

Operations & Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2015 8:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. WILD NE/CREP REPORT

One CREP payment of \$72.16 for Tim & John Gronenthal Trust in Platte County on 4.4 acres.

2. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

2.A. O & M Crew

The O & M crew helped plant numerous trees on the Wanahoo Rec area. The trees were from the Arbor Day Foundation. Also watered many or all the trees at the Wanahoo SRA. We also shredded some problem areas. Checked wetland drop structures below some of the Sand/Duck Creek structures. We will start our shredding circuit on levees and ditches in August. Also, miscellaneous vehicle and equipment maintenance. The summer interns are working on water sampling and chemigation inspections.

2.B. District Grass Drill Rentals

The Saunders County grass drill at Rezac Seed brought in \$2,132.93 from March - June. The Platte County drill at Mueller Seed Farm brought in \$897.50 for the first half of the year. The Colfax County drill at Schuyler Co-op last fall brought in \$170 and the first half of this year \$1,314. The total for the three drills during the first half of 2015 is \$4,344.43.

2.C. Wanahoo Grassland Hay

The two cooperators have not started haying the Wanahoo grasslands, they both are waiting for more growth. They will start in August and they must finish by the 30th.

2.D. Fremont GI Flood Study

The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) has been approved and signed by both the NRD and the COE, the Corps is asking for a payment of \$100,000 in August. (See attached Request)

The Corps will also ask for \$100,000 in September and the remaining \$75,000 in the Spring of 2016.

Staff has sent our partners (Fremont, Dodge County, & Inglewood) a letter and Amended Inter-Local agreement requesting payment from each. The payment percentages are 12.10%, 10.85% and 2.05% respectively.

2.E. Lower Platte Weed Management

The Lower Platte Weed Management group is planning on having the helicopter spray for invasive plants (predominately Phragmites) along the Platte River and other locations in early September. Our District may have them spray some areas around Wanahoo to control Willows & Cottonwood along with some Phragmites.

2.F. Bellwood 3-B Renovation

Staff is working with NRCS (Ken Kotera) on plans, and quantities to renovate Bellwood 3-B. The water in the structure has been lowered with the hope that work can be accomplished this fall/early winter. Cattle and wave action has deteriorated the face of the structure. The landowner is working with us well.

2.G. Review 2016 Budget

Review of budgets for Operations & Maintenance, Information/Education and Rural Water Systems. Director Budget Workshop is August 5, 5:00 pm.

3. ROCK AND JETTY

No request for payments.

4. EROSION & SEDIMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

5. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

5.A. Information

5.A.1. Radio & Web Ads

Currently we're running ads promoting outdoor recreation. Our new ad rep for KTIC, Austin Anderson, stopped by the office to introduce himself.

5.A.2. County Fairs

Our last county fair of the season, Saunders County, is happening now. We previously attended the Platte, Boone, and Butler County fairs.

5.A.3. ACI Conference

Thompson attended the Association of Conservation Information's annual conference in Flagstaff July 13-17. It was another excellent conference with a lot of useful ideas and information - see attached report.

5.B. Education

5.B.1. Watershed Toolbox

Work is continuing on the Watershed Toolbox with Extension and other NRDs. A watershed map and activity sheet template is being developed that can be customized for

any NRDs that wish to use it. Next up will be developing activity kits for 5 watershed-themed educational activities.

5.B.2. Range Judging Contest

LPN will be hosting the Area 5 Range Judging Contest on September 23. NRCS will locate a site and conduct the field portion of the contest. The NRD will handle registrations, scoring, and general organization. Registrations will be going out to schools in mid-August.

5.C. Computer

5.C.1. Board Room Projectors

Projectors to replace the board room TVs were approved at last month's Board meeting. Instead of purchasing screens, we will be using projection paint on the east wall of the Board room and using a screen donated by Joe Birkel on the west (carpeted) wall.

6. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

- July water samples taken and delivered to State lab
- Meters have been read and billings prepared to be sent
- O & M crew have replaced pin in large trencher and preparing for possible sale
- Will be scheduling meeting with Wahoo Water Dept. regarding billing software and hardware
- Plan to exercise Colon Fire hydrants in August
- All July State reporting has been submitted
- Identified continuous leak issues on Colon system

7. Adjournment