

**Programs, Projects, and Operations  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2023**

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 October 10, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Conley at 4:00 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, Chairman		Patrick Bonnett	John Winkler
Tim Fowler, Vice-Chairman		Larry Bradley	Amanda Grint
Ted Japp		Phil Davidson	Brent Meyer, Legal Counsel
Rich Tesar		Josh Henningsen	Tracy Thompson
Jim Thompson		Tim McCormick	Philip Paitz
			Ian Ghanavati
			Eric Williams
			Tyler Martin, NeDNR
			Jean Eichhorst, NeDNR
			Madeline Johnson, NeDNR
			Mike Sotak, Houston Engineering
			Other Staff Members

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

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

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

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on October 4, 2023. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**1. Update on the Integrated Management Plan – Philip Paitz and Tyler Martin, NDNR:**

Project Manager Philip Paitz and Tyler Martin, Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources (NDNR) presented an update on the Integrated Management Plan and answered Directors questions. No action was taken.

**2. Amendment to Lower Platte River Consortium Interlocal Agreement – Philip Paitz:**

Project Manager Philip Paitz presented the proposed Amendment to the Lower Platte River Consortium Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, City of Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Papio NRD which would extend the duration of the agreement for one (1) additional year through November 2024. Philip reviewed the purpose of the Consortium and answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Fowler and seconded by Director Japp that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Lower Platte River Consortium Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, City of Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, 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: Fowler, Japp, Tesar, Thompson, Conley  
Voting Nay: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: None

**3. Platte River Bridge Obstruction Removal Professional Services Contract with Houston Engineering – John Winkler and Mike Sotak, Houston Engineering:**

General Manager John Winkler presented the proposed contract for professional services in the amount of \$249,238.00 with Houston Engineering for Platte River Bridge Obstruction Removal from the U.P. and BNSF railroad bridges across the Platte River near Hwy 75. John and Mike Sotak, Houston Engineering, explained that the obstruction resulted from the large amount of fill material required for access and repair of the damaged bridges in May 2019 from the March 2019 flood and that the fill material was not removed after repairs thus creating a river flow obstruction and flooding threat to the area including Hwy 75, area businesses, and homes. John reported that funding is available through the Nebr. Dept. of Economic Development (DED) CDBG-DR (community development block grant-disaster recovery) Fund that will pay for 100% of the obstruction’s removal which is estimated to cost approximately 5-8 million dollars. John indicated that DED approval has been given for preliminary work such as permitting, design, engineering and bidding with removal beginning in January or February of 2024. John advised that because Houston Engineering is the most qualified firm to manage the project, staff recommends that the Board waive Policy 15.2 Purchasing-Professional Services and approve the proposed agreement. John and Mike Sotak answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Thompson and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed contract with Houston Engineering for \$249,238.00 for the completion of the scope of services identified in Exhibit 1. Furthermore, the subcommittee recommends the District waive policy 15.2; 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: Fowler, Japp, Tesar, Thompson, Conley  
Voting Nay: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: None

#### **4. WP2 Construction Bids – Ian Ghanavati:**

Project Manager Ian Ghanavati presented the bid summary for construction of the West Papillion Regional Basin 2 (WP2), located at approximately 180th Street and Giles Road in Sarpy County that consists of a flood control reservoir, basic recreation amenities, and fisheries enhancements. Three (3) bids were opened on October 3, 2023, and ranged from \$7,117,243.80 to \$12,880,153.70 without alternate, and \$7,183,643.80 to \$13,620,153.70 with alternate, which includes additional fisheries excavation. The engineer's cost estimate prepared by Houston Engineering is \$7,208,957.50. Houston Engineering recommends that the apparent low bid submitted by Valley Corporation, Valley, Nebraska be accepted. Ian reported that the project is eligible for reimbursement of up to \$4,171,204 through the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) and answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute a construction contract with Valley Corporation for the West Papillion Regional Basin 2 (WP2) project in an amount not to exceed \$7,117,243.80, subject to such other terms and conditions as the General Manager deems necessary and District Legal Counsel approves as to form.**

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

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

#### **5. Elkhorn River Trail Bridge Program Agreement with NDOT – Eric Williams:**

Project Manager Eric Williams presented the proposed LPA (Local Public Agency) Program Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the Elkhorn River Trail Bridge Project that designates the District as the LPA to manage the project which connects the Elkhorn River West Maple Access to the existing trail network in Waterloo. Eric reported that the cost is estimated at \$6,672,792 and that the project will be 80% federally funded with the District responsible for 20% through the NDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He stated that letters of support have been received from the Village of Waterloo, Douglas County, City of Omaha, MAPA, and the Elkhorn Athletic Association and that the District anticipates a future Interlocal Agreement with local agencies for the project that would specify contributions and responsibilities from each agency. Eric answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Thompson and seconded by Director Japp that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed LPA Program Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation for the Elkhorn River Trail Bridge 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 and 1-abstention.

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

#### **6. FY 2024 Long Range Implementation Plan (LRIP) – Eric Williams:**

Project Manager Eric Williams presented the proposed FY 2024 Long Range Implementation Plan (LRIP) and explained that the LRIP is required by state statute for the District to be eligible for certain state cost

share programs. He reviewed the various planned programs and projects in FY 2024 and projections for the next five fiscal years. Eric answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Long Range Implementation Plan be approved.**

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 5:05 p.m.