

Operations Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:00 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to consider for unfinished business.

2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Nothing to consider for Wildlife Programs.

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The O & M Crew is finishing watershed dam maintenance and inspections in the Bellwood Watershed. Started our mowing circuit, we began on Rawhide Ditch, moved to Ames and Cottoral Levee's and are now at Czechland Lake. Unplugged two Cottonwood Dam risers.

A. Clear Creek Levee Repair by Corps of Engineers

The repairs by the contractor under the Corps of Engineers is near 100%. A Pre-final inspection was conducted on Tuesday, July 28th. There will be a "Hit List" of items published after the inspection. Some final items to be accomplished are ROW markers, fencing and seeding.

This project repair has gone very well in working with the Contractor (Youngs) and the Corps of Engineers.

B. Wanhoo Stilling Basin - (FEMA)

The District needs to approve the Construction Observation portion of FYRA's contract. A previous Board motion approved FYRA to do Project Management, Final Design, Permitting and Bidding which totaled \$73,021.00. The Construction Observation cost is \$62,524.00, (see attachment).

The District advertised for repairs to the Wanhoo Stilling Basin for three consecutive weeks. Bids were due by 2:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28th and opened. We received two bids, Valley Corporation \$1,452,069.27 and M.E. Collins \$1,475,330.80 a difference of \$23,261.53. See Mike Sotak's letter of recommendation and bid tabulation attached.

The process moving forward;

1. Committee make recommendation to Board to accept low bid from Valley Corporation,
2. Committee makes recommendation to Board to approve construction observation under FYRA's contract.
3. Board accepts low bid, approves FYRA contact item for construction observation

- and authorizes FYRA to issue Notice of Award,
4. Contractor begins to acquire insurance, bonds, etc. and processes contract,
 5. Board authorizes FYRA to work w/ contractor on cost saving ideas,
- Once signed contract and required bonds/insurance are received, Board issues Notice to Proceed,
6. Contractor begins work.

Chris Poole has notified FEMA regarding the bids coming in higher than our Engineers Estimate, approximately \$472,000. FEMA told us it will be covered at 75% of actual cost but we must work closely with NEMA when we close out the project. We must take this information somewhat cautiously. If we can't obtain 75%, we can possibly use other FEMA Funding from other Project repairs that we didn't use.

The District's cost if FEMA/NEMA fund 75% of Engineering and Construction would be approximately \$396,904.

C. Cottonwood 21-A Emergency Spillway

Heimann met with Saunders Co. Highway representatives and Mark Mainelli, P.E. to discuss the potential solutions in addressing the elevation problems on this road structure dam. Mainelli will design solutions and forward them to NDNR Dam Safety. He will also develop an interlocal agreement for the District and Saunders County.

Saunders County will provide engineering services and construction over site and the District may have to solicit bids for the construction work if the County declines.

D. Community Forestry - Roll Call Veterans Memorial Newman Grove

Newman Grove American Legion Post 73 is requesting cost-share assistance for tree planting around their Roll Call Veteran's Memorial (see attachment). They would like to plant 8 six foot conifers around the memorial at an approximate cost of \$2,400.

The District's Community Forestry policy for cost share is 50% up to \$1,000.

E. Fremont Non-Structural 205 Study Update

From Chris Fassero Lead Planner/Project Manager COE. A draft report should begin the review process around 01 August, so we're about two months behind schedule however, we were able to put together a review team that has nonstructural experience, so we're hopeful that the review process will be streamlined by that. I'll send you another update once we're in review and we establish some review milestones.

The structures included in the final recommended nonstructural plan is summarized as follows:

Structures in Plan: 127
Average Annual Benefits: \$585,040
Average Annual Cost: \$463,546
Flood proofing Cost: \$12,514,441
Benefit-Cost Ratio: 1.26

Total Net Benefits: \$121,494

F. Grass Drill Revenue Saunders County

Rezac Seed sent in revenue of \$2,053.75 for the first half of 2020. Seventeen cooperators used the drill.

G. Wanahoo Property Dirt Sales

Calender year 2020, M.E. Collins has sent the District \$4,957.90. Since 2012 the District has received \$258,643.90.

4. ROCK AND JETTY

Don Medinger has requested cost-share assistance for repairs to his jetty system in Butler County on the Platte River. His invoice for work completed is \$6,000.

5. LAKE WANAHOO

A. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales

As of 7/29/2020, the District received \$6,102.50 in annual permit sales revenue for the month of July. In 2019 the District received \$7925.00.

YTD Totals:

2019: \$75,310.00

2020: \$86,215.00

B. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue

As of July 29, 2020, the District has generated appx. \$10,166.09 in gross camping revenue. The new cabins opened the first week of July and have already generated \$1000 in camping revenue.

6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

A. Information

1. Radio & eAds

We featured the recreation areas for our KTIC Radio ad and Wahoo Newspaper eAds during July. This week, the ad will be switched out with variance request information - see attached.

2. Lake Wanahoo Advertisement with News Channel Nebraska

LPNNRD purchased the "News Sponsorship" package with News Channel Nebraska for our Lake Wanahoo commercial. The commercial spot was a

30-second spot, with a 5-second spot showing the LPNNRD logo. During the month of June, the 30-second commercial was shown 12 times, with the 5-second spot showing LPNNRD logo shown 30. I have attached the time slots for all of June.

3. Analytics

Lake Wanahoo continues to remain the most viewed page of the website for 4 months now. The top 5 pages being viewed remains the same this month. We had a total of 1,489 users view the website which slowly continues to decline. We continue to see an increase of viewers using phones to view the website more than a desktop or laptop browser.

4. Month	5. # of Users	6. Top Pages/views	7. Viewing Device
8. October 2019	9. 710	10. Home 543 Lake Wanahoo 355 Staff 121 Czechland Lake 100 Contact 95	11. Desktop 58.73% Mobile 34.48% Tablet 4.79%
12. June 2020	13. 2,003	14. Lake Wanahoo 1,992 Home 1,008 Czechland Lake 574 Outdoor Recreation 344 Downloads 251	15. Mobile 51.7% Desktop 44.4% Tablet 3.9%
16. July 1-28 2020	17. 1,489	18. Lake Wanahoo 1,549 Home 712 Czechland Lake 281 Outdoor Recreation 218 Downloads 132	19. Mobile 54.64% Desktop 38.92% Tablet 6.44%

Our Facebook page continues to grow with followers. This month our top post was a couple photos of the new cabins and that they were open to rent (total views of 6,844). Other top posts included a promotional picture for Pork Chop Island (total views of 1,775) and a drought conditions map of Nebraska during mid-July from UNL (total views of 532).

21. Month	22. Total Views	23. Total Reach	24. Total Engaged Users	25. Followers
26. October 2019	27. 9,446	28. 6,772	29. 1,273	30. 873
31. June 2020	32. 3,399	33. 3,106	34. 147	35. 1,152
36. July 1-28, 2020	37. 10,795	38. 8,848	39. 1,467	40. 1,170

41.

Our Twitter page dropped one follower since last month. Our top posts for Twitter included the UNL drought conditions map (335 total views, 18 reactions), 4th of July post/office closed (199 total views) and reminder about irrigation sample kits (183 total views).

42. Month	43. Impressions	44. Engagements	45. Followers
46. October 2019	47. 3,707	48. 61	49. 300
50. June 2020	51. 3,029	52. 118	53. 331
54. July 1-28, 2020	55. 1,976	56. 100	57. 330

B. Education

1. Education Programs

We were informed earlier this week that Schuyler's Middle School Outdoor day scheduled for September will be postponed with hopes to reschedule in the spring.

The education flyer will be going out in the next few weeks to area schools. I am

not sure how this year's education programs will look, but we will look into options of creating videos, activities or materials that teachers can use in the classroom if visiting schools is not an option.

2. Wachiska Audobon Society

Tim Knott with the Wachiska Audubon Society will available by Zoom to discuss an upcoming proposal for a Prairie Habitat Manager.

The Lower Platte North NRD helped the Wachiska Audubon Society support the purchase of the 45-acre Fertig Prairie near Richland in 2016. The LPNNRD contributed 8,839.50.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

A. Colon System

Results from the lead and copper testing were distributed to participating residents and required reporting was sent to DHHS. No samples were above action levels. Monthly testing completed and bills will be mailed out 7/30.

B. Bruno System

Monthly testing completed and bills will be mailed out 7/30.

C. Other

1. NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr Visit to Nebraska

Our office was notified last week and confirmed on Tuesday of the NRCS Chief's visit to Nebraska on August 5th and 6th. While in the State, the Chief will be visiting one NRD and he has chosen Lower Platte North. The State NRCS office is excited to have the Chief visit and has scheduled a busy day beginning with a visit to LPNNRD and Lake Wanahoo. The draft itinerary is attached which has the Chief scheduled to be at the Wanahoo Education Building from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm on the 5th. While the NRCS would like to keep the attendance at a manageable number, they are extending an invitation to LPNNRD Directors and staff. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.



