

**Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2013**

A meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs Subcommittee was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th Street, Omaha, NE on February 12, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Klug at 8:13 p.m.

**QUORUM CALL:** Quorum call was taken. The following were in attendance.

Subcommittee Members Present	Subcommittee Members Absent	Other Directors Present	Others Present
Bonnett	Fowler*	Frost	John Winkler
Conley ( John)**		Tesar	Marlin J. Petermann
Japp		Woodle	Jean Tait
Leahy		Thompson	Paul Peters
Klug			Emmett Egr
			Heather Borkowski

- \* Excused Absence
- \*\* Alternate Voting Member

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:** Notice of the meeting was posted in all District offices and published in the Omaha World Herald on February 7, 2013. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- **It was moved by Director Leahy and seconded by Director Conley that the agenda be adopted.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Conley, Japp, Leahy, Klug  
 Voting Nay: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Fowler  
 Excused Absence: Fowler

**Review and Recommendation on Legislative Bills:**

A. LB 152 – For an Act relating to Eminent Domain

General Manager John Winkler briefed the subcommittee on LB 152. He told the subcommittee that the NE Association of Resources Districts Board has voted to oppose this bill. Lengthy discussion took place on the pros and cons of this bill as it relates to Natural Resources Districts and possible costly project construction delays. Subcommittee members also discussed how some of the bill's provisions could be positive changes to the Eminent Domain process.

**It was moved by Director Conley and seconded by Director Klug that the subcommittee recommends to the Board of Directors that the District oppose this bill and that General Manager take such appropriate action to indefinitely postpone in committee or to kill the bill in the full legislature.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 3- 2.

Voting Yea: Conley, Klug  
Voting Nay: Bonnett, Japp, Leahy  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Fowler  
Excused Absence: Fowler

B. LB 325 – For an Act relating to Natural Resources Districts Boundaries

General Manager John Winkler briefed the subcommittee on LB 325. He told the subcommittee that the NE Association of Resources Districts Board has taken apposition to oppose this bill. He said the bill would modify the process of changing Natural Resources District boundaries. Discussion took place on the features of the bill and possible rationale for its introduction. Winkler gave a brief history of the forming of NRDs and that the intent is for NRDs to protect resources on a watershed boundary basis, not political boundaries. He told the subcommittee that the “northern” counties in the Pappio-Missouri River NRD, Washington, Burt, Thurston and Dakota, get considerably more in project expenditures than they have contributed to the NRD through property taxes the last three years. Winkler noted there is a great benefit to NRDs being formed on watershed boundaries with common issues.

**It was moved by Director Leahy and seconded by Director Conley that the subcommittee recommends to the Board of Directors that the District officially oppose this bill as written.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4- 1.

Voting Yea: Bonnett, Conley, Leahy, Klug  
Voting Nay: Japp  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Fowler  
Excused Absence: Fowler

C. LB 449 – For an Act relating to Elections

General Manager John Winkler briefed the subcommittee on LB 449. He told the subcommittee that the NE Association of Resources Districts Board has taken a position to oppose this bill. Winkler noted that a similar bill was introduced in the legislature a few years ago. In the current bill, the definition of “high elective office” has been expanded and would include the airport authority, metropolitan utilities district, NRDs and public power districts. Discussion took place on the subcommittee concerning the lack of candidates for elective office, especially in some of the more rural areas of Nebraska. The concern of multiple positions and commitments was also discussed.

**It was moved by Director Leahy and seconded by Director Klug that the subcommittee recommends to the Board of Directors that the subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the District officially oppose this bill as written.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3 - 2.

Voting Yea:	Conley, Leahy, Klug
Voting Nay:	Bonnett, Japp
Abstaining:	None
Absent:	Fowler
Excused Absence:	Fowler

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:57 p.m.