

**River Ice Coordination  
Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2004**

A meeting of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's River Ice Coordination Ad-Hoc Subcommittee was held at the Natural Resources Center, 8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, Nebraska, on February 19, 2004. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rich Jansen at 7:33 p.m.

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

Subcommittee Members Present	Subcommittee Members Absent	Other Directors Present	Others in Attendance
Rich Jansen, Chairperson		Fred Conley	Steve Oltmans
Barb Nichols			Marlin Petermann
John Conley			Ron Lehman
Rich Tesar			John Ranney
Pete Rubin			Paul Peters
			Paul Woodward

- \* Excused Absence
- \*\* Alternate Voting Member
- \*\*\* Not present for quorum call, but attended meeting

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

◆ **It was moved by Rubin, Seconded by Nichols that agenda be adopted.**

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion carried on a vote of five (5) to zero (0).

Voting Yea: J. Conley, Nichols, Rubin, Tesar, Jansen  
 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 February 15, 2004.

## **OVERVIEW OF PLATTE RIVER ICE JAM ACTIVITIES**

A list of Ice Jam Flood Control activities was handed out and Steve Oltmans provided a brief overview of activity. These activities include Aerial Photography of Channels in fall before freeze-up, ice monitoring/reporting, training by CRREL, ice thickness measurements, ice condition conference calls, dusting, and blasting. Marlin Petermann reviewed each of these activities in some detail. Ice Monitoring Reports from today were distributed and reviewed. Petermann noted that Ron Lehman visits each of these sites at least once a week from December through ice breakup and completes these reports which are then entered and available online at <http://dnrdata.dnr.state.ne.us/Icejam/index.asp>. Training by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) has been provided in the past to inform all ice observers, how to correctly and consistently report ice conditions. Ice Thickness reports of measurements taken the previous day, February 18, 2004, by Ron Lehman were handed out and Marlin reviewed what typical thickness have previously been when jams had occurred. The recent use of Ice Conference Calls as another means of state-wide communication was discussed by Petermann. In a teleconference held yesterday, Petermann explained that the upcoming weather forecast was discussed. John Conley asked about the concern caused by breakups occurring upstream before downstream. Petermann reviewed a map of problem areas that was handed out and multiple reasons for problems in previous years. A recent projection of existing snow cover and equivalent rainfall in inches was also handed out and discussed.

## **REVIEW OF DUSTING PROCEDURES**

Petermann explained that possibility of dusting this year was discussed with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as early as December 17, 2003 at the Annual Ice Jam Meeting, a meeting of all ice observers and managers to kick-off the monitoring and reporting of the upcoming year. He went on to explain that NEMA has recently consulted with the Corps of Engineers and is considering the use of coal ash to dust portions of the river next Tuesday.

Pictures from recent helicopter flights by Oltmans on Monday, February 16, 2004, and by Petermann and Lehman today were reviewed by the Subcommittee. The presence and location of open channels was discussed. Petermann also reviewed recent efforts to persuade BNSF Railroad to remove debris from in front of their rail line bridge just N of Hwy 6 had been successful and that crews would be out there next week.

## **REVIEW OF BLASTING PROCEDURES**

Following a brief introduction by Steve Oltmans, John Ranney with Joe Ranney & Co., the District's explosives contractor, reviewed his previous experience and successes with dynamiting ice jams. He further explained the entire procedure developed for dynamiting ice jams from the type and amount of explosive material used to the timing of dropping charges. He responded to questions about his helicopter services and that FAA is contacted and a no-fly zone is granted during the blasting. Ranney also reviewed his liability and workers comp insurance plans and his recent discussions with Bill Johnson at the Koch Company.

- a. A copy of the Platte Rive Ice Jam Removal Interlocal Agreement and Addendum was handed out to those present. Steve Oltmans and Paul Peters summarized the main provisions for maintaining a \$100,000 fund to pay for blasting as well as forming the procedure for determining when an ice jam should be blasted.

- b. A copy of the Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency and official notices to County Clerks was handed out and reviewed by Paul Peters. Under the Interlocal Agreement, the General Manager of the P-MRNRD has the authority to declare a disaster in the event of an ice jam emergency.
- c. A copy of the District's explosives services contract with Joe Ranney & Co. was also handed out and discussed. Oltmans explained that both the District and Ranney had been looking into the availability and cost of Ranney's comprehensive general liability insurance required by the explosives services contract. The need for having general liability insurance for Ranney was discussed. Paul Peters mentioned that the District and Ranney could agree to delete the requirement that he obtain comprehensive general liability insurance, if desired.

**It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that the District should continue to require that comprehensive general liability insurance be provided by Ranney at District cost pursuant to the explosive services agreement.**

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:** No other items of interest were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:25 p.m.

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