LPNNRD Lake Wanahoo Stilling Basin Rehab
Final Design/Permitting/Construction Phase
 FYRA Project # 022-19-01

Task Description	FYRA Engineering						BGC		Totals
	Principal Sotak, PE	Senior Engr Gregalunas, PE	Permitting Kaufman, PE	Asst Engr El (Varies)	Accounting	FYRA Expenses	Sr. Geotech Henderson, PE	BGC Expenses	
	\$205	\$180	\$150	\$105	\$75		\$297		
Project Management									
1.1 Client Meetings (2 Meetings)	8	4		8					
1.2 Monthly Invoicing & Project/Schedule Update (3 months)	3				6		2		
1.3 FEMA Coordination	12						6	\$500	
Project Management Task Total	\$4,715	\$720	\$0	\$840	\$450	\$0	\$2,376	\$500	\$9,601
Final Design									
2.1 Topographic Survey				24		700			
2.2 Hydraulic Analysis and Final Design Report	4	16		50			8		
2.3 Construction Documents and Specifications	12	12		100			16		
2.4 Final Opinion of Probable Costs	6			12					
Final Design Task Total	\$6,560	\$5,040	\$0	\$19,530	\$0	\$700	\$10,098	\$0	\$41,928
Permitting									
3.1 Coordination with USACE			4						
3.2 Wetland Delineation/OHWM Field Work and Reporting			1	12					
3.3 Preparation and Submittal of Section 404 Nationwide Permit			4	24					
3.4 NDNR Dam Safety Coordination and Permitting	10	4					12	\$600	
Permitting Task Total	\$2,050	\$720	\$1,350	\$3,780	\$0	\$0	\$3,564	\$600	\$12,064
Bidding									
4.1 Pre-Bid Coordination and Meeting	16			16			4		
4.2 Project Bidding	8								
4.3 LPNNRD Board Approval and Recommendation	8								
Bidding Task Total	\$6,560	\$0	\$0	\$1,680	\$0	\$0	\$1,188	\$0	\$9,428
Construction Observation									
5.1 Pre-Construction Meeting	4			4		100			
5.2 Construction Observation (6 weeks)	60			300	8	1,800	12		
5.3 Construction Reporting	8			24					
5.4 Final Walkthrough	6			10					
5.5 As-Built Drawings	2			16					
5.6 NDNR/FEMA Certifications	6			4					
5.7 O&M Manual/EAP Modifications	4			4					
Construction Observation Task Total	\$18,450	\$0	\$0	\$38,010	\$600	\$1,900	\$3,564	\$0	\$62,524
								Total:	\$135,545

Approved 73,021.00



29 July 2020

Eric Gottschalk, General Manager – **via email**

Eric and LPNNRD Board of Directors:

The bid opening for the above-referenced project was held at the LPNNRD on 28 July 2020. The low bid of \$1,452,069.27 was received from Valley Corp. and was above the engineer's estimate of \$980,149 by \$471,920.67. One other bid was submitted by ME Collins Contracting which was \$1,475,330.80 and can be viewed on the attached bid tabulations.

After a review of the bids, I have the following assessments:

1. The project is a very unique project with little to no similar projects from which to draw comparative bid prices from.
2. The current construction climate has contractors extremely busy which leads to higher bids.
3. There is a fair amount of uncertainty in this project, given the wet conditions and uncertainty in what is below.
4. The unit prices appear to be higher than even I estimated in the current bidding climate. Analyzing the low bid, their bid was under my estimate on fixed quantity items such as the amount of sheet pile, concrete baffle blocks, soil anchors, etc. This allows them to place additional profit in other items such as the aggregate and rock riprap that needs to be placed. For that reason, quantities will need to be watched carefully during construction.
5. A project with very specific bid items makes it easy for Contractors to recognize when there is not likely to be many bids and this can lead to higher bid prices.
6. The stigma of this project receiving federal funds often leads to higher bid prices.
7. The schedule is tight, in an effort to make repairs prior to next Spring's runoff season. This can lead to higher bid prices.

Valley Corp has provided a list of subcontractors and suppliers (attached). They have also indicated that they can begin the project by November of 2020 and complete it by May of 2021. ME Collins indicated a similar schedule (see both Bid Forms.) Re-bidding the project allowing for a longer construction period may yield lower bid prices, but similar efforts by other NRDs recently did not yield lower bids. This also takes on the risk of another rainy season with the stilling basin unprotected.

I am familiar w/ Valley Corp's work and find them to be a quality, reputable contractor. I would say the same about ME Collins. Based on the lower bid, my recommendation is to award the project to Valley Corp. and begin the contracting process upon Board approval and in the meantime, allow me to work with Valley Corp to try and find cost reduction strategies. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sotak', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael K. Sotak, P.E., D.WRE

PROJECT: Wanhoo Dam Stilling Basin Rehabilitation
 BY: FYRA Engineering

SUMMARY TABLE OF QUANTITIES				Engineer's Opinion		Valley Corp.		Variance	ME Collins		Variance
BID ITEM	BASE BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNITS	QUANTITY	Unit Price	Cost	Unit Price	Cost		Unit Price	Cost	
1	MOBILIZATION	LS	1	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 143,499.29	\$ 143,499.29	93,499.29	\$ 130,690.00	\$ 130,690.00	80,690.00
2	SWPPP	LS	1	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 44,553.60	\$ 44,553.60	39,053.60	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	4,500.00
3	WATER HANDLING	LS	1	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 123,587.11	\$ 123,587.11	93,587.11	\$ 142,960.00	\$ 142,960.00	112,960.00
4	EXCAVATION	CY	400	\$ 20	\$ 8,000	\$ 60.14	\$ 24,056.00	16,056.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 13,200.00	5,200.00
5	FILTER MIX 1 AGGREGATE	TN	1384	\$ 120	\$ 166,080	\$ 184.37	\$ 255,168.08	89,088.08	\$ 66.00	\$ 91,344.00	(74,736.00)
6	FILTER MIX 2 AGGREGATE	TN	1148	\$ 120	\$ 137,760	\$ 156.68	\$ 179,868.64	42,108.64	\$ 94.00	\$ 107,912.00	(29,848.00)
7	SHEET PILE	SF	2072	\$ 100	\$ 207,200	\$ 73.93	\$ 153,182.96	(54,017.04)	\$ 99.00	\$ 205,128.00	(2,072.00)
8	PRESSURE GROUTING	CY	175	\$ 350	\$ 61,250	\$ 608.97	\$ 106,569.75	45,319.75	\$ 1,008.00	\$ 176,400.00	115,150.00
9	CONCRETE BAFFLE	CY	74	\$ 1,400	\$ 103,600	\$ 1,051.66	\$ 77,822.84	(25,777.16)	\$ 2,731.00	\$ 202,094.00	98,494.00
10	BAFFLE REINFORCEMENT	LBS	1596.2	\$ 3	\$ 4,789	\$ 5.96	\$ 9,513.35	4,724.75	\$ 4.00	\$ 6,384.80	1,596.20
11	PRE-FABRICATED STEEL PLATE FOR BAFFLE	LF	85	\$ 200	\$ 17,000	\$ 119.69	\$ 10,173.65	(6,826.35)	\$ 132.00	\$ 11,220.00	(5,780.00)
12	APRON ANCHOR BOLTS	EA	16	\$ 1,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 410.81	\$ 6,572.96	(9,427.04)	\$ 955.00	\$ 15,280.00	(720.00)
13	HDPE GABION	EA	14	\$ 599	\$ 8,386	\$ 9,701.95	\$ 135,827.30	127,441.30	\$ 13,053.00	\$ 182,742.00	174,356.00
14	GABION ANCHORING SYSTEM - PERCUSSION DRIVEN ANCHORS	EA	14	\$ 900	\$ 12,600	\$ 672.25	\$ 9,411.50	(3,188.50)	\$ 1,493.00	\$ 20,902.00	8,302.00
15	GABION ANCHORING SYSTEM - DEADMAN/CABLE SYSTEM	EA	2	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,359.81	\$ 12,719.62	(7,280.38)	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 20,600.00	600.00
16	REMOVE & SALVAGE ROCK RIPRAP	TN	247.2	\$ 95	\$ 23,484	\$ 31.43	\$ 7,769.50	(15,714.50)	\$ 10.00	\$ 2,472.00	(21,012.00)
17	PLACE NEW ROCK RIPRAP	TN	900	\$ 105	\$ 94,500	\$ 131.80	\$ 118,620.00	24,120.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 118,800.00	24,300.00
18	INSTALL PIEZOMETERS	EA	2	\$ 7,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 6,552.00	\$ 13,104.00	(896.00)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	(2,000.00)
19	SEEDING	AC	1.53	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,240	\$ 13,104.00	\$ 20,049.12	7,809.12	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,202.00	(7,038.00)
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION				\$ 980,149	\$ 980,149	\$ 1,452,069.27	\$ 1,452,069.27	471,920.67	\$ 1,475,330.80	\$ 1,475,330.80	495,182.20

**SECTION 00410
BID FORM**

Project: **Wanahoo Dam Stilling Basin Rehabilitation**
Place: **Saunders County, Nebraska**
Date: 07/27/20

1. In compliance with your REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS dated July 13, 2020, and subject to all conditions thereof, the undersigned Valley Corporation, a Corporation incorporated in the State of Nebraska, hereby proposes to furnish and do everything required by the Contract Documents to which this refers at the lump sum or unit prices shown for each bid item on the following Bid Schedule. (The Bid Schedule lists the various divisions of construction contemplated in the Contract Documents, together with an estimate of the units of each for unit price items. With these units as the basis for unit cost items, the bidder will extend each item, using the cost he inserts in the unit column. Any total cost found inconsistent with the unit cost when the bids are examined will be deemed in error and corrected to agree with the unit cost which shall be considered correct.)

