

Operations & Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 8:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. O, E & RW Committee Chairman & Vice Chair

Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chair need to take place for the O, E & RW Committee.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to take action.

3. WILD NE/CREP REPORT

Nothing to report on either program.

4. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The O & M crew spent time removing snow, cleaning and organizing the shop area, maintenance and cleaning of vehicles, and removing and piling more volunteer trees in the problem area at Lake Wanhoo.

Heimann re-certified his pesticide applicators license.

4.A. Lake Wanhoo SRA

District staff met with G & P staff for our annual expense and revenue meeting on Thursday, February 15. The District had expenses of approximately \$38,000 and G & P expenses of \$106,830 totaling \$144,830. Game & Parks reported revenue of \$146,848 giving them a revenue surplus of \$40,018 for the SRA. We are uncertain if we can put these surplus dollars toward our expenses or deposit it into our Wanhoo account as we did last year (discussion needed). We will leave the budget at the same level as the 2017 season.

Lake Wanhoo continues to be very busy with ice fishing. Staff continues to assist with the restrooms on the area.

4.B. Fremont 205 Study and Platte River Flood Plain Mapping

We are waiting for a letter of request from the Corps of Engineers for the \$175,000 they need to finish the Non-structural Study. The Amendment #3 passed by our Board needs to be approved by Dodge County, City of Fremont and Inglewood.

Regarding the Flood Plain Study, the District needs to coordinate a letter(s) of request/support from communities and counties along the Platte River from Columbus to Ashland requesting that the Silver Jackets organization request funding to do the Hydraulic Study after the completed Hydrology Study.

4.C. Grass Drill Revenues

The District received grass drill revenues from Rosendahl Seed and Feed in Platte County of \$3,197.50 for all of 2017 and from Schuyler Coop \$1,532.78 from July - December 2017.

4.D. Tractor & Shredding Rate

The District's tractor/shredding rate is \$60/hour. This rate was established in 2006. Should we consider raising our rate?

Staff generated these cost estimates: Our tractor cost per hour is approximately \$28, a man at \$25/hr, Fuel at \$5/hr = \$58 Add a rental cost for use of the shredder at \$10, there is also insurance coverage. Could we justify a rental cost of \$65 - \$70/hour.

UNL 2016 Neb Guide: For Tractor Rental of a 150-199 PTO H.P. tractor (minus fuel & operator) the average rental rate for Eastern Nebraska is \$57.50 for a tractor of 200 & above PTO the average rate is \$62.80.

4.E. 2018 Corners for Wildlife Program

Pheasant Forever's Corners for Wildlife was awarded another two year grant through Nebraska Environmental Trust for 2018 and 2019. The participating NRD's promote the program, plant trees and shrubs free of charge to the landowner when 400 or more are planted and Pheasant Forever reimburses the District, will place two project signs at all project sites, complete evaluation forms for the project and administer contract payments (Pheasant Forever sends the NRD funding and the District pays the landowner).

5. ROCK AND JETTY

The District has received an invoice from Jason Feala (Country Brothers LLC) for work accomplished on the Sharon Cody property along Platte River and Skull Creek in Saunders County. The invoice total is \$18,340. Extensive repair work had to be done to replace a small levee and severe erosion along the Platte River and in Skull Creek.

6. EROSION & SEDIMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

7. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

7.A. Information

7.A.1. Radio & eAds

The current KTIC Radio Ad and Wahoo Newspaper eAd are promoting the lawn care workshops, "Five Steps to a Beautiful Lawn" on March 1st and 13th. On March 14th, these ads will switch to promoting tree orders.

7.A.2. Pheasants Forever Donation Request

The Pheasants Forever Lower Platte chapter has sent a donation request for their annual

banquet on April 13th. They are requesting \$250 for overall banquet package merchandise. This request includes that the goal of the banquet is to raise funds that can be used to go back to Saunders County and the state to help with Open Fields and Waters, Wanahoo, Youth Hunts, Pollinator Programs, etc.

In 2017, \$250 was donated to the banquet in recognition of the partnership with the Pheasants Forever Lower Platte Chapter. The 2017 banquet program is attached.

7.A.3. LPNNRD Communications Plan

TePoel has put together an internal and external media relations plan. The proposed plan is attached. This would serve as an addition to the current Information & Education section of the LPNNRD General Operating Policies.

7.B. Education

7.B.1. May Committee Meeting

The May committee meeting falls on Wednesday, May 2nd. This is the same date as Spring Conservation Sensation, which is always planned on the first Wednesday in May. It is suggested to move the committee meeting to another date/time to accommodate staff and directors who are presenting or attending the event.

8. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

8.A. Colon System

8.B. Bruno System

8.C. Other

9. Adjournment