



**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
August 10, 2023**

**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 August 10, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevyn Sopinski 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:

Patrick Bonnett	Ted Japp
Fred Conley	Kevyn Sopinski
Phil Davidson	Jim Thompson
Josh Henningsen	

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 1:** It was moved by Director Thompson 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 7-yea.

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

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 2:** It was moved by Director Conley and seconded by Director Thompson 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 absence(s) of the following Director(s) from the August 10, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting is excused:

Larry Bradley  
Tim Fowler  
Tim McCormick  
Rich Tesar.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the July 13, 2023, Papio-Missouri River NRD Board Meeting minutes and the July 12, 2023, Dakota County 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 7-yea.

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

**PROOFS OF PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICE:** Notice of the meeting was published in the Omaha World Herald on August 4, 2023. The District's June 9, 2023, through July 13, 2023, expenditures were published in the Dakota County Star on July 20, 2023. The Chairman 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, NRCS District Conservationist gave the report on NRCS activities for the month of August.

B. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission: This item will be carried over to the September meeting.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts: Director Bonnett presented information from the 2023 Annual Basin Tour he attended in June. He also reminded Directors the NRD's 2023 Annual Conference is being held in Kearney, NE on September 25-26, 2023.

D. Legislative Report: General Manager John Winkler said he would be providing testimony on Interim Study LB238 on September 26, 2023.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND INPUT ON P-MRNRD FY 2024 BUDGET:** General Manager Winkler briefed the Board on the second draft of the FY 2024 budget. He then opened the floor to the public to give comment and input on the proposed budget. The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Shawn Melotz, 10404 N. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE (a copy of Ms. Melotz’s written testimony is attached to the file copy of these minutes)
- Doug Kagan, Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, 416 S. 130th Street, Omaha, NE
- Dennis Schleis, 4512 Hickory Street, Omaha, NE
- Ken Beckstrom, 15429 Hamilton Street, Omaha, NE

The Budget Hearing Adoption of the Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Special Hearing to Set Tax Levy are scheduled for September 12, 2023.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee: Director Conley reported that the PPO Subcommittee met on August 8, 2023, and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

Project Manager Philip Paitz and Mikaela Cherry, USGS gave a presentation on the 2022 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Results. 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:* Contract with JEO Consulting Group for Groundwater Modeling: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a Professional Services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for the Lower Platte River Basin Sub-Regional Groundwater Modeling project in a not-to-exceed amount of \$612,823.60, 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 7-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation #2:* Amendment No. 2 with Houston Engineering for Little Papio Culverts Group B: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement for construction administration and observation services with Houston Engineering, Inc. for the Little Papio Channel

Culverts Rehabilitation Project Group B culverts in the amount of \$532,630, for a revised not-to-exceed fee of \$1,439,650 for the total agreement, 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 7-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation #3:* Interlocal Agreement with City of Gretna for WP2: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed West Papillion Regional Basin 2 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Gretna, 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 7-yea.

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

B. Finance, Expenditures and Legal Subcommittee: Director Davidson reported that the FEL Subcommittee met on August 8, 2023, and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

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

*FEL Recommendation #1:* FY 2024 Budget - Draft 2: Recommendation that the FY 2024 draft budget be forwarded for review at the September 12, 2023, Budget Hearing with the provision that the General Manager be authorized to make necessary adjustments once final figures are available to achieve compliance of state statutes regarding the lid.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-yea.

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

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

*FEL Recommendation #2:* Land Acquisition DS7: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with HRC Kempton Creek, LLC and with HRC Morgan Ridge, LLC for the purchase of 46.884 total acres for construction of the Dam Site 7 Regional Basin Project for the total amount of \$1,969,128, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

The following individual addressed the Board:

- Ken Beckstrom, 15429 Hamilton Street, Omaha, NE

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-yea.

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

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

*FEL Recommendation #3:* Land Acquisition WP2: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with Connie L. Tefft, Trustee of the Krambeck Living Trust for the purchase of 15.982 acres for construction of the WP2 Flood Control Reservoir Project for the total amount of \$1,038,830, 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 7-yea.

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

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

*FEL Recommendation #4:* Land Acquisition DS19: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a purchase agreement with MRDP, LLC for the purchase of Tracts 5 and 10 for the Dam Site 19 Project for the

purchase price of \$4,069,940, subject to change deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

The following individual addressed the Board:

- Ken Beckstrom, 15429 Hamilton Street, Omaha, NE

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-yea.

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

C. Ad-Hoc Consultant Selection Subcommittee – RFP for Papio NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Director Japp reported that the Ad-Hoc Consultant Selection Subcommittee met on August 8, 2023, and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

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

*Ad-Hoc Recommendation #1:* Initial Screening of Proposals for Consultant Selection Interviews: Recommendation that District Policy 15.2 be waived and that a contract be negotiated with JEO Consulting Group Inc. to update the Papio NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-yea.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- **MOTION NO. 11:** It was moved by Director Bonnett and seconded by Director Thompson 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 July 2023 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 Supply System, the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project, the Elkhorn Breakout Project, the Elk/Pigeon Creek Drainage Project, the Western Sarpy Drainage District, the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership, and the Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership project bills listed on the July 2023 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 the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-yea.

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Sopinski congratulated staff for tightening their belt and going after grants so the District can take only an additional 1.8% increase in tax revenues.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** GM Winkler gave his input on the FY 2024 Budget. reviewed his report with the Board and noted that the report had been posted to the website. Directors Davidson and Bonnett gave their thoughts on the Budget. Director Bonnett said this was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the budget and there is still time before passing the final budget. He plans to meet with the General Manager in next few weeks to discuss some minor changes he would like to see incorporated into the budget.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Future Meetings/Events:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| September 4, 2023     | Labor Day Holiday – P-MRNRD Offices Closed   |
| September 9, 2023     | World O! Water, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., Chalco Hills Recreation Area                                      |
| September 12, 2023    | Papio NRD Subcommittee Meetings, 4:00 p.m., at NRC   |
| September 14, 2023    | Papio NRD Board of Directors Meeting, 4:00 PM, at Dakota City Office, 1505 Broadway, Dakota City, NE |
| September 25-26, 2023 | NARD Annual Conference, Kearney, NE  |

B. Next Meeting – The next scheduled meeting of the Papio NRD Board of Directors will be held on September 14, 2023 at the Dakota City Office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the Chairman declared that the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

**NOTE:** These minutes reflect the actions and votes taken at the August 10, 2023, 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 August 10, 2023, 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