2. The undersigned bidder does hereby declare and stipulate that this proposal is made in good faith, without collusion or connection with any other person or persons bidding for the same Work, and that it is made in pursuance of and subject to all the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid and Instructions to Bidders, the Agreement, the Contract Drawings, and the Specifications pertaining to the Work to be done, all of which have been examined by the undersigned.

3. The undersigned has examined the location of the proposed Work, the Drawings, Specifications, and other Contract Documents and is familiar with the local conditions at the place where the Work is to be performed.

4. The undersigned bidder agrees to execute the Agreement and a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond for the amount of the total of this Bid within ten (10) calendar days from the date when the written Notice of the Award of the Agreement is delivered to him at the address given on this Bid. The name and address of the corporate surety with which the Bidder proposes to furnish the specified Performance and Payment Bonds is as follows:

Westfield Insurance Company
P.O. Box 5001, Westfield Center, OH 44251

5. All the various phases of Work enumerated in the Contract Documents with their individual jobs and overhead, whether specifically mentioned, included by implication or appurtenant thereto, are to be performed by the Contractor under one of the items listed in the Bid Schedule, irrespective of whether it is named in said list.

6. Payment for Work performed will be in accordance with the Bid Schedule subject to changes as provided in the Contract Documents.
7. The undersigned Bidder hereby acknowledges Addenda No. N/A through N/A.

PRICES:

The foregoing prices shall include all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, shoring, removal, dewatering, overhead, profit, insurance, permits, taxes, etc., to cover the completed Work in place of the several kinds called for.

BIDDER acknowledges that the Owner has the right to delete items in the Bid or change quantities at his sole discretion without affecting the Agreement or prices of any item so long as the deletion or change does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Contract Amount.

QUANTITIES:

The approximate quantities of Work to be completed in place under the Agreement at unit prices are identified in the "Bid Schedule" and are for the purpose of comparing bids. These quantities have been estimated from the Contract Documents. The quantities used are for the general information of the bidder and represent the major items of the work to be done. Minor items and minor details are not listed but shall be part of the complete Agreement.

CONTRACT TIMES:

Contractor to detail any proposed changes to the contract times listed in Section 4.2 of the Contract Agreement, as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

BID SCHEDULE:

SUMMARY OF APPROXIMATE QUANTITIES				
GENERAL BID ITEM DESCRIPTION:	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION
Mobilization	1	LS	143,499.29	143,499.29
SWPPP	1	LS	44,553.60	44,553.60
Water Handling	1	LS	123,587.11	123,587.11
Excavation	400	CY	60.14	24,056.00
Filter Mix 1 Aggregate	1384	TN	184.37	255,168.08
Filter Mix 2 Aggregate	1148	TN	156.68	179,868.64
Sheet Pile	2072	SF	73.93	153,182.96
Pressure Grouting	175	CY	608.97	106,569.75
Concrete Baffle	74	CY	1,051.66	77,822.84
Baffle Reinforcement	1596.2	LB	5.96	9,513.35
Pre-Fabricated Steel Plate for Baffle	85	LF	119.69	10,173.65
Apron Anchor Bolts	16	EA	410.81	6,572.96
HDPE Gabions	14	EA	9,701.95	135,827.30
Gabion Anchoring System – Percussion Drive Anchors	14	EA	672.25	9,411.50
Gabion Anchoring System – Deadman/Cable System	2	EA	6,359.81	12,719.62
Remove & Salvage Rock Riprap	247.2	TN	31.43	7,769.50
Place New Rock Riprap	900	TN	131.80	118,620.00
Install Piezometers	2	EA	6,552.00	13,104.00
Seeding	1.53	AC	13,104.00	20,049.12
TOTAL				\$1,452,069.27

PROJECT SCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE NOTES:

(Add any comments about the ability to complete the project within the defined dates here.)

Valley Corp anticipated start would be during the Month of November 2020, final acceptance date as specified within the bid/contract documents of 31 May 2021 will remain the same.

Substantial completion date anticipated by end of February 2021.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



07/27/20

Signature

Date

President

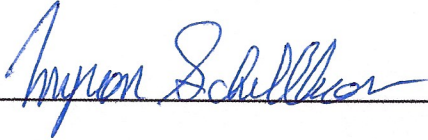
Title

21817

License Number (if applicable)

(SEAL - IF BID is by a corporation)

Attest



Address: 28001 Ida Circle, PO Box 589

Valley, NE 68064

Telephone: 402-359-2578



PHONE:
402.359.2578

EMAIL:
info@valleycorp.com

ADDRESS:
28001 Ida Circle, PO Box 589
Valley, NE 68064

Wanahoo Stilling Basin Rehab

Subcontractor & Suppliers

1. Seeding- Commercial Seeding
2. Riprap- Martin Marietta
3. Sheet Pile - Trinity Products
4. Gabion Mattress - SJS Contraction
5. Anchors - Platipus
6. Filter Mix - Western Sand & Gravel
7. Piezometer - Olsson





PHONE:
402.359.2578

EMAIL:
info@valleycorp.com

ADDRESS:
28001 Ida Circle, PO Box 589
Valley, NE 68064

Wanahoo Stilling Basin Rehab

Previous Experience

1. Oakbrook Channel Rehab - Sheet Pile Drop Structures, CIP Impact Basin, Riprap Stabilization
Earthwork and Storm Sewer Improvements
Grouted Boulder Drop Structure
Owner: City of Omaha -Public Works
Engineer: Fyra Engineering/Mike Sotak
Contract Value : \$717,173.16
2. Hell Creek - Channel Stabilization, Concrete Drop Structure with Sheet Piling, Grouted Boulder Drop Structure and Riprap Stabilization
Owner: Papio NRD - Eric Williams - (402) 444-6222
Engineer: FHU Engineering/Dave Lampe
Contract Value : \$754,653.37
3. West Papio Trail (Giles Rd to Millard)- Trail Construction, Steel Erection, Outfall Construction, Utility Construction & Bank Stabilization
Owner: Papio NRD - Eric Williams - (402) 444-6222
Engineer - Big Muddy Workshop/Brian Pecka
Contract Value : \$2,712,822.38
4. ZB-2 Water Quality Dam Basin No. 2- Dam Embankment Construction, Baffled Weir Structure, Riprap Protection and Stilling Basin
Owner: Papio NRD - Amanda Grint - (402) 444-6222
Engineer: HDR Engineering
Contract Value : \$4,254,983.97



SECTION 00410
BID FORM

Project: **Wanahoo Dam Stilling Basin Rehabilitation**

Place: **Saunders County, Nebraska**

Date: July 28, 2020

1. In compliance with your REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS dated July 28, 2020, and subject to all conditions thereof, the undersigned M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. a Corporation incorporated in the State of Nebraska, hereby proposes to furnish and do everything required by the Contract Documents to which this refers at the lump sum or unit prices shown for each bid item on the following Bid Schedule. (The Bid Schedule lists the various divisions of construction contemplated in the Contract Documents, together with an estimate of the units of each for unit price items. With these units as the basis for unit cost items, the bidder will extend each item, using the cost he inserts in the unit column. Any total cost found inconsistent with the unit cost when the bids are examined will be deemed in error and corrected to agree with the unit cost which shall be considered correct.)

2. The undersigned bidder does hereby declare and stipulate that this proposal is made in good faith, without collusion or connection with any other person or persons bidding for the same Work, and that it is made in pursuance of and subject to all the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Bid and Instructions to Bidders, the Agreement, the Contract Drawings, and the Specifications pertaining to the Work to be done, all of which have been examined by the undersigned.

3. The undersigned has examined the location of the proposed Work, the Drawings, Specifications, and other Contract Documents and is familiar with the local conditions at the place where the Work is to be performed.

4. The undersigned bidder agrees to execute the Agreement and a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond for the amount of the total of this Bid within ten (10) calendar days from the date when the written Notice of the Award of the Agreement is delivered to him at the address given on this Bid. The name and address of the corporate surety with which the Bidder proposes to furnish the specified Performance and Payment Bonds is as follows:

Universal Surety Company
P.O. Box 80468
Lincoln, NE 68501

5. All the various phases of Work enumerated in the Contract Documents with their individual jobs and overhead, whether specifically mentioned, included by implication or appurtenant thereto, are to be performed by the Contractor under one of the items listed in the Bid Schedule, irrespective of whether it is named in said list.

6. Payment for Work performed will be in accordance with the Bid Schedule subject to changes as provided in the Contract Documents.
7. The undersigned Bidder hereby acknowledges Addenda No. ___ through ___.

PRICES:

The foregoing prices shall include all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, shoring, removal, dewatering, overhead, profit, insurance, permits, taxes, etc., to cover the completed Work in place of the several kinds called for.

BIDDER acknowledges that the Owner has the right to delete items in the Bid or change quantities at his sole discretion without affecting the Agreement or prices of any item so long as the deletion or change does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Contract Amount.

QUANTITIES:

The approximate quantities of Work to be completed in place under the Agreement at unit prices are identified in the "Bid Schedule" and are for the purpose of comparing bids. These quantities have been estimated from the Contract Documents. The quantities used are for the general information of the bidder and represent the major items of the work to be done. Minor items and minor details are not listed but shall be part of the complete Agreement.

