



**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
April 11, 2024**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Papiro-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 April 11, 2024. 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	Tim McCormick
Larry Bradley	Kevyn Sopinski
Fred Conley	Rich Tesar
Phil Davidson	Jim Thompson
Ted Japp	

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 1:** It was moved by Director Bradley and seconded by Director Tesar that the meeting agenda be adopted.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-yea.

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

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **MOTION NO. 2:** It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Conley 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 absences of the following Director(s) from the April 11, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting are excused:

Tim Fowler.

Agenda Item 7. A.:

BE IT RESOLVED that the March 14, 2024, Papio-Missouri River NRD Board Meeting minutes are approved as printed.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-yea.

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

**PROOFS OF PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICE:** Notice of the meeting was published in the Omaha World Herald on April 4, 2024. The District's February 9, 2024 through March 14, 2024, expenditures were published in the Washington County Enterprise on March 19, 2024. 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: Kristin Schlueter, District Conservationist, submitted a written report of NRCS activities for the month of April.
- B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts: Director Tesar provided information on the upcoming NARD Board of Directors meeting and the NRDs 2024 Annual Basin Tour being held on June 10-11, in McCook, Nebraska. Director Tesar plans to attend the NARD Board of Directors Meeting and Directors Bonnett and McCormick have signed up for the Basin Tour. Directors Bonnett and McCormick gave an update on the NARD Annual Meeting that they attended in Washington D.C. on March 18-20, 2024.
- C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Meeting, April 3, 2024, Kearney, Nebraska: Director Bradley gave an update on the April 3, 2024, NNRC meeting.
- D. Legislative Report – Catalyst Public Affairs: Tim Gay provided an update on ongoing Legislative activities.

Reports can be heard on the District's podcast <https://www.papionrd.org/about/meeting-podcasts/>

\* Director Henningsen arrived at the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Ad-Hoc Consultant Selection Subcommittee Meeting RFP for Big Papio and Tributaries Culverts Rehabilitation Project: Director Thompson reported that the Ad-Hoc Consultant Selection Subcommittee met on April 9, 2024, and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

- **MOTION NO. 3:** It was moved by Director Thompson that the following recommendation be adopted:

*Ad-Hoc Recommendation 1:* Contract with Houston Engineering for Big Papio and Tributaries Culverts Rehabilitation Project: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute a professional services agreement for design, permitting, right-of-way, and construction services between the Papio NRD and Houston Engineering, Inc. for the Big Papio and Tributaries Culverts Rehabilitation Project, for a not to exceed fee of \$880,769, 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 10-yea.

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

B. Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee: Director Conley reported that the PPO Subcommittee met on April 9, 2024, and gave a brief recap of the meeting.

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

*PPO Recommendation 1:* Amendments to Appendix H, Rules and Regulations - Rural Water Supply Systems: Recommendation that the proposed updates and rates to the District’s Policy Manual, Appendix H – Rules and Regulations - Rural Water Supply Systems be approved, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Director Japp asked how the rate change would impact the average rural water customer. Justin Novak addressed all questions.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-yea.

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

Excused Absence - Fowler  
Absent - Fowler

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

*PPO Recommendation 2:* Papio NRD Policy Manual Revisions: Recommendation that the proposed revisions to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Directors Policy Manual 17.0 through 17.45, Appendix E – Manual of Standard Forms, and Appendix J – Safety Manual be approved, and furthermore; the proposed amendments to District Policy 15.0 through 15.9 be tabled for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation 3:* Interlocal Agreement with City of Omaha for the Little Papio Culverts Group B: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Omaha for Construction of Drainage Structure Rehabilitation for the Little Papio Creek Levee/Channel Project, with a reimbursement maximum not-to-exceed amount of \$4,650,157.22, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.

Director McCormick stated that he hopes this action does not set a precedence to carry the City of Omaha for their part of financial responsibly in infrastructure repairs. General Manager Winkler said that per the USACE guidelines, the District is still responsible for repairing found deficiencies.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 8-yea, 1-nay, and 1-abstention.

