

WSF 2020 Status Report # 5244

PROJECT: Lower Loup NRD Drought Management Plan –
WSF Application #5244 (awarded December 18, 2019)

DATE: MARCH 23, 2020
(FIRST ANNUAL REPORT DUE ON
OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2020)

See Application 5244 Section A #7 For Project Tasks Summary and Timeline

PROJECT PROGRESS DECEMBER 2019 TO APRIL 2019:

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District (LLNRD) hired JEO Consulting Group (JEO) for the development of a drought management plan within the District. JEO and the LLNRD met on February 20 for a planning session to determine the proposed schedule of tasks and related timelines. Items discussed at the kickoff meeting included: project schedule, expectations, deliverables, project roles and responsibilities, communications, developing a list of stakeholder names and addresses, setting possible dates for a drought tournament (workshop) with stakeholder participation, and developing materials for the drought workshop. Following the meeting a District-wide list of stakeholder names and addresses was compiled by JEO and LLNRD, invitation letters to stakeholders for the drought workshop were drafted, and a press release statement was developed for distribution to local papers and the LLNRD website regarding details of the workshop.

At the LLNRD Board of Directors meeting on February 27, the Board was informed of the drought management plan meeting with JEO as well as upcoming activities in 2020, including the drought management workshop with public stakeholder participation.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FROM NOW UNTIL NEXT ANNUAL REPORT DUE APRIL 1, 2021:

LLNRD and JEO will host a drought workshop at the Valley County Fairgrounds with public stakeholder participation in late April or early May of 2020, a date has not been set due to the statewide limitation on public meetings. A second drought workshop will be considered in a different location within the District depending on attendance of the first workshop. JEO will continue collecting data for development of an inventory of available water resources throughout the District. JEO will develop a drought management plan that will identify drought-specific vulnerabilities and identify best management practices to be implemented to reduce drought impacts. JEO will work with the LLNRD to identify potential water recharge projects throughout the District and develop a protocol for local drought monitoring and forecasting with the goal of preparing District residents ahead of drought conditions. All project activities and a developed plan are expected to be completed by December 2020.

ANTICIPATED CASH FLOW FOR REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT:

\$52,260 - The LLNRD and Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) have funding obligations towards this project (\$87,100 total project costs) under grant award #5244.

Progress payments will be due from LLNRD to JEO in an amount equal to 90% (\$78,390) of total project costs. The final 10% (\$8,710) will be due from LLNRD to JEO within 30 days after final delivery of all the work to LLNRD, which is expected by December 2020.

LIKELIHOOD THAT BENEFITS PROJECTED IN APPLICATION 5244 WILL BE REALIZED:

Based on the previous project results and experience with working through the WSF, provided by both the LLNRD and JEO, the project is on target for achieving all benefits described in the original application.