CONTRACT TIMES:

Contractor to detail any proposed changes to the contract times listed in Section 4.2 of the Contract Agreement, as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

BID SCHEDULE:

SUMMARY OF APPROXIMATE QUANTITIES				
GENERAL BID ITEM DESCRIPTION:	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION
Mobilization	1	LS	130,690.-	130,690.-
SWPPP	1	LS	10,000.-	10,000.-
Water Handling	1	LS	142,960.-	142,960.-
Excavation	400	CY	33.-	13,200.-
Filter Mix 1 Aggregate	1384	TN	66.-	91,344.-
Filter Mix 2 Aggregate	1148	TN	94.-	107,912.-
Sheet Pile	2072	SF	99.-	205,128.-
Pressure Grouting	175	CY	1,008.-	176,400.-
Concrete Baffle	74	CY	2,731.-	202,094.-
Baffle Reinforcement	1596.2	LB	4.-	6,384.80
Pre-Fabricated Steel Plate for Baffle	85	LF	132.-	11,220.-
Apron Anchor Bolts	16	EA	955.-	15,280.-
HDPE Gabions	14	EA	13,053.-	182,742.-
Gabion Anchoring System – Percussion Drive Anchors	14	EA	1,473.-	20,602.-
Gabion Anchoring System – Deadman/Cable System	2	EA	10,300.-	20,600.-
Remove & Salvage Rock Riprap	247.2	TN	10.-	2,472.-
Place New Rock Riprap	900	TN	132.-	118,800.-
Install Piezometers	2	EA	6,000.-	12,000.-
Seeding	1.53	AC	3,400.-	5,202.-
			TOTAL	\$1,475,330.80

PROJECT SCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE NOTES:

(Add any comments about the ability to complete the project within the defined dates here.)

Commence work in early November with work proceeding until completion depending on weather restrictions. Complete by May 2021

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Signature

Jerry Kabsurek

Date

July 28, 2000

Title

V.P.

21303

License Number (if applicable)

(SEAL - IF BID is by a corporation)

Attest

Address:

Telephone:

A. Ramann

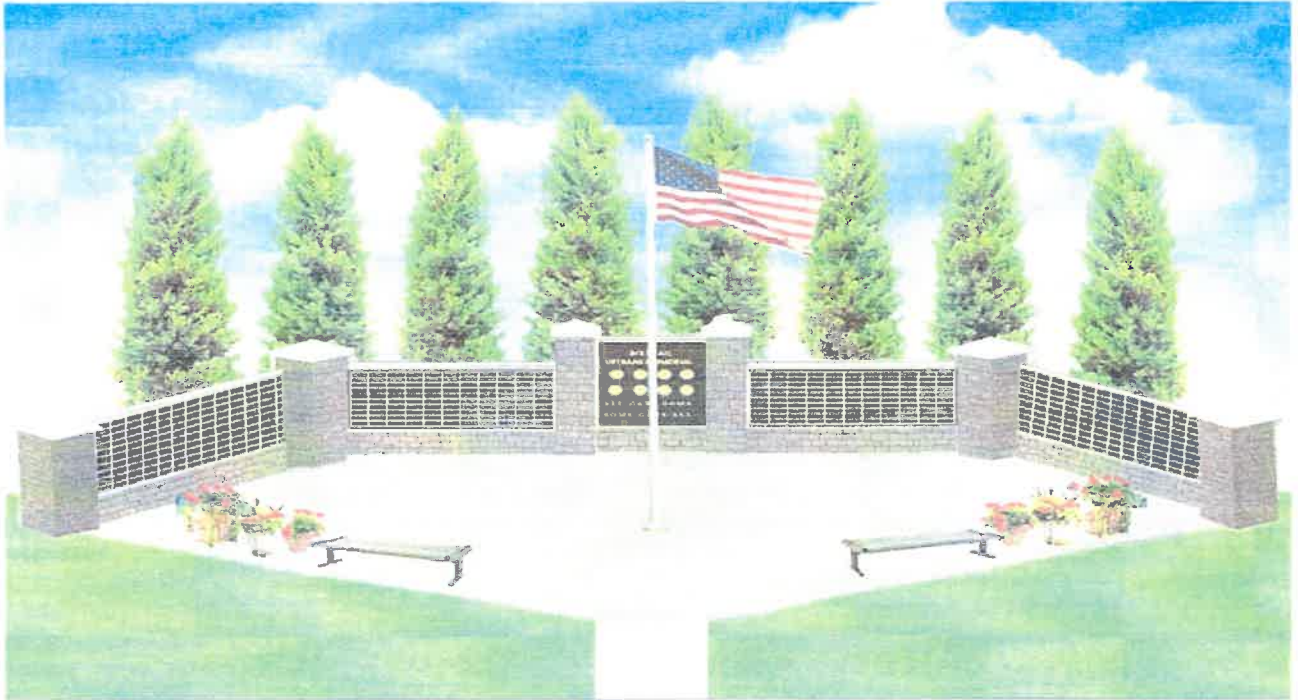
P.O. Box 83

Wahoo, NE 68084

402-443-3663

ROLLCALL VETERANS MEMORIAL AT NEWMAN GROVE, NE

REQUEST FOR TREE FUNDING



WHO: American Legion Post 73
P.O. Box 73
Newman Grove, NE 68758

CONTACT: Charles Borg
PHONE: 402-920-1783

WHAT: Rollcall Veteran's Memorial at Newman Grove Project
Funding from Lower Platte North NRD Requested is for Trees ONLY

WHEN: The timeline for this project began in 2018 with Ideas/Plans/Fundraising for this impressive memorial to all Veteran's. The Legion has been raising the \$90,000 plus for two years by selling Veteran's Tiles (see "Rollcall" form), Donations/Solicitations, Tractor Pulls, Raffles, etc. The contractor is to start construction of the main memorial wall project in July 2020 to be completed for the dedication November 11, 2020, this Veteran's Day. The Legion would like to have the trees spaded in before the dedication. This project is a work in progress with continuous fundraising to eventually add statues and more flags. Sale of the tiles will be ongoing to honor the Veterans named at this and all Veterans.

Variance Requests for New & Expanded Irrigated Acres

Applications for new and expanded irrigated acres in Restricted and Non-Hydrologically Connected Areas due August 15th.
Hydrologically Connected Areas due September 15th.



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District



News Channel Nebraska
 214 N. 7th St. Suite 1
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 (402)-371-0100

News Channel Nebraska Invoice

Invoice ID: 20060149
 Invoice Date: 6/30/2020
 Account ID: 0552
 Order ID: 0552-001
 Account Rep: All Fuchtmann

Amount Due: \$0.00

Amount Paid: _____

LOWER PLATTE NRD

Please remit payment to:
 214 N. 7th St. Suite 1
 Norfolk, NE 68701

Sponsor: Lower Platte NRD / Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor
 Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor

Date	Description	Times	Times	Times	Times	Times	Qty	Rate	Cost
6/1/2020	:05 Bonus	08:01 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/1/2020	:05 Spot	09:53 AM	07:31 PM				2	[Package]	[Package]
6/2/2020	:05 Bonus	03:06 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/2/2020	:05 Spot	08:06 AM	10:06 PM				2	[Package]	[Package]
6/3/2020	:05 Bonus	05:32 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/3/2020	:05 Spot	12:31 PM	05:16 PM				2	[Package]	[Package]
6/3/2020	:30 Bonus	01:13 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/3/2020	:30 Spot	06:57 AM	01:43 PM	07:46 PM			3	[Package]	[Package]
6/4/2020	:05 Bonus	05:31 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/4/2020	:05 Spot	09:31 AM	03:31 PM				2	[Package]	[Package]
6/4/2020	:30 Bonus	01:24 AM					1	[Package]	[Package]
6/4/2020	:30 Spot	06:58 AM	02:15 PM	07:13 PM			3	[Package]	[Package]
6/5/2020	:05 Bonus	04:30 PM					1	[Package]	[Package]
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News Channel Nebraska Invoice

Invoice ID: 20060149
Invoice Date: 6/30/2020

Sponsor: Lower Platte NRD / Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor
Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor

Date	Description	Times	Times	Times	Times	Times	Qty	Rate	Cost
	69 Total Items						Total Cost:		\$0.00

Amount Due: \$0.00



News Channel Nebraska
 214 N. 7th St. Suite 1
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 (402)-371-0100

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Invoice ID: 20060149
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Amount Due: \$0.00

Amount Paid: _____

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Please remit payment to:
 214 N. 7th St. Suite 1
 Norfolk, NE 68701

Sponsor: Lower Platte NRD / Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor
 Lower Platte NRD - News Sponsor

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	69 Total Items						Total Cost:		\$0.00

Amount Due: \$0.00

Wachiska Audubon Society

Southeast Nebraska Chapter of the National Audubon Society

4547 Calvert Street • Suite 10 • Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402.486.4846 • office@WachiskaAudubon.org

July 28, 2020

Eric Gottschalk, General Manager
Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Wahoo NE



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Dear Mr. Gottschalk:

We would like to request a pledge from the Lower Platte North NRD to assist the Wachiska Audubon Society in acquiring a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET).

Wachiska Audubon's Prairie Program is growing. We know we must have a paid part-time prairie manager to handle the responsibilities of our 33 native prairies in the future. We can no longer rely on volunteers alone to do the work. To achieve this goal, we will be applying for a grant to the NET on September 1 that will allow us to hire a part-time prairie manager. We will be asking the NET for a grant of \$191,200 over a three-year period (average of \$63,700/year) for salary and benefits. This is a first step toward our ultimate goal which is to complete a self-supporting endowment fund that will fund the position. We are continuing to raise funds for this self-maintaining fund at the Lincoln Community Foundation.

