer five corners from other fields to square off the drip field. The existing well will be used for the entire field. See attached narrative and maps prepared by Chris Poole. He wishes to complete this work prior to planting this spring.

8. Approval of Bills Pending

9. Consent Agenda Adoption

10. Comments from Directors/Guests

11. Meeting Establishment/Adjournment

NOTE: The agenda is on file at the LPNNRD office and may be changed up to 24 hours prior to the meeting as scheduled.