

**Programs, Projects, and Operations  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 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 November 7, 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.

| <b>Subcommittee Members Present</b> | <b>Subcommittee Members Absent</b> | <b>Other Directors Present</b> | <b>Others Present</b>                 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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                  | Ian Ghanavati                         |
|                                     |                                    | Kevyn Sopinski                 | Philip Paitz                          |
|                                     |                                    |                                | Sara Mechtenberg, Houston Engineering |
|                                     |                                    |                                | Ken Beckstrom                         |
|                                     |                                    |                                | 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 November 3, 2023. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**1. Renewal of USGS Maintenance Agreement for Papio Floodwarning System Gages – Ian Ghanavati:**

Project Manager Ian Ghanavati presented the proposed 2024 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for the annual renewal of the Papillion Creek Watershed flood warning system maintenance contract. He stated that USGS will cost share \$16,875 through their Cooperative Matching Funds and \$19,905 through the Federal Priority Stream gages Program. The District cost share totals \$137,450 for operation and maintenance of the gages. Ian reviewed the cost breakdown and the type of data collected from the different gage stations and answered Directors questions.

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS in the amount of \$137,450 in District funds for the operation of the District’s floodwarning system for 2024, 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

**2. Interlocal Agreement with City of Omaha for WP-1 – Ian Ghanavati:**

Project Manager Ian Ghanavati presented the proposed Interlocal Agreement with the City of Omaha for Papio Watershed Regional Flood Control Detention Basin WP-1 located at approximately 180th St. and Fort St. Ian reviewed the responsibilities of the City and the District in regard to the design, construction, ownership, and operation and maintenance of WP-1. He stated that the District will have sole discretion in naming the project in consideration of City and public recommendations as well as own, operate, and maintain the project for five (5) years after completion of construction or until the City annexes any land adjacent to the WP-1 Project. Ian and GM John Winkler answered Directors questions.

The following individual addressed the Subcommittee:

- Ken Beckstrom, 15429 Hamilton St., Omaha, NE 68154

- **It was moved by Director Fowler and seconded by Director Tesar that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Papio Watershed Regional Flood Control Detention Basin WP-1 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Omaha, subject to such other terms and conditions as the General Manager determines necessary and 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

**3. Amendment 4 with Houston Engineering for WP-2 Professional Services – Ian Ghanavati:**

Project Manager Ian Ghanavati presented the proposed Amendment No. 4 with Houston Engineering (HEI) for the West Papillion Regional Basin Number 2 (WP-2) project located near 180<sup>th</sup> St. and Giles Rd. He reviewed the project’s progress and summarized the professional services included in the Amendment for an amount not to exceed \$113,235 bringing the total contract not to exceed amount to \$1,842,937. Ian, Asst. GM Amanda Grint, GM John Winkler, and Sara Mechtenberg, Houston Engineering answered Directors questions.

The following individual addressed the Subcommittee:

- Ken Beckstrom, 15429 Hamilton St., Omaha, NE 68154

- **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Fowler that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Amendment No. 4 with Houston Engineering for the West Papillion Regional Basin Number 2 (WP-2) project in an amount not to exceed \$113,235 bringing the total contract not to exceed amount to \$1,842,937, subject to such other terms and conditions as the General Manager determines necessary and 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

**4. Groundwater Monitoring Joint Funding Agreement with USGS – Philip Paitz:**

Project Manager Philip Paitz presented the proposed Joint Funding Agreement between the USGS and the District for operation and maintenance of the six existing groundwater monitoring sites in the Platte and Elkhorn River Valley from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024. He reported that the total cost for all six sites is \$18,570, with the District paying \$14,200 and USGS providing cooperative funding of \$4,370. He reviewed the District’s purpose and use of the groundwater monitoring data. Philip and GM John Winkler 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 a Joint Funding Agreement with U.S. Geological Survey for a total cost to the District of \$14,200 for the continuation of groundwater monitoring in the Platte and Elkhorn River valley, 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 3-yea and 2-nay.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 4:43 p.m.