

**Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2021**

A meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District’s Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs Subcommittee was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE, on August 10, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kevyn Sopinski at 4:56 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 in Attendance</b>
Tim Fowler	* Patrick Bonnett	Larry Bradley	John Winkler
Ted Japp, Vice-Chairperson	* Danny Begley	Fred Conley	Marlin Petermann
Tim McCormick		Phil Davidson	Brent Meyer
Kevyn Sopinski, Chairperson		Rich Tesar	Nicole Gust
		Jim Thompson	Other Staff Members

\* Absence

\*\* Alternate Voting Member

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **It was moved by Director Fowler and seconded by Director McCormick that the agenda be adopted.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-yea.

Voting Yea: Fowler, Japp, McCormick, Sopinski

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Begley, Bonnett

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on August 5, 2021. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**1. Review and Recommendation of P-MRNRD Resolution on Executive Order 14008 (“30x30 plan”) – Director Rich Tesar:**

Director Tesar briefed the Directors on the “30 x 30 plan” goal set by President Biden to permanently protect in its natural state 30% of the nation’s land and waters by the year 2030 and stated his objections to any effort by the federal government to pursue mandatory conservation efforts. Director Tesar and General Manager John Winkler answered Directors questions.

The following individual addressed the subcommittee:

- Edison McDonald, GC Resolve, 909 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Hickman, NE

**It was moved by Director Japp and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the following resolution be adopted:**

**“Whereas, the State of Nebraska has a unique system of soil and water conservation, locally led by natural resources districts (NRD’s) with locally elected board of directors;**

**Whereas, Nebraska’s unique system of locally-controlled, watershed-based conservation through NRD’s is widely admired throughout the nation;**

**Whereas, over 97% of the land in Nebraska is privately owned;**

**Whereas, NRD’s have worked successfully and cooperatively with local landowners for fifty years to develop and tailor voluntary conservation programs that assist landowners to protect the resources for future generations;**

**Whereas, NRD’s work in partnership with other local units of government, State of Nebraska agencies, University of Nebraska, and federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide voluntary conservation programs to all landowners;**

**Whereas, President Biden announced a vague and broadly outlined “30 x 30 plan” to protect 30 percent of the land and 30 percent of the water in the United States by 2030; and**

**Whereas, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (“PMRNRD”) supports increased local, state and federal funding for voluntary conservation programs for all willing landowners and categorically rejects any local, state or federal mandates that would negatively impact the current voluntary conservation system.**

**Now therefore be it resolved, the Board of Directors of the PMRNRD express their opposition to any effort by the federal government to pursue mandatory conservation efforts or any plan that would circumvent or interfere with the existing conservation system of local control, infringe on private property rights for the purpose of conservation; or require federal approval of local or state soil and water conservation plans, regulations, or projects.”**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-yea.

Voting Yea: Fowler, Japp, McCormick, Sopinski  
Voting Nay: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Begley, Bonnett

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation 5:09 p.m.