In order to have the best chance of success with our NET application, Wachiska will be matching the requested amount with a pledge of our own of \$72,600/year, or approximately \$217,800 over three years). Our matching pledge will be for taking care of the non-salary part of our prairie program such as the costs of materials, supplies, property taxes, and costs of outside contractors. Much of our pledge involves in-kind donations (\$40,000/year) for volunteer administration and organization work (developing haying and other contracts, maintaining records), and volunteer labor of many kinds (monitoring prairies, spot weed spraying and cutting, fence building, tree cutting, prescribed burning).

We are asking the Lower Platte North NRD to help us with the cash portion of our match by making a partial matching donation pledge of \$4,300/single year with the right to apply again for similar amounts in years two and three of the NET grant. This amount would contribute toward paying our expenses involving outside contractors (tree removal, spot weed spraying, etc.). No funds would change hands until our grant is approved by the NET in April 2021. We will be asking for assistance from the Lower Platte South NRD as well. Thank you for considering our request.

I will be attending your Zoom board meeting this Thursday, July 30.

Sincerely,

Tim Knott
Wachiska Audubon Society, Lincoln NE
wachiskaoffice2@gmail.com, cell – 402-217-8505

cc: Tom Mountford
Lacey Sabatka

PRAIRIES WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS HELD BY WACHISKA

BUTLER COUNTY

DON AND HELEN HORACEK

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE 7.5 acres of upland prairie near Brainard

KEVIN AND DONNA PETRZILKA

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE 30 acres of upland prairie near Brainard

LINWOOD HILL CEMETERY PRAIRIE

5.23 acres of upland prairie near Linwood

PESEK MEMORIAL PRAIRIES Three upland prairie parcels totaling about 3 acres near Brainard

CASS COUNTY

ROBERT J. HIKE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

8.83 acres of upland prairie near Plattsmouth

DOUGLAS COUNTY

JENSEN PRAIRIE 6.8 acres of upland prairie near Omaha

JEFFERSON COUNTY

HARVEY AND SHARON JURGENA

PRAIRIE 40 acres of upland prairie and woods near Fairbury

JOHNSON COUNTY

LOUIS AND GRACE BENTZINGER

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE 13.5 acres of upland and lowland prairie near Cook

KENDALL AND LISA SCHUSTER

PRAIRIE 4.8 acres of upland prairie near Elk Creek

LANCASTER COUNTY

HENRY WULF TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

4.15 acres of upland prairie near Eagle

LARRY AND PEG FLETCHER PRAIRIE

25 acres of restored tallgrass prairie near Walton

OTOE COUNTY

FORREST AND DOLL HALVORSEN

PRAIRIE 8 acres of upland and lowland prairie near Syracuse

DWIGHT AND ELLIOTT GEE PRAIRIE

Four upland prairie parcels totaling about 30 acres near Palmyra

DWIGHT AND LINDA EISENHAUER

PRAIRIE 11.3 acres of upland prairie near Lorton

PAWNEE COUNTY

VERLYN BEETHE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

24 acres of upland prairie near Elk Creek

EDWIN AND LEONA WOLTERS

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE 40 acres of upland prairie near Elk Creek

RICHARDSON COUNTY

FRICKE CEMETERY PRAIRIE

5.19 acres of upland prairie near Falls City

SALINE COUNTY

RICHARD KASL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

6.61 acres of upland and lowland prairie near Wilber

DWIGHT AND SHIRLEY FICTUM

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE 18.1 acres of upland prairie near Wilber

SARPY COUNTY

TOM DICKERSON AND PATTY

SHANAHAN PRAIRIE 14 acres of upland bluff prairie near Papillion

SAUNDERS COUNTY

PHILIP AND ANNA BREY PRAIRIE

11 acres of upland prairie near Ceresco

STANLEY AND JEAN SHAVLIK PRAIRIE

18.84 acres of wet-meadow prairie near Linwood

ADRIAN AND GLADYS BLATNY

PRAIRIE 35 acres of wet-meadow prairie near Linwood

ABOUT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

As a nonprofit conservation education organization, the Wachiska Audubon Society is dedicated to protecting native grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands in Southeast Nebraska. One of the tools available to landowners is a conservation easement. These are flexible agreements between Wachiska and an interested landowner to maintain property in its natural state in perpetuity. Easements on grassland or prairie land do not interfere with haying or grazing but protects the land from conversion to cropland or development.

If you or someone you know would be interested in protecting native grassland, the Wachiska office can direct you to those with more information. If you'd like to see what a conservation easement looks like in your area, let us know. We will put you in contact with one of our conservation partners.



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Serving Southeast Nebraska
4547 Calvert Street • Suite 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402.486.4846
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Vision Statement

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision is to share the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to preserve and restore native grasslands and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education opportunities, and advocate on behalf of our natural environment and sustainability, especially in Southeastern Nebraska.

Overall Goals

1. Connect children and adults with nature

When you connect with our natural world you learn to love and respect it. Wachiska's programs for children include our annual Bird EnCOUNTER; Prairie Discovery Days where children meet the plants, insects, and wildlife of Nebraska prairies; and annual crane viewing field trips. Our monthly programs feature speakers on a wide variety of environmental topics. Numerous field trips and special events such as the Christmas Bird Count, Birdathon, and Garden Tour draw thousands of people from the community. Wachiska supports many environmentally oriented organizations and community events.

2. Advocate for the protection of our natural world on local, state, and national levels

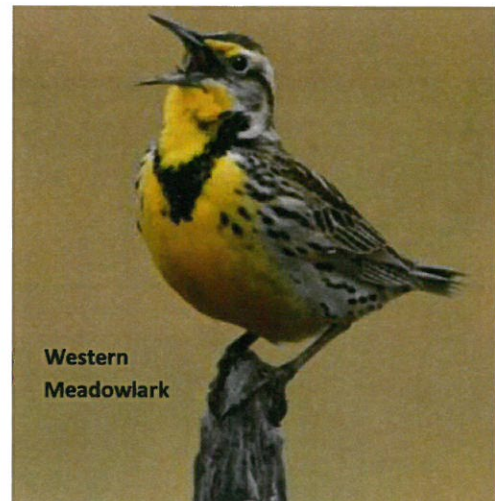
Wachiska is an active and well-respected voice in local and state policy development. We have a long record of influencing conservation issues including in-stream water rights and water-use regulations, protecting the Platte and Niobrara rivers from unchecked development, and advocating for appropriate power line siting. We stay connected with local and state legislators and government officials as we advocate for green energy and a meaningful response to climate change.

3. Preserve native tallgrass prairie parcels in and around our chapter area

The Wachiska Audubon Society is recognized locally and nationally for our successful efforts to preserve native tallgrass prairie in and around our membership area. We currently preserve nearly 1,000 acres of prairie both through direct ownership of high-quality prairies and by holding and monitoring easements on additional prairie parcels. Many of these prairies are regularly used for educational field trips by local schools and community colleges, and for events which promote the history and current value of these important natural areas. Our goal is to protect prairie parcels in each of the 17 counties of our chapter area in Southeast Nebraska.

Field Trip

Photo provided by WAS member John Carlini



Western
Meadowlark

Photo by WAS member Bruch Wendorff
200 8-17

Ways to Give to the Wachiska Audubon Society

Current Donations

A current gift helps us act now; to improve our outreach, conservation and education efforts, and to protect more of the fast-disappearing tallgrass prairie.

- **Memorials** – Remember a loved one or commemorate a milestone event with a gift to Wachiska Audubon Society in that person’s name.
- **IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)** can be given directly to Wachiska and the donor avoids taxes on that distribution.
- **Donate Securities** – Gifting stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to Wachiska Audubon Society not only helps our chapter, it may provide significant financial benefits to you and your family by reducing capital gains, estate, or income taxes.
- **Charitable IRA Rollover** – Individuals 70.5 and older can transfer up to \$100,000 of IRA assets to Wachiska Audubon Society tax free.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity** – You can receive a guaranteed lifetime income payment in return for a transfer of cash, stock, or real estate to Wachiska.

A Donation from your Estate

A gift from your estate will support Wachiska Audubon Society’s work in the future and secure your legacy of supporting environmental conservation during and beyond your lifetime. If you would like to help in this way, there are many ways to do so:

- **Bequest** – Name Wachiska Audubon Society in your will or trust.
- **IRA or Life Insurance** – Designate Wachiska Audubon Society as a full or partial beneficiary (or contingent beneficiary) on any IRA, retirement, or life insurance plan.
- **Life Estate with Remainder Interest** – You can give future interest in an asset (example, a home) to Wachiska Audubon Society, while retaining the right to use that asset for your lifetime.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – Establish a trust that provides income, during or after your lifetime, to the beneficiary of your choice (may be yourself), and the remaining value of the trust goes to Wachiska Audubon Society.

If you include Wachiska Audubon Society in your estate plan, we hope you will contact us, so we can thank you and honor your wishes appropriately.

