

**Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006**

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 December 12, 2006. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Schwope at 8:45 p.m.

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

Subcommittee Members Present	Subcommittee Members Absent	Other Directors Present	Others Present
Lanphier **	Conley (Fred) *	Conley (John)	John Winkler
Fowler **	Connealy *	Thompson	Marlin Petermann
Kolowski		Patterson	Emmett Egr
Tesar			Trent Heiser
Schwope			
* Excused Absence			
** Alternate Voting Member			

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

- ❖ **It was moved by Director Lanphier and seconded by Director Fowler that the agenda be approved.**

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

Voting Yea - Lanphier, Fowler, Kolowski, Tesar, Schwope
 Voting Nay - None
 Abstaining - None
 Excused Absence: Fred Conley, Connealy
 Absent - Fred Conley, Connealy

PROOF OF PUBLICATION: Public notice of the meeting was posted at all District offices and published in the Omaha World-Herald on December 7, 2006. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

District Legislative Representative, Rich Lombardi of American Communications Group, briefed the subcommittee on legislative challenges for the next session. Among those are numerous newly-elected senators and the district's interest in legislation permitting General Bonding Authority. Lombardi gave a legislative timeline including the start of session being January 3 and the deadline for new bills of January 17. He also indicated that the state is in good financial condition and may see a \$200 million surplus.

Lombardi and district Legal Council, Paul Peters, briefed the subcommittee on the status of general obligation bonding authority. This issue was introduced last year as LB 552, which stalled in the Natural Resources Committee. Peters indicated to the subcommittee that this year's bill could be similar to LB 552 and that a senator is being sought to introduce the legislation. Considerable discussion took place concerning the need for bond approval by voters in the District. Peters indicated that any vote would need to be by all residents of the District and that it might be possible to have language in the bill stating a vote would be required if a certain level of funding request was reached. It was also noted that the bill's wording would need to reflect the desires of the NRD Board and the introducing State Senator. A draft bill will be prepared for review by the Board at its December 14th meeting.

RETAINER AGREEMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2007:

General Manager John Winkler presented a draft agreement to the subcommittee for their review and indicated that Rich Lombardi, of American Communications Group, has been retained by the District for 15 years. There was extensive review of the agreement. Lombardi indicated to the subcommittee that he works closely with the NE Association of Resources Districts and their legislative efforts.

Discussion took place concerning the desire by the subcommittee that the Board receive regular updates on legislative issues at the Board's monthly meetings and through e-mail updates. The length of the contract was also discussed.

- ❖ **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Kolowski that the Subcommittee recommend that the contract with American Communications Group be re-written for review by the Board and that the changes reflect an expiration in June of 2007. Other changes should also be drafted related to telephone charges, recalculation of fees and a possible one-year extension.**

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

Voting Yea - Lanphier, Fowler, Kolowski, Tesar, Schwoppe
Voting Nay - None
Abstaining - None
Excused Absence: Fred Conley, Connealy
Absent - Fred Conley, Connealy

ADDENDUM TO GENERAL MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT: Paul Peters briefed the subcommittee on changes reflecting the use of a District vehicle for business purposes only.

- ❖ **It was moved by Director Tesar and seconded by Director Kolowski that subcommittee recommend to the Board that the First Addendum to the General manager Employment Agreement be approved in the form as presented to the Subcommittee meeting.**

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

Voting Yea - Lanphier, Fowler, Kolowski, Tesar, Schwope
Voting Nay - None
Abstaining - None
Excused Absence: Fred Conley, Connealy
Absent - Fred Conley, Connealy

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:00 p.m.

/pt/com/plpa/2006/December/dec06_plpa_minutes