

**Programs, Projects, and Operations  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2022**

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 July 12, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Conley at 4:02 p.m.

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

Subcommittee Members Present	Subcommittee Members Absent	Other Directors Present	Others Present
Fred Conley, Chairperson	Rich Tesar *	Larry Bradley	John Winkler
Patrick Bonnett **	Tim Fowler, Vice-Chair *	Phil Davidson	Amanda Grint
Ted Japp		Tim McCormick	Brent Meyer, Legal Counsel
Kevyn Sopinski		Jim Thompson	Tracy Thompson
			Paul Woodward
			Lori Laster
			Troy Meyer, HDR Engineering
			John Engel, HDR Engineering
			Eric Williams
			Bart Pugh, Schemmer
			Other Staff Members

- \* Absent
- \*\* Alternate Voting Member

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

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

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

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on July 7, 2022. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**1. Review and Recommendation of Revisions to Groundwater Rules and Regulations, Appendix N – Paul Woodward:**

Project Manager Paul Woodward presented the proposed revisions to the District’s Groundwater Rules and Regulations, Appendix N, which were last amended on March 1, 2018 as part of the comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan update. The update included a requirement of flow meters to be installed and operational on all high capacity6 wells (pump > 50 gpm) in the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA)

by March 1, 2023. Paul indicated that notification to landowners about the new requirement was delayed due to work resulting from the aftermath of the 2019 flood which significantly impacted implementation by the 2023 deadline. A Water Sustainability Fund grant application was approved at the beginning of 2022 to support cost-share in the amount of 75% up to \$1,500 per flow meter for the nearly 250 private wells that require flow meters. To date, the District has provided cost-share for 44 flow meters. In order to allow for landowner notification and maximum utilization of grant funding, he advised that the March 1, 2023 deadline be revised to March 1, 2025 for flow meter installation. Paul answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Japp that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the proposed amendments to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations, Appendix N be adopted and incorporated into the District’s Policy Manual.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-yea and 1-nay.

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

**2. Review and Recommendation of Water Sustainability Fund Grant Application for the Lower Platte NRD’s AEM Groundwater Modeling – Paul Woodward:**

Project Manager Paul Woodward presented the proposed Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) Grant Application for the Lower Platte NRD’s AEM Groundwater Modeling. He reported that this project will vastly improve the assessment used by the Nebr. Dept. of Natural Resources (NDNR) to determine hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water for the LPSNRD, LPNNRD, and the P-MRNRD. Paul reviewed the project’s preliminary scope of work with an estimated cost of \$660,000. He reported that that the joint WSF grant application needs to be submitted by the end of July. NDNR agreed to support the grant application and provide funding equal to the combined NRDs funding. The P-MRNRD would serve as the grant’s primary applicant and handle administrative duties as part of a future interlocal agreement. Paul reviewed the projected cost-share for the grant application and answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Bonnett that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute and submit a Water Sustainability Fund application for the Lower Platte NRD’s AEM Groundwater Modeling project, 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 4-yea.

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

**3. Review and Recommendation of Construction Bids for the WP-4 Project – Lori Laster:**

Project Manager Lori Laster presented the bid summary for the construction of the West Papio Regional Basin 4 (WP-4) project located at approximately 204th St. and Schram Rd. in Gretna. Two bids were opened on June 30, 2022 ranging from \$10,817,556.80 to \$12,578,958.75. The Engineer’s (HDR Engineering, Inc.) estimate for the work was \$7,461,745. The Engineer’s evaluation of the bids determined that the prices for earthwork were approximately twice the amount estimated, and the bid item for potential dewatering during construction of the main dam was 3 times the amount for similar projects completed by the subcontractor and may not even be necessary. Due to these reasons and the potential to attract more bidders later this year, staff and HDR recommend that all bids be rejected at this time and the bid documents modified to address

fluctuation in fuel costs with an escalation/de-escalation factor and the dewatering moved to an alternate bid item only to be used if necessary. Lori answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Bonnett that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to reject all bids received for the WP-4 Regional Basin project.**

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

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

**4. Review and Recommendation of Water Sustainability Fund Application for WP4 & WP2 – Lori Laster:**

Project Manager Lori Laster reviewed the proposed Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) Application for West Papillion Regional Basins Numbers 2 and 4 (WP2-WP4). In 2021, staff applied for a WSF grant for WP4 but due to other higher-scoring projects, WP4 was not awarded funding. However, progress on land acquisition for both projects and completion of final designs created an opportunity to apply jointly for both projects which are scheduled to begin construction during Fiscal Year 2023. To assist funding the remaining land acquisition and construction of these two sites, FYRA Engineering prepared an updated WSF grant application to cover 60% of the remaining project costs for a total WSF contribution of approximately \$11,300,000. Lori answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Sopinski and seconded by Director Bonnett that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute and submit a Water Sustainability Fund application for the West Papillion Regional Basins 2 and 4 Projects, 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 4-yea.

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

**5. Review and Recommendation of Amendment 3 to Agreement with Schemmer for Platte River Bridge Trail Project – Eric Williams:**

Project Manager Eric Williams presented the proposed Amendment 3 to the Agreement with Schemmer for the Platte River Bridge Trail Project, which runs parallel to US Highway 34/75 over the Platte River. As part of a review from the Nebr. Dept. of Transportation (NDOT), the location of a water quality basin needs to be moved in order to provide maintenance access and protect trail users. Additional costs for this work are \$3,989.09 bringing the total project design costs for this agreement to \$276,777.31. Eric reminded the Directors that this is a federal aid project, with 80% of the design and construction provided by NDOT, and the remaining 20% split between local partner agencies that include the District, Bellevue, Plattsmouth, Lower Platte South NRD, Sarpy County, and Cass County. Eric answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Bonnett and seconded by Director Sopinski that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that Board adopt the Resolution provided by NDOT authorizing the General Manager to execute a Supplemental Agreement between the District and Schemmer Associates for the Platte River Bridge Trail project, with total cost not to**

**exceed \$276,777.31, 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 4-yea.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Japp, Sopinski, Conley

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Fowler, Tesar

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 4:32 p.m.