

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

NEBRASKA WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND GRANT AWARD ANNUAL REPORT – APRIL 1, 2022 APPLICATION NO. 5201

LPNNRD continues to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our hired engineering firm, FYRA, on completing the Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan. The Plan is finally near completion after hold ups at NRCS. At this point the plan has cleared the public comment period and is awaiting final review. Approval should happen at any time. The plan itself saw the removal of one of the 11 dam sites (83) due to archeological significance located at the site. That leaves the plan with 10 dams located within a 100 square mile area, mostly south and west of Wahoo, Nebraska.

The NNRC has allocated WSF assistance toward the first three dam sites, 26a, 26b and 27. NRCS has approved Regional Conservation Partnership funds (\$1.35 million) for a portion of the eventual construction of the three dams. NRCS has given the go ahead to move past geotechnical work and Olsson Engineering is putting a high priority on design for these structures. LPNNRD will then move into obtaining project land rights and construction activities in 2022 – 2023.

While not part of the current funding, LPNNRD may seek additional NNRC funds for the remaining dams as described in the plan. The opportunity to use STAR WARS funds on a portion of the dams is a possibility, but the logistics of how that funding will work is still being worked out. It is hoped that the two funding sources can be leveraged and allow for the completion of all the dams in the watershed plan at an expedited pace. Future reports will have many more details on design and construction activity.