



**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2021**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE on April 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Thompson at 4:00 p.m.

**NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING AND MEETING PROCEDURE**

**QUORUM CALL:** The following Directors were present for the Quorum Call:

Danny Begley	Tim Fowler
Patrick Bonnett	Ted Japp
Larry Bradley	Tim McCormick
Fred Conley	Kevyn Sopinski
Phil Davidson	Rich Tesar
	Jim Thompson

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 1:** It was moved by Director Bradley and seconded by Director Conley that the meeting agenda be adopted.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea	-	Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick, Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson
Voting Nay	-	None
Abstaining	-	None
Excused Absence	-	None
Absent	-	None

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 2:** It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Conley that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions on the consent agenda are hereby adopted.

Agenda Item 3.A.:

BE IT RESOLVED that the absences of the following Director(s) from the April 8, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting is excused:

None to date.

Agenda Item 7. A. and 7.B.:

BE IT RESOLVED that the March 11, 2021, Papio-Missouri River NRD Board Meeting minutes and the March 10, 2021, Dakota Rural Water Advisory Board Meeting minutes are approved as printed.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea	-	Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson
Voting Nay	-	None
Abstaining	-	None
Excused Absence	-	None
Absent	-	None

**PROOFS OF PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICE:** Notice of the meeting was published in the Omaha World Herald on April 1, 2021. The District's February 12 - March 11, 2021, expenditures were published in the Washington County Enterprise on March 19, 2021. The Chairperson ordered the Proofs of Publication recorded in the minutes of this meeting. (They are contained as part of the file copy of these minutes.)

**AGENCY AND ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report: Andy Bohnenkamp, District Conservationist, submitted a written report on NRCS activities for the month of April. The written report has been posted to the District's website.

B. Legislative Report – Catalyst Public Affairs: General Manager John Winkler gave the report on legislative activities.

The Legislative report can be heard on the District's podcast at [www.papionrd.org/meeting-podcasts/](http://www.papionrd.org/meeting-podcasts/)

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee: Director Conley reported that the PPO Subcommittee met on April 6, 2021 and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

A presentation was given by Aqua Geo Frameworks of the 2020 Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Mapping and Hydrogeologic Framework. No action was taken by the Subcommittee.

•• **MOTION NO. 3:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 1:* Papio PL-566 Site S-6 Easement Vacation for WP2 Project: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Release of Easement for the PL-566 S-6 structure, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick  
Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

•• **MOTION NO. 4:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 2:* Dedication of Right-of-Way to the City of Papillion and Sarpy County for Cornhusker Road Improvements: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Cornhusker Road Dedication of Street Right-of-Way to the City of Papillion and to Sarpy County for the Cornhusker Road Improvements, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick  
Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

•• **MOTION NO. 5:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 3:* Hwy 31 Connecting Link Repair Construction Contract: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a contract with CDS Enterprise LLC in the amount of \$152,729 for the Hwy 31 Connecting Link Repair Project, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea	-	Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson
Voting Nay	-	None
Abstaining	-	None
Excused Absence	-	None
Absent	-	None

•• **MOTION NO. 6:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 4.a.-d.:* FY 2022 Urban Cost Share Programs:

A. Urban Conservation Assistance Program: Recommendation that the applications from Ralston, SID 261, SID 503, and South Sioux City for \$30,000 each, for a total of \$120,000 be approved; and that,

B. Urban Drainageway Program: Recommendation that the applications from the City of Papillion for \$540,000 in FY 2022 and FY 2023, and from SID 541 for \$180,000, for a total of \$720,000, be approved in FY 2022 and \$540,000 in FY 2023; and that,

C. Recreation Area Development Program: Recommendation that the applications from Arlington for \$20,000 and \$50,000, Bellevue for \$26,600, Blair for \$100,000 (with a waiver of Program policy), Gretna for \$50,000, Lake Cunningham Development Trust and City of Omaha for \$46,110, City of Omaha for \$20,000 and \$50,000, City of Papillion for \$50,000, and South Sioux City for \$18,201, for a total of \$430,911 be approved; and that,

D. Trails Assistance Program: Recommendation that the applications from Arlington for \$92,500, Fort Calhoun for \$77,100, La Vista for \$250,000, Lake Cunningham Development Trust and the City of Omaha for \$200,000, the City of Omaha for \$43,588, the City of Omaha for \$250,000 in FY 2022, 2023, and 2024, the City of Omaha

for \$300,187, and SID 405 for \$532,000, for a total of \$1,745,375 be approved in FY 2022, \$250,000 in FY 2023, and \$250,000 in FY 2024, all subject to funding in the FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024 Budgets.

