

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

NEBRASKA WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND GRANT AWARD ANNUAL REPORT – APRIL 1, 2019 APPLICATION NO. 5201

Build Detention Sites 26a, 26b & 27 within the Wahoo Creek Basin - Project Summary

The Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) grant agreement for the Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD) awarded \$2,269,194 for the planning, design and construction of Wahoo Creek detention sites 26 & 27 beginning November 28, 2017. LPNNRD acquired an additional \$1.5 million of federal assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Total project costs are estimated at \$5.3 million and will include grant dollars from WSF and RCPP with \$1.5 million in local funding.

Sites 26 and 27 were identified in the *Plan/EIS* to provide regional detention of storm water and water quality benefits. The *Plan/EIS* was last updated in 1998 by LPNNRD and NRCS under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566). The watershed plan identified seventeen floodwater retention structures within the basin to reduce rural and urban flooding, reduce sedimentation and scour, stabilize stream channels, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, enhance water quality, improve economic conditions, and provide recreational opportunities.

PROJECT PROGRESS NOVEMBER 28, 2018 TO APRIL 1, 2019:

Sites 26 & 27 were two of the ten Wahoo Creek structures identified in the *Plan/EIS*. Since the last reporting period Site 26 has undergone a few changes. In lieu of a single structure that acts as a road dam, Site 26 has been split into two structures slightly upstream, moving them off the road. These new structures are referred to as 26a and 26b. It is estimated that changing Site 26 from a single structure to two smaller structures upstream will result in substantial cost savings to LPNNRD, its constituents, and State and Federal partners. Staff from LPNNRD attended a Commission meeting, in December 2018, seeking approval of a scope change for site 26 and site 27. Approval was granted by the Commission, and Site 26 is now sites 26a and 26b. Olsson Engineering has been contracted to handle design and construction of Sites 26a, 26b and 27. To date they have finished geotechnical work on all three sites. Further design activities have been placed on hold, pending approval of the watershed plan by NRCS. Once approved, Olsson is ready to move forward and start implementing all three projects for completion. FYRA Engineering is diligently working on completion of the watershed plan, which includes 11 total structures, so that LPNNRD may move forward with construction of the WSF funded sites. A cultural resources inventory is ongoing and work continues apace on the economic side of the plan. FYRA hopes to have a completed plan ready to submit to NRCS by early summer.

On March 20th 2018, LPNNRD held a Public Meeting at Union Bank in Wahoo to answer any questions the public had, and to solicit feedback on the plan and future plans for dams, including those with WSF funding. The plan calls for 11 total structures, three with WSF funding, to be built in the Wahoo Creek Watershed to reduce flooding and improve water quality within the Wahoo Creek Watershed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FROM NOW UNTIL NEXT ANNUAL REPORT DUE APRIL 1, 2019:

The Watershed plan completion is contingent on additional cultural resources field investigations and economic review of all 11 sites. LPNNRD plans to submit the watershed plan to NRCS early this summer for review and hopes to receive approval by fall 2019. Once the plan is approved at the Federal level, Olsson Engineering will begin ramping up work on design activities for sites 26a, 26b, and 27. Construction activities will

commence after the sites have been designed, though it is likely construction activities may not commence until the next annual reporting period.