

Projects Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 28, 2017 8:00 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to address.

2. SWCP

Sean Elliott reviewed the status of SWCP funding as attached to the Projects Committee Minutes.

2.A. SWCP Application Approvals

2.B. SWCP Payments

17-S-24 Marian Vermeline - TOT/wascb - \$12,500

2.C. SWCP Cancellations

None

2.D. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals

None

2.E. Approval of 2018 Cost Share Docket

NRCS has completed the 2018 cost share docket and the Land for Conservation recommended payments which will be addressed at the February 1st Projects Committee meeting.

3. WATERSHEDS

3.A. Shell Creek

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

Project I Program Payments:

Loren Hellbusch Septic System Payment (\$4,698.72 x 60% up to \$3,000) : \$2,819.23

Rick Hellbusch Septic System Payment (\$6,223.46 x 60% up to \$3,000) : \$3,000

Lee Osten Septic System Payment (\$6,343.76 x 60% up to \$3,000): \$3,000

Schieffer Signs, INC for Shell Creek Signage: \$1,115

3.A.2. Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group Planning Meeting Report

On December 14, 2017, a Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Advisory Group Planning Meeting was held in Schuyler to discuss next project directions now that the Kramer Shell

Creek Bank Stabilization Project is mostly complete, by Kohl Construction. Director Bailey mentioned that the process for the next project (Hamata) could begin fairly soon. At the meeting, there was discussion that the next project could be completed as a contract amendment with Kohl using the same unit prices as used for the Kramer Project. Since this project will be funded entirely with our approved 319 grant funding, Mountford confirmed with NDEQ that a contract amendment with Kohl would be accepted as part of a continuation of the Kramer Project.

3.A.3. Shell Creek Coordinator Resignation

Melissa Foreman, who has been the Shell Creek Coordinator for over five years has submitted her resignation effective December 31, 2017. Melissa has been a great asset to SCWIG and LPNNRD and will be missed.

3.B. Wahoo Creek Watershed

3.B.1. Wahoo Creek RCPP Meetings Report

LPNNRD and FYRA engineering (with NRCS guidance) held agency and public meetings on December 7, 2017, to educate and obtain feedback as part of the project scoping process for completing two Wahoo Creek floodwater reduction/water quality dams, Sites 26 & 27. The meetings were well attended, receiving many good comments and questions. There was also much discussion on future planning and design of the remaining eight dams as identified in the 1998 Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan. LPNNRD will proceed with hiring an engineering firm to complete watershed planning and will also start the process of hiring a firm to permit and design the two dams in 2018.

3.B.2. Water Sustainability Fund Agreement Approval for Wahoo Creek Dam Sites 26 & 27

We have received the Nebraska Water Sustainability Fund Grant Award Agreement from, NDNR as attached. The agreement has been reviewed by our legal council and a committee recommendation to approve the agreement to receive \$2,269,194 to use toward Wahoo Creek Dam Sites 26 & 27 is requested.

3.B.3. Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan Completion

As reported at the last committee and Board meeting, NRCS has approved additional funding through the federal P.L. 566 program for completing a watershed plan update (\$575,000) and design (\$1.3 million) for the remaining eight Wahoo Creek Dams originally planned in 1998. FYRA prepared the P.L. 566 application and has been contracted to complete the watershed plan for Wahoo Creek Sites 26 & 27.

Mike Sotak & Janel Kaufman, FYRA, gave a presentation at the November 30 Projects Committee meeting about providing services to complete the watershed planning for the remaining eight dams and incorporate their completed planning work on dam sites 26 & 27. After the presentation, the Committee discussed the advantages of continuing with FYRA to complete a total watershed plan to include their work on Sites 26 & 27 plus the planning for the remainder of the watershed. As discussed, the planning effort needs to begin soon because it will take about a year to complete. The committee made the following

recommendation: "To have FYRA present a contract for Board consideration for continuing with completing a holistic Wahoo Creek Watershed plan to include the evaluation of the remaining eight floodwater reduction dams as identified in the original 1998 plan. This is all contingent on formal approval of NRCS's funding agreement for planning assistance not to exceed \$575,000".

Mike Sotak, FYRA, and Kevin Gustafson, NRCS were present at the December 11 Board meeting to answer questions regarding NRCS's P.L. 566 program. Mike Sotak, also submitted a potential contract to proceed with Wahoo Creek Watershed planning for the remaining structure sites (attached). The Board decided that they didn't need to take action on this item until NRCS prepares a P.L. 566 funding agreement,

The Executive Committee will also be updated on approving a contract with FYRA to complete a holistic Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan contingent on the approval of NRCS's funding agreement, which may be available at the January 8, 2017, Board meeting. Once the watershed plan is completed, our plan is to begin the process for sending our requests for proposals to engineering firms to complete permitting and design tasks for sites 26 & 27 and also for the remaining dams. It is presently understood that the costs for completing the planning process for the eight remaining dams will be provided by NRCS through their P.L. 566 program.

The Projects Committee reviewed the proposed contract and gave suggested changes which will be included and discussed by FYRA at the January 8th Board Meeting.

4. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

No new information to report.

5. Erosion & Sediment Rules & Regulations

Sean Elliott discussed the current status of NRD Sediment & Erosion complaints:

- Allan Kaspar - Elliott met with Allan and son, Mike, to observe his complaints with various neighbors. Elliott advised both Allan and Mike to first make contact personally and if issues couldn't be resolved then they should pursue actions through FSA's Farm Programs compliance section. As of today there has been no official determination.

-Connie Cronin - Bob Heimann originally addressed this case; I have followed up with the correspondence that he sent and am awaiting a return call.

6. OTHER

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Projects Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.