

Contact: Mike Mascoe
mmascoe@lpsnrd.org

Tentative Budget Approved

(Figures in parenthesis represent the amount in the tentatively approved budget only. Some projects mentioned are multi-year projects.)

Lincoln (NE) July 18, 2018 – The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget tentatively approved by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) Board of Directors (Board) includes projects for flood control, conservation improvements on agricultural land, repairs and improvements to waterways and dams, drought planning, recreation and much more. The \$29,996,404 budget for revenues and expenditures will be considered for final approval by the board on August 15th, following a public hearing on August 9th. With property valuations across the district's six-county area expected to increase, the resulting tax levy would be reduced from last year. The property tax requirement is \$9,673,210, an increase of approximately 1.8%. LPSNRD Board Treasurer Dan Steinkruger said the entire Board of Directors participated to develop a tentative budget that meets the Board's responsibilities, goals and objectives. He said, "The budget provides for large projects like the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project, continued maintenance of existing projects and involvement in finding better ways to conserve soil and water."

The tentative budget includes continued updating of Lincoln's Salt Creek Levee (\$1 million), which protects many businesses and neighborhoods from flooding. It also funds flood reduction projects within the Deadmans Run Watershed (\$2.1 million). That plan, when approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will take approximately 480 structures out of the floodplain.

About \$1.5 million is in the budget for cost-sharing with landowners who make conservation improvements to their land to improve surface water quality. The budget for construction and maintenance of flood control dams and for maintaining waterways and stormwater facilities totals about \$4.8 million. Nearly \$1 million is set aside for the management of ground water.

LPSNRD's continued participation in several multi-agency studies and projects is also part of the budget (\$1.5 million). A plan to make more water available to municipalities in the lower Platte River basin during times of drought is expected in 2019. LPSNRD, the City of Lincoln and several other agencies

and groups are involved in development of a 10-mile tall grass prairie preservation corridor between Lincoln's Pioneers Park and Spring Creek Prairie, near Denton. In addition, eastern Nebraska NRDs continue to explore ways to manage available water regionally.

The Board's annual Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, August 9, will start at 7:00 PM, when the Board will hear public comments on the tentative budget and on the budget level. Final consideration will come during the August 15th Board meeting, beginning at 7:00 PM. Both meetings will be at the LPSNRD office, 3125 Portia Street, in Lincoln. A map to the office and the complete tentative budget are available at LPSNRD.org.

In other action, the Board:

- Approved a Community Assistance program application to help the The Preserve Home Owners Association make improvements to a dam and wetland above Holmes Lake (NRD share \$75,000)
- Approved a Community Assistance Program request from the Village of Malcolm for 50% cost-sharing on an aquifer sustainability assessment (\$17,000) and a Nebraska Water Sustainability Fund grant application
- Approved a federal Recreational Trails Program Grant Resolution for the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center segment of the Prairie Corridor Trail
- Decided that granting funds for an outdoor classroom to a non-public school would not be constitutional. The decision was in response to a grant request from St. John the Baptist School, in Plattsmouth
- Approved a Summer Conservation Program application from Daniel Kouma for LPSNRD cost-sharing on terrace installation in the Branched Oak Lake Watershed (\$20,000)
- Approved cost-sharing up to \$1,500 for decommissioning of a well in the Lower Salt Creek Ground Water Reservoir and authorized the general manager to approve additional FY 2019 best management practice applications
- Approved appraisals and authorized negotiations to acquire easements for the Oak Middle Dam 82-B Watershed Rehabilitation Project
- Approved an amended contract from engineering consultant JEO for the Middle Creek Tieback Levee design (\$2,940)

The next meeting of Board is on August 15th, 2018, starting at 7:00 PM at the NRD office, 3125 Portia Street, in Lincoln. An agenda will be posted one week prior to the meeting at LPSNRD.org.