The following individual addressed the Board:

- Brook Bench, Executive Director, Lake Cunningham Development Trust, 8305 Rainwood Road, Omaha, NE 68122

Directors had questions for Mr. Bench regarding the Lake Cunningham Development Trust and the Recreation Area Development Program and Trails Assistance Program applications they submitted. There was also discussion about making changes to the District’s policy to address the City of Blair’s Recreation Area Development application, which requested the Board waive current policy in order to approve their application for the Blair Optimist Park Boat Dock replacement. There was additional discussion.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick  
Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

B. Finance, Expenditures, and Legal Subcommittee: Director Tesar reported that the FEL Subcommittee met on April 6, 2021 and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

•• **MOTION NO. 7:** It was moved by Director Tesar that the following recommendation be adopted:

*FEL Recommendation 1.a.:* Land Rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repairs – Nelson Tract: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with Doug & Lisa Nelson and James & Christina Nelson Revocable Living Trust for a not-to-exceed amount of \$49,482 for an area containing 4.29 acres of land and temporary easement rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repair Project, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick  
Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None

Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

- **MOTION NO. 8:** It was moved by Director Tesar that the following recommendation be adopted:

*FEL Recommendation 1.b.*: Land Rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repairs – Hall Tract:  
Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with Carlotta Hall for a not-to-exceed amount of \$29,606 for an area containing 3.21 acres of land and temporary easement rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repair Project, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick, Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

- **MOTION NO. 9:** It was moved by Director Tesar that the following recommendation be adopted:

*FEL Recommendation 1.c.*: Land Rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repairs – Roost Tract:  
Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with Darlene L. Roost Irrevocable Trust for a not-to-exceed amount of \$54,403 for an area containing 6.18 acres of land and temporary easement rights for the Elk Creek Levee Repair Project, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick, Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

- **MOTION NO. 10:** It was moved by Director Tesar that the following recommendation be adopted:

*FEL Recommendation 2.:* Land Acquisition for West Papillion Regional Basin Number 1 (WP1): Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with Harlan J. Dreessen, for the purchase of 38.48 acres for the construction of the WP1 Regional Detention Basin Project for the total amount of \$2,809,040, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Director Japp asked how much the District paid for the land located in this area in the past and how much land was still needed to be acquired for the project. Project Manager Amanda Grint said there was 22 acres remaining to be purchased which involves four different property owners. She addressed all other questions and concerns.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-yea and 1-nay.

Voting Yea	-	Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, McCormick Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson
Voting Nay	-	Japp
Abstaining	-	None
Excused Absence	-	None
Absent	-	None

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

•• **MOTION NO. 11:** It was moved by Director Fowler and seconded by Director Bradley that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to expend general funds to pay: (1) claims listed in the March 2021, financial report; and, (2) any claims made prior to the next Board meeting for (a) earned salaries of District employees, (b) withholding taxes, (c) social security payments, (d) retirement program contributions, (e) utilities, (f) registration fees and expenses for upcoming meetings and conferences, (g) certified completed CAP and Special Project Area applications, (h) invoices which offer a credit or discount for payment made prior to the next Board meeting, (i) postage, and, (j) building and grounds contract expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to pay, from the respective operating accounts of the Dakota County, Thurston County and Washington County Rural Water System, the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project, the Elkhorn Breakout Project, the Elk/Pigeon Creek Drainage Project, and the Western Sarpy Drainage District, the project bills listed on the March 2021, financial report, and future claims for project utilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the financial reports be affixed to and made a part of the minutes.

Roll call vote was held on motion. The motion carried on a vote of 11-yea.

Voting Yea - Begley, Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Fowler, Japp, McCormick  
Sopinski, Tesar, Thompson  
Voting Nay - None  
Abstaining - None  
Excused Absence - None  
Absent - None

**LEGAL UPDATE:** Brent Meyer, District Legal Counsel stated he had nothing to report.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Chairperson Thompson congratulated Director Begley on the Omaha Primary Election Results in his run for City Council, District 3. As of April 7<sup>th</sup>, Director Begley was in the lead at having received 40% of the vote. The Chairperson also provided comments on the Douglas County Board Meeting that was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He concluded his report with an update on Earth Day Omaha, that is being celebrated on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Elmwood Park. There will be a virtual Nebraska Earth Day Passport, running from April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found at [www.earthdayomaha.org](http://www.earthdayomaha.org).

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** General Manager Winkler reviewed his report with the Board. The written report is posted to the District's website. He provided the Board with a status update on Dom's Park located at Chalco Hills. The playground equipment has been installed and the next step is to install the concrete and rubber surface. The money for the park was provided by the Dominik Walter's Memorial Foundation and the Papio-Missouri River NRD. There will be a ribbon cutting event scheduled sometime in May to commemorate the opening.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. **Future Meetings:** The Chairperson reviewed the following upcoming meetings with the Directors:

May 11, 2021	P-MRNRD Subcommittee Meetings, 4:00 p.m., at NRC
May 13, 2021	P-MRNRD Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., at NRC
May 20, 2021	Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership Meeting, 10:00 a.m., at NRC
May 27, 2021	Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting, 10:00 a.m., at NRC
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day – P-MRNRD Offices Closed

B. Next Meeting – The next scheduled meeting of the P-MRNRD Board of Directors will be held on May 13, 2021, at the NRC.



**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the Chairperson declared that the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

**NOTE:** These minutes reflect the actions and votes taken at the April 8, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and are not an official transcript of the meeting. The audio cast of this meeting can be found on our website at [www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org).

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, hereby certify that the foregoing are true and correct minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on April 8, 2021, that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the District; that such subjects were contained in said agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; and, that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting.

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Richard Tesar  
District Secretary