Voting Yea - Bonnett, Bradley, Conley, Davidson, Japp, Tesar, Thompson, Sopinski  
Voting Nay - McCormick  
Abstaining - Henningsen  
Excused Absence - Fowler  
Absent - Fowler

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

*PPO Recommendation 4:*     Southern Sarpy Watersheds Partnership Interlocal Agreement:  
Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed five-year Interlocal Agreement for the continuation of the Southern Sarpy Watersheds Partnership between the communities of Bellevue, Gretna, Papillion, Springfield, Sarpy County, and the Papio NRD, 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 10-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation 5:*     Dam Site 7 Interlocal Agreement for Rainwood Road Phases 1 & 2:  
Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Interlocal Agreement (Rainwood Road from 166th Street to 156th Street) with Douglas County, SID 623, SID 633, and the Bennington Public Schools District, 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 10-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation 6:*     Giles Road Siphon Replacement Project, Right of Way License Agreement with City of Omaha: Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the License Agreement with the City of Omaha for use of District right-of-way near Harry Andersen Avenue and 110th Street north of Giles Road, 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 10-yea.

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

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

*PPO Recommendation 7.a.:* FY 2025 Cost Share Programs – Urban Drainageway Program: Recommendation that the application from the City of Ralston for \$1,200,000 for a total of \$1,200,000 be approved, subject to funding in the FY 2025 Budget.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-yea and 1-nay.

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

•• **MOTION NO. 11:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 7.b.:* FY 2025 Cost Share Programs – Recreation Area Development Program: Recommendation that the applications from the City of Bennington for \$19,119 and \$27,500, the Village of Homer for \$24,059, the City of Omaha for \$50,000 and \$50,000, the City of Papillion for \$50,000, South Sioux City of \$50,000, and the City of Valley for \$50,000 for a total of \$320,678 be approved, subject to funding in the FY 2025 Budget.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-yea.

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

•• **MOTION NO. 12:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 7.c.:* FY 2025 Cost Share Programs - Flood Mitigation Planning and Mapping Assistance Program: Recommendation that the application

from the City of Tekamah for \$38,750 be approved, subject to funding in the FY 2025 Budget.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 10-yea.

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

•• **MOTION NO. 13:** It was moved by Director Conley that the following recommendation be adopted:

*PPO Recommendation 7.d.:* FY 2025 Cost Share Programs – Trails Assistance Program: Recommendation that the applications from the City of Fort Calhoun for \$345,189, Omaha Public Schools for \$90,312, SID 305 for \$253,344, and South Sioux City for \$127,452 for a total of \$816,297 be approved, subject to funding in the FY 2025 Budget.

Roll call vote was held on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 9-yea and 1-nay.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

•• **MOTION NO. 14:** It was moved by Director Bonnett and seconded by Director Bradley that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer is authorized to expend general funds to pay: (l) claims listed in the March 2024, 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 System, the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project, the Elk/Pigeon Creek Drainage Project, and the Western Sarpy Drainage District, the project bills listed on the March 2024, 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 10-yea.

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

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** The Chairman thanked Directors Bonnett and McCormick for participating in the 2024 NRDs Annual meeting that was held in Washington D.C. He added that Directors Bradley and Thompson have volunteered to speak at this year’s Earth Day event.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** GM Winkler reviewed his report with the Board. The report is posted to the District’s website.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. **Future Meetings:** The Chairman reviewed the following upcoming meetings with the Directors:

April 27, 2024	Earth Day Omaha, 11:00 a.m. - 6 p.m., Elmwood Park
May 7 & 8, 2024	Water Works, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Schramm Education Center, Gretna
May 7, 2024	Papio NRD Subcommittee Meetings, 4:00 p.m., NRC
May 9, 2024	Papio NRD Board of Directors Meeting, 4:00 p.m., NRC
May 27, 2024	Papio NRD Offices Closed for Memorial Day

B. Next Meeting – The next scheduled meeting of the Papio NRD Board of Directors will be held on May 9, 2024, at the NRC.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the Chairman declared that the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

**NOTE:** These minutes reflect the actions and votes taken at the April 11, 2024, 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 April 11, 2024, 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