

**Personnel, Legislative and Public Affairs Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2007**

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 July 10, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Schwope at 8:30 p.m.

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

Subcommittee Members Present	Subcommittee Members Absent	Other Directors Present	Others Present
Conley (Fred)		Patterson	Rich Lombardi
Connealy		Conley (John)	Paul Peters
Kolowski		Klug	Ralph Puls
Schwope		Thompson	Jean Tait
Tesar		Fowler	Jerry Herbster
		Lanphier	Terry Schumacher
			Trent Heiser
			Martin Cleveland
			Emmett Egr

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

❖ **It was moved by Director Kolowski and seconded by Director Conley that the agenda be approved.**

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

Voting Yea - Conley (Fred), Connealy, Kolowski, Schwope, Tesar
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 July 5, 2007. The proof of publication affidavit is included with the file copy of these minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE CONTRACT RENEWAL:

General Manager John Winkler presented information on the history of the NRD's contract with American Communications Group. He also noted that this past legislative session was a most challenging one.

Rich Lombardi, American Communications Group, addressed the Subcommittee concerning a new contract and detailed some of the work performed by his company during the past six months.

- ❖ **It was then moved by Director Connealy that the subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed contract with American Communications Group, Inc., for the provision of intergovernmental and professional lobbying services per the terms and conditions outlined.**

The motion died due to lack of a second.

The following individual addressed the Subcommittee:

Bob Twiss, 422 Sherwood Dr., Gretna, NE 68028

Considerable discussion took place concerning the positive performance of American Communications Group, timing of the recommended contract, costs involved and the possibility of opening up the Legislative Representative hire.

- ❖ **It was moved by Director Fred Conley and seconded by Director Tesar that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Legislative Representative Contract recommendation from staff to employ American Communications Group be tabled and that the General Manager issue a Request for Qualifications.**

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

Voting Yea - Conley (Fred), Tesar
Voting Nay - Connealy, Kolowski, Schwoppe
Abstaining - None
Absent - None

- ❖ **It was then moved by Director Connealy and seconded by Director Kolowski that the subcommittee recommend to the Board that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed contract with American Communications Group, Inc., for the provision of intergovernmental and professional lobbying services per the terms and conditions outlined.**

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

Voting Yea - Connealy, Kolowski, Schwoppe
Voting Nay - Conley (Fred), Tesar
Abstaining - None
Absent - None

P-MRNRD VEHICLE USE POLICY: General Manager John Winkler presented his recommendation on District Vehicle Use outlining the past and present policy. There was considerable discussion concerning the use of District Vehicles to commute to and from work. There was also discussion on the need of some staff to respond to emergencies.

❖ **It was moved by Director Fred Conley and seconded by Director Connealy that the subcommittee recommend to the Board that the following recommendations on District vehicle usage be adopted:**

- 1. Employees who utilize a vehicle for commuting purposes have the option to utilize a personal vehicle for commuting purposes or can continue to utilize a District vehicle for commuting only after agreeing to reimburse the District a fair and equitable deduction from the employees pay. The employee would sign an agreement with the District to have funds withheld from their bi-weekly pay checks. In addition, for those employees who continue to utilize a District vehicle for commuting purposes, this expense will be reviewed annually during their performance appraisal process and adjusted appropriately to reflect actual costs to the District for this benefit. This option would be adopted to address the six (6) vehicles that are being utilized for commuting purposes which are not required to respond to an emergency event on a 24/7 basis.**
- 2. All employees utilize a District vehicle, when available, for attending District related functions and or conducting work related duties. Personal vehicle use should be discouraged for conducting District business unless no other transportation is available to the employee.**
- 2. Vehicles should be eliminated through attrition whenever feasible.**
- 3. Assigned vehicle usage should no longer be utilized in lieu of pay or as a reward for performance.**
- 5. If the Board of Directors so desires to modify the existing vehicle use policy that the General Manager is required to follow the adopted policy and the existing contract be amended as necessary.**

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

Voting Yea - Conley (Fred), Connealy, Kolowski
Voting Nay - Tesar, Schwope
Abstaining - None
Absent - None

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

