

Projects Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:30 AM  
Lower Platte North NRD Office  
P.O. Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. SWCP

2.A. SWCP Application Approvals

2.B. SWCP Payments

24-D-1 TOM SCHRAK	\$	3,594.56	Wildlife Habitat (1912 trees)
-------------------	----	----------	-------------------------------

2.C. SWCP Cancellations

2.D. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals

3. JOINT WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (JWMAB)

3.A. East Fremont/Elkhorn Township Drainage - FEMA HMPG

3.B. West Fremont - FEMA BRIC

3.C. Rawhide Creek Watershed - NRCS WFPO

An update meeting on 6/24 with JWMAB members, JEO, NRCS, NRD, and USACE discussing comments from state NRCS on watershed plan economics and environmental planning. Items to be addressed before Plan EA submitted to National NRCS in Little Rock:

- Economics: issues with monetizing wetland benefits - JEO is not moving forward with this scenario. There will be recalculations for revised BCA, looks like ~0.95:1
- Environmental: Platte River depletion/accretion calculations. JEO and NRCS needed to clarify how to proceed with this element. There is also concerns as to status of existing wetlands within detention cell area and how that will impact permitting potential.

The extra review by state NRCS should decrease the time for review at national and the timeline is still on for Plan review by fall.

3.D. North Bend Drainage District

The North Bend drainage ditch project is lingering in the easement acquisition process as the engineer has submitted another change order requesting additional funds.

Larry Ruzicka plans to attend next month's Projects Committee meeting to request assistance on the lower (South) end of Central cutoff ditch. A preliminary plan and estimate is attached.

3.E. Cotterell Diking and Drainage District

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHED

4.A. Shell Creek Implementation - 319 & NET

A SCWIG meeting (agenda attached) was held 6/18 in Columbus, topics:

- South benching project: Cech Const awarded the contract, and yet to begin due to weather.
- Bill Bos Projects: waiting on contractors for septic replacements, well work and the Runge project. Inspected the Sprunk grade stabilization with NRCS engineers and reassured Tom that it was functioning properly.
- SCWIG will be looking at incorporating cover crops as a cost-shareable BMP.
- Shell Creek Celebration 9/12/24 at Bailey's Shed with guest presentations and a tour of Shell Creek Benching/UP Bridge Project

4.A.1. Onsite Wastewater System Upgrade Application

Rod

Flodman	Onsite Wastewater	\$6,300
---------	-------------------	---------

5. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

5.A. Dam Site Planning Update

5.A.1. Design - Olsson

The Biological Assessment (BA) received approval from FWS and this was the expected last piece to our USACE 404 permit. We were told not to expect word on permit before 6/30.

On 7/1 NRD will be present at Saunders Co Planning to speak to our application for a Conditional Use Permit for construction of the first three structures.

Olsson delivered final designs to DNR on 6/14

5.A.2. Real Estate - Olsson & Great Plains Appraisal

On 6/18 Vanek's signed easement paperwork and on 6/21 Snitily signed the final easement for the first three sites.

On 6/20, Danielle Allen and Elliott met with Leonard Cuda, owner, and Dave and Paul Pearson, operators, for site 85 to begin process for next set of easements. Allen and Elliott also met with Wahoo Library Board, owners for a parcel on site 66. Allen and Elliott have more meetings scheduled the week of 7/1.

5.A.3. Funding - NRCS WFPO & NeDNR JEDI

5.B. Water Quality - NWQI & 319

6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

7. MORSE BLUFF LEVEE

8. WOLFE JETTY

9. LESHARA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

10. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The NRD has received multiple S&E complaints recently due to intense rains. Elliott is meeting with involved parties, the S&E complaint process:

- NRD is contacted by landowner with sedimentation/erosion damage due to neighboring field operation.
- NRD staff meets with owner(s) on site to inspect and determine S&E "validity"; 5 ton/ac/yr TOTAL soil loss
- Valid S&E complaint -> advise owner to contact USDA Farm Service for a compliance check (assuming Farm Program participant)
- NRD will contact (via letter) landowner of property in question and explain S&E status and options for NRD assistance to mitigate the situation.
- NRD monitors S&E cases until resolution (management practice or structural solution) is decided upon.

11. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The first round of meetings will wrap up with a virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 am. These meetings are for jurisdictions (Entities able to levy taxes: Counties, Townships, Fire Departments, Schools, ect.) The first two occurred in Wanahoo on 6/17 and in David City on 6/20. The jurisdiction representatives all have homework, worksheets due on July 26, that will help complete their jurisdictional profile. Things like a listing of vital facilities and equipment and whether they have backup power etc. An invoice and more detailed progress report is attached.

12. TRAILS

Jason Buss with Nebraska Trails Foundation will be in person at Committee to explain the proposed Trail-With-Rail project from David City to Columbus. The Nebraska Trails Foundation is requesting the LPNNRD be the fiscal agent for the Federal ATIIP grant, filing in line with the letter of support approved in January of 2023.

- This project is for a Rail-with-Trail easement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe, which means the Property will remain owned by the railroad.

- The ATIIP grant is for a feasibility study to be conducted by the railroad to evaluate the potential project for easement with preliminary engineering and environmental.

- The Foundation is not asking the Lower Platte North NRD for any part of the \$20,000 matching funds. They will provide these funds through the Nebraska Trails Foundation, Columbus Area Recreational Trails, Bike Walk Nebraska, The Rails to Trails Conservancy and other public entities involved.

-They are not asking for NRD to draft the grant, they have drafted it for review prior to submission including letters of support from Columbus, David City, Bellwood and Butler County.

The Foundation is excited to help take this next step of the project with the NRD. They are fortunate to have the same process happening simultaneously with the Rail-with-Trail project from Lincoln to Valparaiso with the Lower Platte South NRD. Together these projects will very nearly connect Columbus to Lincoln and the other trail networks continuing the Great American Rail Trail.

13. OTHER

14. ADJOURNMENT

April 16, 2024

Central Cut-Off Ditch

Larry & Justin,

Here is estimate for repairing the Central Cut-Off Ditch. We would be trucking in fat clay from the Lyman-Richey site in Fremont. We would push it over the edge of the slope and compact with the excavator bucket and dozer tracks if not too steep.

Based on our survey there is about 4,650 CY of fill needed. If you round that up to 5,000 CY at \$12/CY you would be spending \$60,000.

Bid does not include: Testing, permits, erosion control, seeding or bond.

