

Operations & Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing from previous meetings.

2. WILD NE/CREP REPORT

For the Wild NE grassland renovation the seed has been ordered for Czechland. We will plant in May.

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The O & M crew is working on equipment, cutting trees in different locations, keeping tabs on a beaver issue at Cottonwood 6-E and other miscellaneous items.

3.A. Lake Wanahoo Lake Level

The Lake Wanahoo Lake Level Panel met Wednesday, December 27 at 7:30 a.m. The agenda and previous months minutes are attached.

3.B. Lake Wanahoo SRA

Staff installed 9 bags of rubber mulch on the Wanahoo playgrounds. We have the dump station contractor on notice that one hydrant is not operating correctly. The dump station is on warranty until May 3, 2018. The boat docks were also extracted from the lake for the winter.

3.C. Wanahoo Wildlife Area

The contractor, Standing C Excavation has finished cutting out the Elm and other trees on the Wanahoo area. He will come back a broadcast spray the area in the spring after plants start their regrowth. His contract was for \$4,000, The District should pay the contract but retain an amount for the spraying in the Spring.

Regarding the fertilizing of the grasslands for haying, Heimann had some discussion with the Game & Parks Biologist and he doesn't recommend fertilizing the warm season grasses. Fertilizer is generally used on Brome to increase productivity due to its high nitrogen need and shallow rooting system. These areas are dominated by native grasses that get their nutrients deeper in the soil profile and typically don't benefit greatly from fertilizing. In fact, fertilizing will push these native grass stands toward invasive Brome and Kentucky bluegrass, reducing harvestable biomass over time. We'll allow fertilizer on the small areas of Brome that we do have.

3.D. Czechland Lake

The three new camper pads have been rocked, we installed three fire rings and have three new picnic tables. The electrician will be out in the spring.

3.E. Fremont Study

The Fremont Study is transitioning from a GI (General Investigation) Study back to CAP (Continuing Authorities Program) Section 205 Study because the study and potential construction cost for the Non-structural flood risk measures will be under \$10 million. The scope of the study has been revised to optimize the non-structural plan. The Non-structural Study cost is \$350,000. The sponsors share is 50% or \$175,000. The Corps of Engineers has sent Amendment No. 3 to the agreement between the Dept. of the Army and LPNNRD. The District will ask the partners (Fremont, Dodge County & Inglewood) for their percentage of the \$175,000.

To date the District has spent \$424,734.50 in cash on the Fremont Study and contributed approximately \$82,000 as In-Kind.

3.F. Community Forestry

St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Bend has submitted their tree planting invoice of \$1,955.25 from Nielsen Tree Farms for 15 trees (Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, Serbian Spruce) planted on their grounds. The NRD Community Forestry policy is to cost-share up to \$1,000. The District can reimburse St. Peter Lutheran \$977.63. Board member Ruzicka has confirmed that they were planted and look very nice.

3.G. Platte River Ice Jam Preparedness

Mountford and Heimann attended the Platte River Ice Jam Preparedness meeting. Reporting on ice conditions will start immediately. There is a network of Emergency Management, County and NRD personnel reporting at various locations from Columbus to the mouth of the Platte River. Data is reported and recorded by NEMA and DNR. The National Weather Service send a weekly weather report and will communicate emergency situations to the County Emergency Management Managers.

The current Ice Jam Agreement Account is under \$150,000. Papio will send all partners an invoice for their share soon. LPNNRD will be invoiced approximately \$93.00.

3.H. Arbor Day Trees

Each year the District purchases small trees from the National Arbor Day Foundation. These trees are given to students for Arbor Day and Earth Day. The Fremont Eco Fair is requesting 450 and the District usually gives away 350 - 400 at Conservation Sensation Day and too schools as requested. Last year the trees cost \$1.00 a piece.

4. ROCK AND JETTY

The City of North Bend has submitted an invoice of \$4,698.40 from Lux Sand & Gravel for cutting brush and trees from their Platte River levee. North Bend has submitted a claim to Dodge County to pay 1/3 or \$1,566.13. They are requesting the same assistance from the District. The tree stumps were not treated. The contractor said he will spray them in the Spring at an additional cost. Stumps should be treated almost immediately after cutting, unless the contractor is going to use a bark/basal treatment. Staff will inspect the sight and express concerns regarding treating the stumps later. Staff will notify the City of North Bend on the Boards "No Action" at this time until the project is completed.

5. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

5.A. Information

5.A.1. Radio & eAds

The KTIC radio ad and the Wahoo Newspaper eAd will promote the AEM flight presentations following the nitrogen & water management certification classes on January 30th & March 22nd. The ads will run through January 31st. The ads are attached.

5.A.2. Website

LPNNRD staff are reviewing current website content. TePoel is continuing to work with Red Thread through the website development & design process.

5.B. Education

5.B.1. Educational Program

On December 18th & 19th, TePoel presented Wildlife CSI to 3rd graders at Schuyler Elementary. Over 150 students participated in the activity.

5.B.2. 2020 Envirothon

TePoel has been asked to participate on the fundraising committee for the 2020 NCF Envirothon. The committee recently had a conference call to begin planning. TePoel has also volunteered for the Entertainment Committee- which will plan the opening and closing ceremonies, trading day, evening activities and entertainment, and "fun day" activities. Closer to the event, there will be many volunteer opportunities for staff and directors to participate in the 2020 Envirothon.

6. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

I completed the Grade 4 operator license course 12/12-14. All licenses expire every odd year so beginning 2018 the RW dept will have myself and Tyler Benal as licensed operators as Eric will let his license expire this year.

6.A. Colon System

Meters read last week (12/18), bills out this week.
Coliform testing and copper lead testing done this week.
All hydrants exercised in early December.

6.B. Bruno System

Meters read last week (12/18).
Coliform testing done this week, bills go out this week as well.

6.C. Other

7. Adjournment