Employer Matching Programs

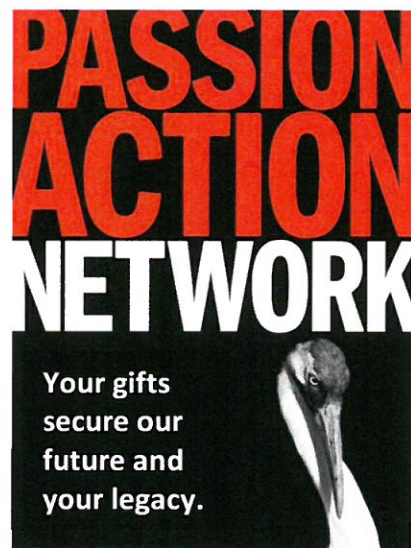
Many employers offer charitable giving matching programs to their employees. These programs usually match your donation dollar for dollar to the qualified organization of your choice. If your employer offers a matching program, your donation could be twice as valuable to Wachiska Audubon Society. Check with your employer’s Human Resources Department to see if they match charitable gifts.

Wachiska works closely with the Lincoln Community Foundation and Nebraska Community Foundation and can provide you with additional information on these and other types of charitable gifts.



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Serving Southeast Nebraska
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Wachiska is a Qualified Charitable Organization
Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization,
TIN 51-0229888.

Prairie Management Fund

The tallgrass prairie was the landscape that greeted the pioneers when they arrived on the Great Plains. But today, less than two percent of the tallgrass prairie remains. Over 20 years ago, Wachiska Audubon Society set the goal to preserve an educational prairie in each of the 17 Southeastern Nebraska counties that comprise our membership area. We have come a long way toward reaching that goal!

Wachiska is recognized locally and nationally for our successful efforts to preserve tallgrass prairie and educate people as to its value. We currently protect and preserve nearly 1,000 acres of prairie through:

- **Direct ownership of high-quality prairies (nearly 500 acres).**
- **Monitoring conservation easements on dozens of additional prairie parcels.**

Many of our prairies are used for educational field trips by local schools and community colleges and for events which promote the history and value of these important natural areas.

The prairies we own were purchased primarily with funds from our generous donors and funders. We work hard to make our prairies as self-supporting as possible. Generally, we are able to pay the property taxes with revenues from carefully monitored haying and grazing. Some expenses have been covered by grants. Yet the maintenance and restoration expenses and the work hours required are considerable, and these demands are difficult to meet with our current all-volunteer efforts.

Wachiska is one of the few Audubon chapters which manage as many acres of prairie as we do with all volunteers. To sustain this effort, we are reaching the point where we need to hire a part-time prairie manager or a full-time executive director to lead the prairie management effort.

Wachiska has established the Prairie Management Fund, with socially-responsible investments managed by the Lincoln Community Foundation. Our \$1 million goal will create a sustainable fund to:

- **First, pay for a part-time land manager to coordinate maintenance and restoration activities supervised by Wachiska's Conservation Committee.**
- **Second, when we reach our \$1 million goal, turn this fund into an endowment which will generate funds for additional staff positions such as a volunteer coordinator, a grant writer, or an executive director.**

We cannot do this without your support. Your gifts, whether given now or through your estate, will help Wachiska continue to protect and preserve tallgrass prairie in Nebraska, a legacy dear to all those who value protecting our natural environment.

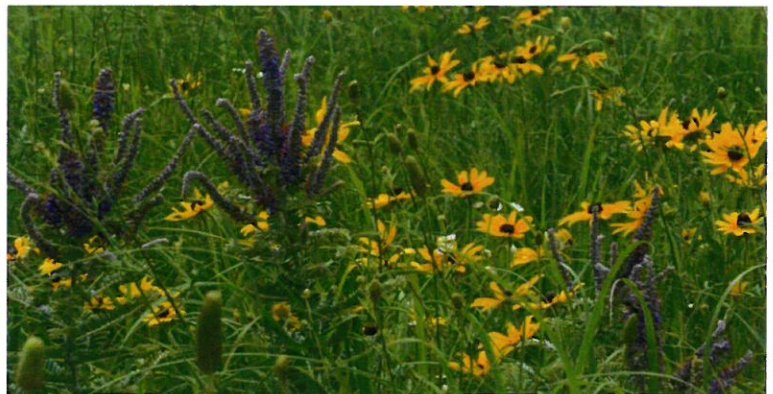
For more information on how you can give, please contact Wachiska's Donor Development Committee, the Lincoln Community Foundation, or your attorney.

Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, TIN 51-0229888.



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Serving Southeast Nebraska
4547 Calvert Street • Suite 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402.486.4846
office@WachiskaAudubon.org



Wachiska is one of the few organizations that will accept and monitor conservation easements for smaller prairie parcels, making our work extremely valuable in protecting the little remaining prairie we have, especially in Eastern Nebraska where urban development and agricultural expansion threaten nearly every acre of remaining unplowed prairie. Yet the fact that we monitor numerous small prairie parcels means our responsibilities are very time consuming. It is much more difficult to monitor 25 small prairies than a few larger parcels. **We need your help to continue to protect this valuable tallgrass prairie.**



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Prairie Management and Education Activities

Wachiska Audubon Society protects tallgrass prairie within and around our 17-county chapter area, through both direct ownership and by establishing and holding conservation easements with other private land owners. Chapter member volunteers currently oversee and care for the prairies under Wachiska's stewardship and provide numerous educational opportunities. These efforts have been conservatively estimated to require over 1,500 volunteer hours each year. The following is a brief overview of Wachiska's prairie conservation and management efforts:

1. Wachiska-owned prairie land management

As of the fall of 2017, Wachiska Audubon Society and its Wachiska Audubon Land Management LLC own eight properties comprising nearly 500 acres of virgin or restored prairie plus a small amount of cropland targeted for restoration. Carefully monitored grazing and haying are desirable methods of keeping prairie healthy and diverse and provides income that covers the property taxes and some maintenance expenses of the properties. Wachiska develops and carries out annual management plans for each property. These plans are implemented through active management by Wachiska as well as through written agreements with tenants and/or renters of Wachiska-owned land.

Wachiska-owned prairie management includes:

- a. Continued protection of desirable prairie characteristics and property boundaries
- b. Evaluation of the ecological status through plant inventories and monitoring inspections
- c. Evaluation and control of invasive species, including noxious weeds
- d. Arranging for prescribed burns and tree removal
- e. Fence- and water-line maintenance
- f. Prairie sign installation and maintenance
- g. Negotiation of agreements and legal contracts with tenants/renters, and for the sale of hay and grassland commodities
- h. Arranging for research, application, and management of state, federal, and special grants for property management and improvements



2. Monitoring of conservation easements held by Wachiska Audubon Society

Land owners have entrusted Wachiska Audubon to hold the conservation easements that they have placed on prairie parcels. As of the fall of 2017, we hold 21 easements within the 17-county chapter area, plus three outside but immediately adjacent to the chapter area. Wachiska conscientiously enacts the responsibilities and obligations as the easement holder for regularly inspecting each property and providing written documentation of inspection results, along with recommendations, to the owners and tenants.

Continued on reverse side.



As the easement holder, Wachiska has the obligation and responsibility to:

- a. Assure that all parties (current land owners and/or tenants) conform to the terms of the easement agreement
- b. Assure that boundaries described in the prairie easement agreement are being respected
- c. Monitor and inspect the easements to assure grazing and use guidelines are in compliance with the agreement
- d. Monitor to prevent and inhibit unauthorized use of herbicides and pesticides
- e. Detect the presence of, and recommend remedies for, invasive species and noxious weeds
- f. Assure that the overall ecological health and integrity of the prairie is being maintained
- g. Pursue legal defense of the conservation easements, where and if necessary

3. Promoting educational opportunities

In addition to simply protecting increasingly rare tallgrass prairie, Wachiska acts to promote and arrange for the use of the Wachiska-owned prairie properties to further our educational commitment. These educational activities include:

- a. Allowing local schools and colleges to use Wachiska prairies for educational field trips
- b. Supporting student and professional researchers conducting prairie research
- c. Hosting educational-oriented programs and activities on Wachiska prairies such as our Prairie Discovery Days, Bikes & Birds events, birdwatching field trips, native plant seed gathering, and other events which connect youth and adults with the wonders of Nebraska's tallgrass prairies



Please support our Prairie Management Fund

In 2015, Wachiska established the Prairie Management Fund with initial contributions of over \$100,000. Our goal is to raise \$1 million to:

- First, pay for a part-time land manager to coordinate maintenance and restoration activities on Wachiska –owned prairies.
- Second, create an endowment which will generate funds for additional staff positions such as a volunteer coordinator or grant writer.

Your gifts, whether given now or through your estate, will help Wachiska continue to protect and preserve tallgrass prairie in Nebraska, a legacy dear to all those who value protecting our natural environment.

Please help support Wachiska's prairie management and education activities. For more information on how you can give or get involved, please contact Wachiska.

Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, TIN 51-0229888.

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly printed newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*.**

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check to: **Wachiska Audubon Society.**

- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Wachiska Audubon | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friend Membership | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee Friend | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal Friend | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark Friend | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle Friend | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon Friend | \$1000 |

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

- I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

Complete this form and mail check(s) to
Wachiska Audubon Society - Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St. Suite 10 - Lincoln NE 68506-5643

WACHISKA COMMITTEES

Wachiska members are welcome and encouraged to get involved with our active, dynamic organization by participating on our committees.

