

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

NEBRASKA WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND GRANT AWARD FINAL REPORT – MARCH 17, 2023 APPLICATION NO. 5201

NRCS recently gave final approval for the Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment. This approval allows for a streamlined permitting process through the Clean Water Act Section 404 and the ability to secure federal funds for construction activities. Our contracted engineering firm submitted 90% designs to NRCS for the first three dam sites, 26a, 26b, and 27. We recently procured a firm to coordinate real estate services and another to complete appraisals. We expect to break ground on the first three sites in the fourth quarter of 2023 as federal and state funds have been secured.

In December of 2022 we signed an agreement with DNR to secure \$19,667,600 in funding through the JEDI funding. This will be utilized as local share in combination with federal funding (RCPP, WFPO) to fast-track completion of the Wahoo Creek Watershed Flood Reduction Plan. With the addition of the JEDI funds we feel the restrictions placed on local match within WSF funding are not in the NRD's best interest to continue utilizing the funding.

The Lower Platte North NRD appreciates WSF's support for this project and we look forward to future opportunities to preserve and protect Nebraska's natural resources.