**Sincerely,**



Matt Pruss  
Vice President

# CUTOFF DITCH

Legend



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

1000 ft



# CUTOFF DITCH

Legend

14

3

Old Lincoln Hwy

Old Lincoln Hwy

Old Lincoln Hwy

Old U.S. 30

Old Lincoln Hwy

Old Lincoln Hwy

Google Earth

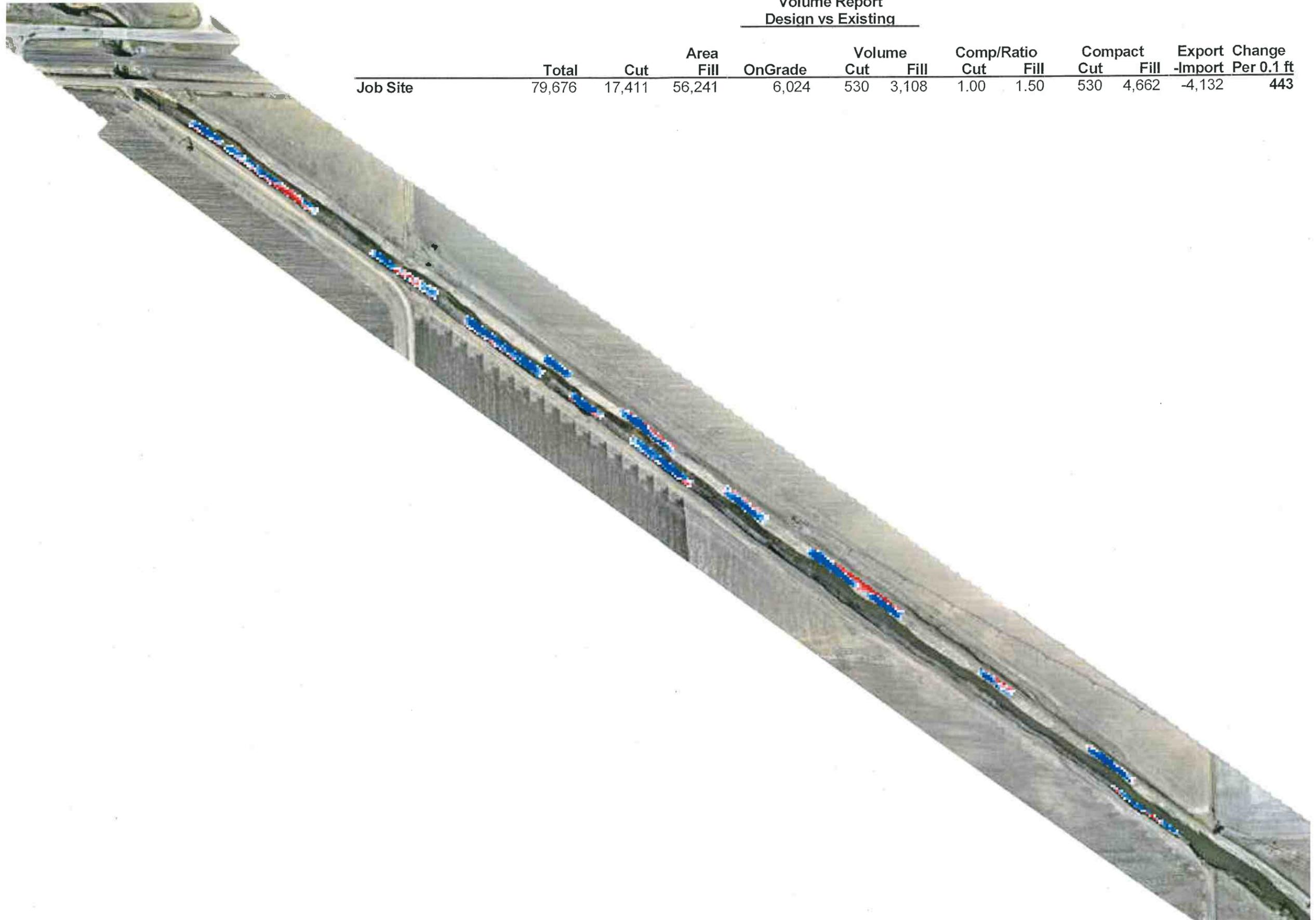
Image © 2024 Airbus



1000 ft

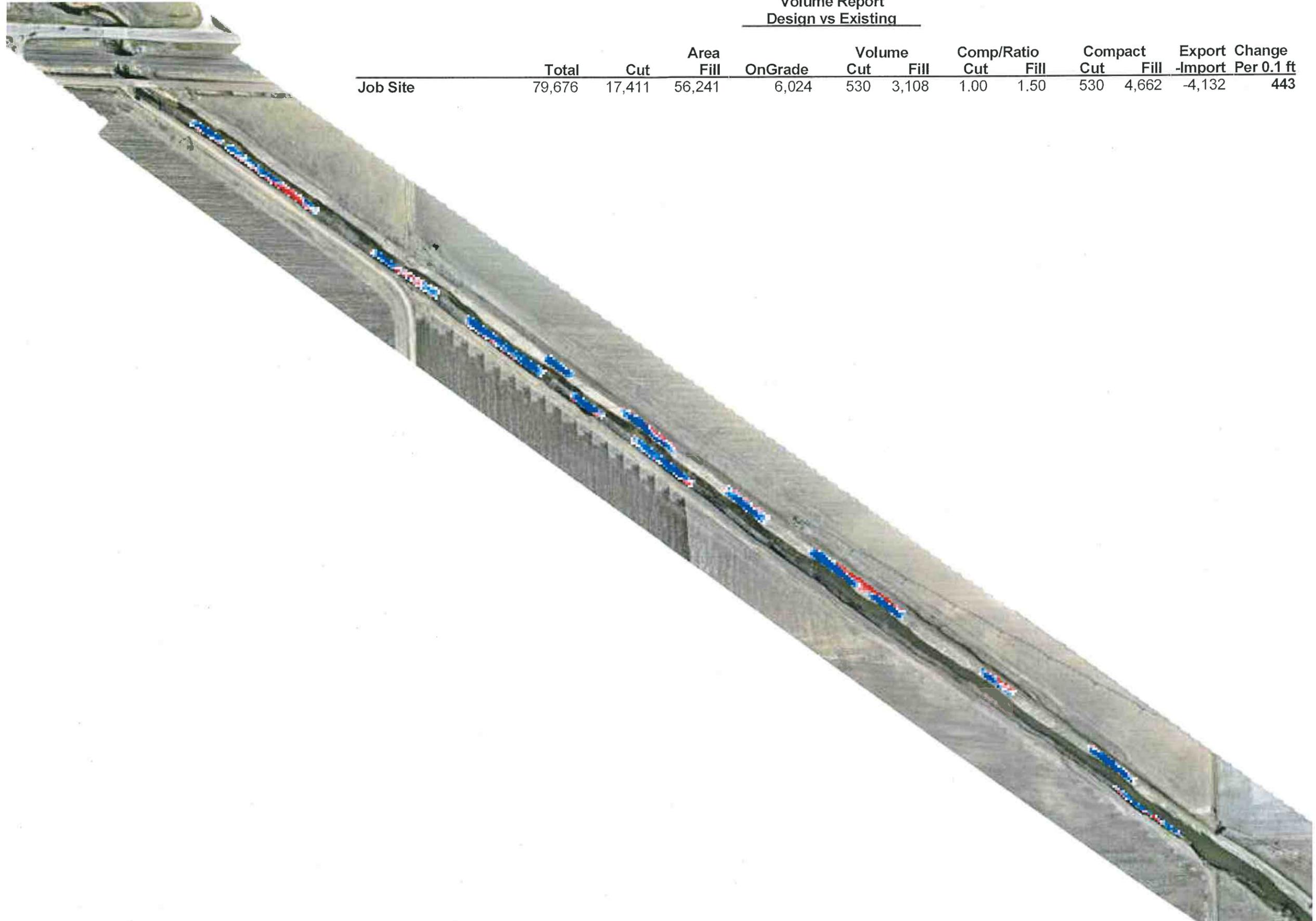
**Volume Report**  
**Design vs Existing**

	Total	Cut	Area Fill	OnGrade	Volume		Comp/Ratio		Compact		Export Change	
					Cut	Fill	Cut	Fill	Cut	Fill	-Import	Per 0.1 ft
Job Site	79,676	17,411	56,241	6,024	530	3,108	1.00	1.50	530	4,662	-4,132	443



**Volume Report**  
**Design vs Existing**

Job Site	Total	Cut	Area Fill	OnGrade	Volume		Comp/Ratio		Compact		Export	Change
	79,676	17,411	56,241	6,024	Cut	Fill	Cut	Fill	Cut	Fill	-Import	Per 0.1 ft
					530	3,108	1.00	1.50	530	4,662	-4,132	443



## Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) - Agenda

6/18/2024 - 10:00 am

Columbus NRCS Office

- Introductions
- Approval of minutes (back)
- NRCS – Chelsa & Nathan
- Celebration
  - Logistics
    - Food/drink
    - Tour
  - Invite
    - Draft flyer
    - Mailing addresses
    - Social media
- Realtor Signs
  - 24” x 30” with frame from CSI are done. \$81 each x 20 = \$1,632.00
- Billboard
  - 6 total, sign east of Schuyler needs new frame
  - Via conversation with Nebraska Sign out of Lincoln
    - AMC – plastic material that last forever
    - Cut vinal last 7-10 years
    - Printer lasts 4-5 years
    - Need vector art
    - ~\$1,000 per sign for AMC & printed
    - ~\$5,000 for new structure installed
  - Add more? See map
  - Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts:  
<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/home/item.html?id=9da1b7650dfe4f07af4911a5bdf95e6a>
- Mailings
  - Ag BMP and well decommissioning to farmland owners.
    - Just rotation areas?
  - Septic upgrade and well decommissioning to rural acreage owners
    - watershed-wide
- Projects
  - Final Bend
  - Others
- Lunch – Mezcal?

## Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) - Minutes

4/3/2024 - 10:00 am  
Columbus NRCS Office

- Meeting was called to order by co-chair Ray Flood
- Introductions: Mark Seier, Elbert Traylor, Jessica Russell, Carl Groteluechen, Ray Flood, Kaitlyn Bargaen, Ryan Chapman
- March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 minutes were approved as read.
- Completed/Approved Projects – see spreadsheet
- Planned Projects:
  - Runge Project – grade stabilizations and grass waterway. Bill plans to have the application ready by 4/8 board meeting for approval.
  - Tony Long - Solar well & Cross-fence project should be done by the end of April.
  - Road J Box Culvert – Bank stabilization box culvert. Colfax County completed the project and Carl will look at the paper trail and costs to see if they are easily documented to be used as grant match.
  - Final Bend Project – bank protection (east of Schuyler)
    - Mainelli is going to finalize the plans and run them through the CORPs for approval
    - Interlocal agreement is being reviewed by County attorney.
    - County is paying for engineering, bidding, and construction oversight.
  - Wolfe Jetty – state and NRCS issue is resolved. Contractor bid was favorable at \$750,000. County is working with the Wolfe family on a permanent easement required by the state for the project funding.
  - New structure maintenance (Sprunk). We could provide 75% cost share. Bill will get an engineer's estimate.
  - Schuyler Library Stormwater Project - ongoing
- Information/Education
  - Brochure/flyer mailings (NRD staff will work on these):
    - Ag BMP flyer mailing to all farmland owners
    - Onsite Wastewater System maintenance and upgrade cost share flyer to all rural acreage owners
    - Abandoned well and decommissioning cost share flyer mailed to all rural landowners
  - Meeting or field day
    - One agricultural
    - One urban
    - County Fair booth to highlight the project – maybe tackle one county per year. Colfax County fair booth, could have a booth with fliers and not have to have it staffed the entire time.
  - Rehabilitate 6 existing billboards and realtor signs:
    - Cornhusker State Industries (CSI) is unable to make billboard signs
      - Petersberg on hwy 32. The bottom half is blown out
      - Carl is going to stop at Shieffert Signs in Columbus
      - Old signs were 8x10' and cost \$984 installed
    - CSI realtor signs. Quote was for 30 signs, 24"x30", at \$109.10 each. Plan on order 20 unless cost is significantly more.
- Elbert suggests focusing on upland practices within our watershed rotation outlined in the plan. NRD will work with Bill to develop materials and outreach specific to BMP and cost share available.
- Ask Lacey to develop a County fair booth and handouts.
- Ask Sydney to coordinate artwork for the billboards.
- Rich Nelson is interested in doing some human dimensions work for his masters degree. He may be contacting SCWIG members in the future.
- Ryan and Carl will talk about Final project approval. At May 13<sup>th</sup> LPNNRD Board Meeting, plan to approve the project up to \$xxx based on County Boards acceptance and approval of lowest reasonable bid.
- Next Meeting: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 am, Columbus NRCS office conference room.