Conservation Committee – This committee's primary goal is the preservation of native habitat in Southeast Nebraska, specifically tallgrass prairie. Wachiska protects nearly 1,000 acres of tallgrass prairie through either direct ownership or with conservation easements, and our members provide essential volunteer services for the management of this land. Committee members also give prairie presentations to civic clubs, school groups, and other organizations.

Education Committee – You can help us create hands-on opportunities for children and adults to learn about nature at events on our prairies, in schools and libraries, and through field trips.

Population/Environment Committee – Wachiska members are involved in many community events, helping efforts to raise awareness and knowledge of issues related to sustainable living.

Legislation Committee – Chapter members stay informed about issues important to wildlife and people from the city, state, and national political arenas. We give support to a part-time lobbyist and network with other conservation groups to ensure Nebraska senators consider wildlife, habitat, and water when making legal decisions.

The **Finance Committee** works to maintain the chapter's continued financial stability. Our **Donor Development Committee** assists with fundraising and informs individuals of planned giving options. The **Field Trip Committee** plans and leads our field trips, the **Membership Committee** works to engage our membership, while the **Hospitality Committee** helps us all enjoy our events.

To get involved, please contact our office. 3-16



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Membership information:
Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society today!

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Vision Statement

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision is to share the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to preserve and restore native grasslands and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature educational opportunities, and advocate on behalf of our natural environment and sustainability.



Photo by WAS member John Carlini

Connect with Wachiska Audubon Society

To learn more, call our chapter office or visit our website at www.WachiskaAudubon.org. Our newsletter is on our website and contains information about our monthly field trips, programs, and many other events.



About Wachiska

Wachiska Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, founded in 1973 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and serving 17 counties in Southeastern Nebraska. The name "Wachiska" is thought to have come from an Omaha Indian word meaning "land of many streams."

National Audubon Society follows the mission to **conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.** Wachiska supports the National mission and our local mission through three primary goals:

1. **Connect children and adults with nature** through a variety of field trips, programs, and special events.
2. **Advocate for the protection of our natural world on local, state, and national levels** through responsible conservation policies.
3. **Preserve native tallgrass prairie parcels in and around our chapter area.** We currently preserve nearly 1,000 acres of prairie through either direct ownership or with conservation easements.

Audubon members work to preserve the diversity of living things and we are diverse ourselves. We are birdwatchers, wildlife professionals, photographers, conservation activists, writers, outdoor enthusiasts, and more. Our activities and projects appeal to a wide range of interests.

WACHISKA EVENTS AND SERVICES

Members and the general public are invited to participate in all Wachiska events. More information about our activities can be found in our online newsletter at www.WachiskaAudubon.org, or on Facebook.

Monthly Programs – You are invited to hear guest speakers who are recognized authorities on nature, travel, and the natural world around us, and to receive updates on chapter events and area birding. Our programs are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in Room 03 (lower level) of the Dick Administration Building, 3800 South 48th Street, on the campus of Union College in Lincoln. Join us for coffee and cookies following each program.

Action Alerts – Members can choose to receive email updates and announcements about conservation and time-sensitive issues.



Field Trips – Monthly trips to scenic local and regional areas help birdwatchers sharpen their skills, encourage wildflower enthusiasts to discover prairies, and provide members and guests opportunities to get acquainted with like-minded individuals. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

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Birding – Some Wachiska prairies are open for birdwatching. Refer to our website for details.

Birdathon – In May, Wachiska members conduct a census of bird species at the peak of spring migration. Members, friends, and businesses are invited to make a pledge per species or a flat donation to support the chapter's work for the upcoming year.



Backyard Garden Tour – Held each spring, this tour opens the yards of local citizens, allowing visitors to gather ideas on landscaping to attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Spring and Fall Birdseed Sales – Spend a little, get a lot. Wachiska can help you entice birds to your yard with quality seed. Sales are announced in *The Babbling Brook*.

Christmas Bird Count – For over a century, Audubon members from all over North America have taken part in this nationwide bird count held each winter. Many counts are organized across Nebraska. Lincoln has been supplying data for over 100 years.

Awards Banquet – Wachiska's annual banquet is held each April to honor outstanding "Earthkeepers" in the region, to reflect on the past year's activities, and to look ahead to new challenges.

Wachiska members are also encouraged to get involved with our active, dynamic organization by participating on our committees. See back panel.

Why Wachiska Audubon Society needs funds to hire a Prairie Habitat Manager

Summary

WAS Prairie Protection Program requires a dedicated Prairie Habitat Manager

For 30 years, WAS has been protecting endangered tallgrass prairies in 20 Nebraska counties, preserving crucial habitat for rare plant species, threatened birds, butterflies, bees and insects, and providing important nesting and migration habitat. WAS has developed proven successful management practices and engaged many volunteers, but with the expansion of our holdings and additional monitoring obligations along with increasing threats from invasive species and development pressures, we have determined it is imperative to hire a Prairie Habitat Manager. We have a stable income stream from grazing and haying on our prairies and a 15-year CRP grant which pay for many of our expenses. We are continually fundraising with the goal to have our investments provide a long-term income stream for our prairie habitat management efforts. We are applying for the NET grant to provide interim funding while we continue what is already a successful, but not yet fully self-sustaining, habitat protection program.

Overview

WAS Prairie Protection Program requires a dedicated Prairie Habitat Manager

Objective: For over 30 years, WAS has worked tirelessly to preserve rapidly disappearing tallgrass prairie in 20 Southeast Nebraska counties providing critical habitat for many threatened flora and fauna species. WAS now protects nearly 1000 acres of prairie habitat with a proven successful management program. However, as our holdings and management responsibilities increase, coupled with an aging volunteer workforce, it is unsustainable for WAS to continue this program solely with volunteers. It is crucial we hire a Prairie Habitat Manager.

The Prairie Habitat Manager will work under the direction of WAS Conservation Committee and with supervision from our primary partner, National Audubon Society.

Endangered tallgrass prairie provides critical habitat for many threatened species

WAS prairies demonstrate measurable environmental benefits and have been recognized by prairie experts as critical habitat for many rare plant species, refuge for prairie-dependent butterflies, bees, and insects, and as important nesting and migration habitat for grassland bird species.

Dr. Kay Kottas, PhD. Botanist and President of Prairie Legacy Inc. has completed plant species surveys on many of our prairies, using the C value system (Coefficient of Conservatism). Here is a sampling of her findings:

- Over 150 prairie plant species have been identified our 21-acre prairie near Yutan, including the rare Canada Lousewort (C9) and *Liatris ligulistylis* (C10) which are found almost nowhere else in Nebraska. This prairie also provides nesting and migration habitat for Bobolinks, a declining prairie bird species prioritized in National Audubon's recent North American Grasslands and Birds Report.
- Wildcat Creek Prairie (32 acres) is home to three rare species, Northern Dewberry, Finger Coreopsis and Prairie Parsley with C values of 7 to 10. Wildcat is also a haven for Regal Fritillary butterflies, a rare and beautiful species now almost extinct east of the Mississippi River. Dr. Kottas found large populations of Butterfly Milkweed and Downy Gentian as well and calls this prairie a "high quality prairie worthy of preservation."

The late Dr. Robert Kaul of UNL, described the WAS Fertig Prairie (43 acres) as "one of the best remaining wet meadow prairies in the eastern Platte River Valley." With large populations of Tall Gayfeather and Sullivan's Milkweed Fertig Prairie attracts migrating Monarchs and other butterflies. Purple-headed Sneezeweed found here is not known to exist anywhere else in Nebraska. Because of its plant diversity and wet meadow qualities, Fertig provides important nesting and migration habitat for Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, LeConte's and Henslow's(?) Sparrows and other prairie birds.

These are examples from just three of the 32 WAS protected prairies. These prairies must be carefully managed to continue to serve as valuable habitat.

WAS Prairies: a valuable resource for researchers, students, ecologists, and the general public

Research – WAS Klapka Prairie is used by UNL Professor Sabrina Russo for research involving Eastern Gama Grass. The UNL Entomology Department uses WAS prairies to inventory prairie butterflies and grassland insects. Other UNL researchers use WAS prairies for research on prairie nematodes and the general microbial diversity of prairie soils.

Education – Two examples: biology classes from Columbus's Central Community College use WAS Fertig Prairie for botany field trips and each year WAS's annual Prairie Discovery Days bring hundreds of fourth graders to our prairies to learn about Nebraska history and ecology, Native American culture, and to study native insect, plants, prairie birds.

Seed Collecting – WAS organizes seed collecting days to support the reseeding other prairies, as a fundraising activity, and simply to let people enjoy the prairie experience.

Nature Appreciation – The WAS-owned prairies are open to the public and signed so the public knows where the prairies are located. Visitation is encouraged at WAS programs and on our website.

These efforts take hours of volunteer effort, and would benefit greatly from the planning, coordination, and oversight, of a Prairie Habitat Manager who would be expected to provide additional outreach and educational support.

The necessity of full-time manager for Wachiska's established prairie habitat management program

For centuries, prairies were an endless robust grassland managed by herds of buffalo and timely burns from lightning strikes. Today, remaining prairie land is an extremely valuable, rare, and endangered part of the Plains ecosystem. Threatened by invasive species and lack of natural fire cycles, prairies now require knowledgeable, continual management to continue to serve as critical habitat.

Over the past three decades, WAS has developed sound management practices to keep our prairies healthy and restore damaged sections. We face increasing threats from invasive species, chemical overuse on neighboring properties, and challenges monitoring conservation easements on land which has passed to new owners. These issues, along with the expansion of our holdings, have resulted in our decision to hire a Prairie Habitat Manager to solely focus on managing and protecting the prairie lands for which WAS is responsible.

