

Memorandum

To: PLPA

Re: Government Relations Contract Renewal with Catalyst Public Affairs

Date: June 3, 2025

From: John Winkler, General Manager

In October of 2019, the Board of Directors voted to approve the PMR-NRD to enter into a contract with Catalyst Public Affairs to provide government relations services to the district beginning December 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. This agreement was renewed in June of 2022 for a three-year extension and expires June 30, 2025.

Per the attached contract/agreement Catalyst Public Affairs is proposing to continue to furnish intergovernmental representation and professional lobbying services to the District with respect to legislative matters of interest before the Nebraska Unicameral and the Executive Branch for the same fixed monthly payment of \$4,000.00 from June 30th, 2025, thru June 30, 2026. From June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028 the monthly payment will be \$4,250. In addition, Catalyst Public Affairs will engage various state and local agencies/departments, local units of government and elected representatives on behalf of the NRD. Catalyst has not raised their monthly fee for the past 4 years.

Per the Client Scope and Representation of the proposed engagement proposal the district, as always, will be faced with a myriad of legislative challenges for not only the next legislative session but far into the future. In addition, the District will be challenged to continue to educate a number of new senators and executive department heads as term limits continue to have an impact on the Unicameral. Therefore, it is imperative that the District retain a professional legislative presence not only in Lincoln but throughout the District to interface with the legislature, local elected and appointed officials and the executive branch on a consistent and professional basis.

Management recommends that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed contract, for a period, from June 30th 2025 through June 30, 2028, with Catalyst Public Affairs, for the provision of intergovernmental and professional lobbying services per the terms and conditions outlined in the attached agreement as to form and with any changes deemed necessary by the General Manager.



CONTRACT AGREEMENT

This contract will constitute the Agreement for state governmental services in Nebraska between Catalyst Public Affairs, Inc. ("CORPORATION") and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District ("Papio NRD").

We agree as follows:

1. Papio NRD is seeking state governmental affairs services in Nebraska from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, for consulting on any issues Papio NRD prioritizes. CORPORATION shall provide the following services to Papio NRD in a professional and timely manner at the direction of John Winkler and the Board of Directors:
 - a. Assist in developing and implementing legislative and regulatory agendas in the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature and local political subdivisions.
 - b. Arrange and attend meetings with John Winkler, and/or individuals assigned by John Winkler, and individual senators regarding issues important to the Papio NRD, including but not limited to members on the Appropriations, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, Natural Resources, Revenue Committees, and Urban Affairs Committees.
 - c. Help identify and assist with submitting applications for Papio NRD personnel to serve on state agency advisory committees.
 - d. Present legislative and regulatory policy briefings as requested by John Winkler.
 - e. Notify John Winkler, or his designees, of committee hearings, interim study hearings, and other pertinent meetings.
 - f. Develop and manage partnerships with Papio NRD stakeholders.
 - g. Monitor and report on legislative activity, including floor action and debate, anticipated legislative bills, resolutions, amendments and other activity by the Legislature and its committees.
 - h. Assist the Papio NRD personnel in drafting and delivery of testimony before legislative committees.
 - i. Educated elected officials and their staff employees, and committee staff, on issues important to the Papio NRD. Educate local leadership and state leadership on the same.

- j. Draft legislation and amendments. Assist in securing bill and/or amendment sponsors.
- k. Provide the Papio NRD with written reports summarizing legislative and regulatory actions upon request, including but not limited to, pre-session and post-session.
- l. Complete and deliver all required ethics reports to the NADC.
- m. Per the direction of the Papio NRD, provide necessary advocacy training to Papio NRD staff and/or Board Members.

2. The Papio NRD agrees to pay to CORPORATION for services specified herein as follows:

- a. Beginning July 1, 2025, Papio NRD will pay \$4,000 (Four Thousand Dollars) per month until June 30, 2026, for a total of \$48,000 (Forty-Eight Thousand Dollars) per year. Beginning July 1, 2026, the Papio NRD will pay \$4,250 (Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars) per month until June 30th, 2027, for a total of \$51,000 (Fifty-One Thousand Dollars) per year. Beginning July 1, 2027, the Papio NRD will pay \$4,250 (Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars) per month until June 30th, 2028, for a total of \$51,000 (Fifty-One Thousand Dollars) per year. Payment shall be made on or before the fifteenth day of the following month.
 - b. CORPORATION shall not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses unless Papio NRD expressly agrees to such expenses; all expenses must be pre-approved by John Winkler.
 - c. Papio NRD shall reimburse CORPORATION \$300 annually for lobbyist registration fees.
3. CORPORATION shall at all times be registered as a lobbyist for Papio NRD, pursuant to Nebraska law.
4. Notwithstanding the above, either party reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days written notice.

AGREED AND APPROVED:

By: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Board President
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District
8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138

Tim Gay, President
Catalyst Public Affairs, Inc.
301 S. 13th Street, Suite 402
Lincoln, NE 68508