Invoice

June 21, 2024  
Project No: R220954.00  
Invoice No: 151833  
Invoice Amount: 15,438.50

Eric Gottschalk  
Lower Platte North NRD  
Commercial Park Road  
PO Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Project Manager Rebecca Appleford

Project R220954.00 Lower Platte North NRD HMP 2025 Update

**Professional Services through June 14, 2024**

	Contract Amount	Percent Complete	Billed-to-Date	Previous Billing	Current Billing
<b>Lump Sum Phase(s)</b>					
Project Management	\$16,500.00	58%	\$9,570.00	\$7,425.00	\$2,145.00
Public Involvement and Stakeholder Participation	\$34,700.00	25%	\$8,675.00	\$5,205.00	\$3,470.00
Data Collection and GIS Mapping	\$16,550.00	53%	\$8,771.50	\$5,958.00	\$2,813.50
Develop Hazard Mitigation Plan	\$65,750.00	10%	\$6,575.00	\$1,315.00	\$5,260.00
HMP Adoption, Submission, and Approval	\$4,000.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	\$17,500.00	20%	\$3,500.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,000.00</b>		<b>\$37,091.50</b>	<b>\$21,653.00</b>	<b>\$15,438.50</b>
<b>Total Amount Due Upon Receipt :</b>					<b>\$15,438.50</b>

Email Invoice: [rchapman@lpnrd.org](mailto:rchapman@lpnrd.org); [jbreunig@lpnrd.org](mailto:jbreunig@lpnrd.org)

# Progress Report

## LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

**June 19, 2024**

JEO Project Number: 220954.00

Project Contact: Becky Appleford, 217-741-0117

Professional Services through June 14, 2024

Below is a progress report for the above referenced project:

**1. Overall project and budget status:**

Project Completion: 25%

Budget Expended: 24%

**2. Project activities during current period (thru June 14, 2024)**

- a. Prepared presentation for Round 1 meeting
- b. Completed drafts of jurisdictional profiles and other worksheets for Round 1
- c. Printed all meeting materials for Round 1 meetings
- d. Sent meeting reminder to participating jurisdictions
- e. Updated project webpage with meeting information
- f. Finalized project flyer in English and Spanish
- g. Finalized translation of survey into Spanish
- h. Provided revised drought scope for review

**3. Planned project activities for next period (thru July 12, 2024)**

- a. Facilitate three Round 1 meetings
- b. Scan and save any materials provided from meetings
- c. Send follow-up email to attendees and missing jurisdictions with meeting information
- d. Update project webpage with meeting recording
- e. Begin incorporating completed worksheets into HMP
- f. Develop THIRA pre-workshop survey
- g. Continue THIRA workshop development
- h. Attend Water Committee meeting to support drought scope amendment

**4. Information needed from NRD or key stakeholders**

- a. Worksheets due July 26<sup>th</sup> from jurisdictions

**5. Project Schedule and Next Meeting(s)**

- a. Round 1 Meetings:
  - i. Wahoo – Monday, June 17 at 2:00pm (hybrid)
  - ii. David City – Thursday, June 20 at 6:30pm (hybrid)
  - iii. Virtual only – Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00am

**6. Other Notes**

- a. None





# LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

PO Box 126 511 Commercial Park Road Wahoo, NE 68066  
402.443.4675 [lpnrd@lpnrd.org](mailto:lpnrd@lpnrd.org) [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org)

January 9, 2023

Mr. Jason Buss  
President  
Nebraska Trails Foundation

RE: David City to Columbus rail-with-trail

Mr. Buss,

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District strongly supports your efforts to construct a rail-with-trail between David City and Columbus. We are also open to being a recipient of an easement from the railroad and being the governmental fiscal agent for receipt of funds for grants, should the project move forward.

Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Gottschalk  
General Manager  
Lower Platte North Natural Resources District