

**Programs, Projects, and Operations  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2021**

A meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District’s Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE, on March 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Conley at 4:10 p.m.

**QUORUM CALL:** Quorum call was taken. The following subcommittee members were in attendance.

<b>Subcommittee Members Present</b>	<b>Subcommittee Members Absent</b>	<b>Other Directors Present</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Fred Conley, Chairperson	Tim Fowler*	Danny Begley	John Winkler
Patrick Bonnett**		Larry Bradley	Marlin Petermann
Ted Japp		Phil Davidson	Brent Meyer, Legal Counsel
Kevyn Sopinski		Tim McCormick	Nicole Gust
Rich Tesar		Jim Thompson	Eric Williams
			Justin Novak
			Lt. Dennis Svobodo, Sarpy Co. Sheriff’s Office
			Sheriff Jeff Davis, Sarpy Co. Sheriff’s Office
			Deputy Ben Leenerts, Sarpy Co. Sheriff’s Office
			Other Staff Members

\* Absent

\*\* Alternate Voting Member

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Sopinski that the agenda be adopted.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Tesar, Conley

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Fowler

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on March 4, 2021. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**1. Review and Recommendation of Elkhorn River Improvement Project Area (IPA) Operation & Maintenance Assessment – Eric Williams:**

Project Manager Eric Williams reminded the Directors that in February, 2011 the Board approved the reestablishment of the O&M Assessment in which special assessments at the rate of \$20,000 per year would be collected until the O&M fund reached \$250,000. Eric discussed the work the District completed after

the March 2019 flood with a total cost of \$983,337.10, stating that FEMA is expected to reimburse \$737,502.83 (75%). The remainder was paid by the IPA account leaving a remaining balance of \$1,052. Eric stated that a Board resolution is required each year for Douglas County to collect these assessments. Eric answered Directors questions.

**It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Sopinski that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that a special assessment for the operation and maintenance of the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Improvement Project Area be levied against the benefited parcels in the total amount of \$20,000 for calendar year 2021.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Tesar, Conley

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Fowler

**2. Review and Recommendation of Amendments to the Professional Services Contract with Olsson, Inc. for the design of Kramper Lake/Hubbard & Fiddler Creek Water Main Extension Project – Justin Novak:**

Project Manager Justin Novak reminded the Directors of their August 2020 approval of an amended contract with Olsson for the design and construction of the Kramper/Hubbard & Fiddler Creek Water Main Extension Program, and the subsequent two amendment requests in September 2020 and February 2021. Justin briefed the Directors on the additional proposed amendment stating that it creates an increase in contract price over 10% which requires Board approval. Justin broke down Olsson’s professional services fees for the project and answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Tesar that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Amendment No.1 to the professional services contract with Olsson, Inc. for the Kramper Lake/Hubbard & Fiddler Creek Water Main Extension Project, increasing the contract maximum, not to exceed, amount to \$397,589.00, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Tesar, Conley

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Fowler

**3. Review and Recommendation on District Policy 17.45 Private/Public Dike Repair Assistance Program – John Winkler:**

General Manager John Winkler reviewed the devastating damage to public and private infrastructure in Nebraska caused by the historic flood of 2019. John told the Directors that while most public infrastructure has been repaired to pre-flood condition, a large amount of private infrastructure has not been. John stated that there is no current regulation compelling landowners to make repairs, nor are there any cost share programs to assist them in making repairs. Despite the District’s inquiries to counties, NDNR and the legislature, we have been unsuccessful in creating a partnership to identify private levee ownership and assist in making vital repairs to these private levee systems. As such, the District is proposing Policy 17.45 which would allow the District to partner with Private levee owners inside the Papio NRD boundaries. John answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Sopinski that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the proposed District Policy 17.45 Private/Public Dike Repair Assistance Program be adopted and incorporated to the District Policy Manual.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Tesar, Conley  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Fowler

**4. Review and Recommendation of Cost Share Agreement with Sarpy County Sheriff’s Office for Purchase of Air Boat – John Winkler, Lt. Dennis Svobodo and Sheriff Jeff Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff’s Office:**

General Manager John Winkler, Lt. Dennis Svoboda and Sheriff Jeff Davis, briefed the Directors on the need for an air boat in order to increase the Sarpy County Sheriff’s service, patrol and rescue capabilities especially on the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers. In the cost share agreement, the District would contribute \$40,000 (50%) of a new air boat of which it would be the Sheriff’s Office sole responsibility for the operation, maintenance and staffing. The District would be able to request use of the vessel and Sheriff Office Personnel for activities deemed as appropriate to use in such equipment. In addition, the NRD logo will be displayed on the craft and the District’s contribution will be acknowledged. John stated that the District’s contribution would be budgeted for FY2022 and reimbursed to the Sarpy County Sheriff’s Office. John, LT. Svobodo and Sheriff Davis answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Tesar that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Inter-local Agreement to provide a fifty (50) percent cost share, not to exceed \$40,000, for the purchase of a Search and Rescue Boat as to form and with any changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and Legal Counsel.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Tesar, Conley  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Fowler

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 5:00 p.m.