The Prairie Habitat Manager will continue the management practices established by WAS including:

- **Managed grazing** benefits prairies by preventing the overgrowth of some grasses, gently breaking up the ground to facilitate growth of new grass and forbs, naturally fertilizing the ground. But grazing and stock rotation must be carefully monitored to prevent overgrazing, while fencing, wells and water tanks must be built, monitored, and repaired. Grazing income also supports our overall prairie protection program.
- **Haying** is also an important income source for our program but must be carefully managed to balance between not disturbing or suppressing native bird populations while promoting improvements in the native floral composition.
- **Prescribed burning** is a key tool to control invasive species and promote growth desirable prairie plants, but also requires knowledgeable planning and intensive coordination with fire districts, neighbors, and volunteers.
- **Invasive species identification and control** requires knowledgeable oversight and timely management.
- **Maintain positive relationships with neighbors, tenants, and contractors.**
- **Monitor conservation habitats**, both on WAS-owned prairies and for prairies owned by others where WAS is legally obligated for monitoring to protect and promote the inherent native prairie conservation values. WAS regularly inspects each property, completing an annual written evaluation documenting compliance with the terms of the easement. This report is sent to the landowner and any known tenants along with remediation recommendations if needed.

The Prairie Habitat Manager will be involved in additional activities required to successfully fulfill the responsibilities of Wachiska's Prairie Protection Program, incorporating and coordinating the work of the many WAS volunteers who care deeply about prairies and this program.

Developing a self-sustaining program

WAS has a stable income stream from grazing, haying, and seed collection on our prairies which covers the cost of property taxes, basic improvements, and supplies. WAS has also successfully applied for and received grants for specialized projects. The Prairie Habitat Manager will be expected to apply for additional grants and participate in fundraising efforts with the goal to fund the ongoing costs associated with this position.

Additionally, in 2016, WAS began fundraising to support the WAS Prairie Protection Program. Three distinct investment funds are held at the Lincoln Community Foundation.

The Prairie Defense Fund helps pay for legal matters arising in defending our prairies or for easement litigation.

The Habitat Protection Fund collects funds donated specifically for the purchase of additional prairie land.

The Prairie Management Fund invests donated funds with the intent that future proceeds will support our prairie habitat management.

Itinerary of Chief Lohr's Visit to Nebraska

Tuesday, August 4

- **9:30 p.m.** Craig will pick up Chief Lohr at the Lincoln airport from United flight #5535 and take him to his hotel.

Wednesday, August 5

- **7:30 a.m.** Craig will pick up Chief Lohr at the hotel. They will ride together to [Lake Wanahoo Education Building](#).
- **8:30 a.m.** Arrive Lake Wanahoo

Meet with Lower Platte North Natural Resources District staff/board members, Wahoo NRCS field office staff and other staff/partners including: Brad Soncksen, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs; Joanna Pope, NRCS State Public Affairs Officer; Steve Nelson, President of the Nebraska Farm Bureau; Ralph Pieke, former NRD board member; Dean Edson, Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; and Kent Zimmerman, president of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (others?)

* Brad and Joanna can travel to Wahoo together in a vehicle. Brad can ride back to Lincoln with Jim Reedy and Brian Baskerville (check out van or larger GOV to spread out) to keep numbers low for Rogers Memorial Farm visit since they are asking for small number of visitors.

- **8:30 – 8:45 a.m.** Welcome Chief Lohr to Nebraska and provide introductions – Craig Derickson, Nebraska NRCS State Conservationist
- **8:45 – 9:00 a.m.** NRCS employees introduce themselves and briefly share about the work they're doing
- **9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** NRD Discussion – Eric Gottschalk, Lower Platte North NRD General Manager and Tom Mountford, Lower Platte North NRD Assistant Manager
 - Overview/history of the NRD system and its roles and responsibilities
 - Lake Wanahoo
 - Important conservation field work in the Lower Platte North NRD
 - Shell Creek (Ralph Pieke)
 - History of PL-566 dams in the Lower Platte North NRD
 - Wahoo Creek Watershed
- **9:45 – 10:00 a.m.** Overview of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts roll – Dean Edson, Executive Director of NACD
- **10:00 – 10:15 a.m.** Nebraska Department of Natural Resources/National Association of State Conservation Agencies update - Kent Zimmerman, NASCA President
- **10:15 – 10:30 a.m.** Break

- **10:30 – 11:15 a.m.** Demo of LIDAR and survey equipment – Jim Reedy, NRCS State Technology Engineer & Josh Charles, Soil Conservation Technician
- **11:15 – 11:45 a.m.** Demo of GIS tools used for wetland determinations – Brian Baskerville, NRCS Area Technology Specialist
- **11:45 – 12:30 p.m.** Lunch (Eric offered to purchase lunches from Subway. We can eat at the Wahoo Environmental Education Center or if we're running behind, we can eat on the road)
- **12:30 – 12:45 p.m.** Travel to Beginning Farmer site
- **12:45 – 1:30 p.m.** Tour/visit with beginning farmer Joe Petersen about how he's worked with NRCS to make conservation improvements on his farm – Jami Thoene, NRCS Resource Conservationist and State Beginning Farmer/Rancher Coordinator will facilitate
- **1:30 – 2:00 p.m.** Travel to [Rogers Memorial Farm](#) – 18630 Adams Street, Lincoln NE (Invited in addition to those presenting on site: Corey Schmidt, NRCS District Conservationist; Mike Bergert, NRCS Resource Conservationist, Steve Wellman, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director, Orval Gigstadt. We have been requested by the Rogers Farm staff to keep attendee size small due to COVID. All attendees will need to mask up. If raining, will only have access to bldg. the size of a 2-stall garage. No rest rooms available. Will make pit stop in Waverly).
- **2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Tour farm and cover crop plots, followed by a presentation about the tillage study - Paul Jasa, Extension Engineer
- **3:00 – 3:30 p.m.** Soil Health Demonstration – Aaron Hird, NRCS State Soil Health Specialist
- **3:30 – 4:00 p.m.** Travel to Mike McDonald's field near Douglas, NE (Invite: Britt Weiser, NRCS State Resource Conservationist; Neil Dominy, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships and Initiatives, Doug Wagner, NRCS Area Conservationist)
- **4:00 – 4:30 p.m.** View Mike's cover crop field and learn about his role in the Soil Health Taskforce
- **4:30 – 5:15 p.m.** Travel back to the hotel
- **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Dinner with Chief (10-12 maximum, outdoors if possible)

Thursday August 6

- **7:00 a.m.** - Craig and Allen Gehring will pick up Chief Lohr at his hotel. (Chief will need to check out of hotel.) During the drive Allen Gehring, NRCS State Engineer will provide an overview of EWP and watershed projects in Nebraska.
- **7:00 - 8:00 a.m.** Travel to Kirkpatrick Wildlife Management Area just west York (*NRD could be rain alternative site*) Invite: Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Coordinator; Kim Siebert, area landowner; Dave Eigenberg, Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District General Manager; Roric Pallman, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture board member; Brad Dunbar, Lindsay Cooperation; Gayle Marsh, landowner; James Huntwork, NRCS Area Conservationist; Josh Bowers and the York NRCS field office staff. (**Should make a rest room stop at rest area along I-80 just before York.*)
- **8:00 - 8:15 a.m.** Introductions and History of RWBs the JV and partnership – Andy Bishop, RWBJV Coordinator

- **8:15 – 8:35 a.m.** Kim Siebert will talk about how he's using his cattle to graze Kirkpatrick WMA through public/private partnership between NRDs/RWBJV/NRCS to help manage wetland and provide forage for his cattle. [See story here](#)
- **8:35 – 9:15 a.m.** Irrigation Innovation
 - "Divots in the Pivots" RCPP - Gayle Marsh and Brad Dunbar
 - NRD Irrigation projects - Dave Eigenberg
 - NRD water programs in the Platte Valley for the past 30 years - James Huntwork
- **9:15 – 10:30 a.m.** Travel back to the Federal Building
- **10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** Break
- **10:45 – 11:15 a.m.** Meet with NRCS employees in Room 397 A&B include field staff via Teams
- **11:15 a.m.** Lunch brought into 397 A&B for Chief and combined Nebraska state office and National Soil Survey Center (NSSC) leadership staffs
- **11:30 a.m.** Begin discussion on NSSC operations via Teams for offsite National Leaders – Nebraska state office leadership staff invited to stay. Each National Leader will have 10 minutes to highlight what their branch is doing for NRCS and the conservation partnership
- **12:50 p.m.** Kellogg Soil Survey Lab tour including processing, archive, and lab
- **1:30 p.m.** Return to 372 or Nebraska NRCS state office for wrap up.
- **1:45 p.m.** Head to Lincoln airport
- **3:16 p.m.** Chief Lohr's flight leaves Lincoln

NRCS Staff should make every attempt to carpool to keep number of GOVs low at each site. Should also try to reserve larger GOVs and spread out within the vehicle, masks on, windows cracked. Masks will be required at indoor locations and at Rogers Memorial Farm – even while outside. Remember to social distance at all tour sites, including for photos. Other partner agencies may have different COVID-19 safety protocol, but we need to follow NRCS policy and do everything we can to keep the Chief safe and comfortable while traveling.