




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Agenda Item #8

Memorandum

Date: March 12, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager 
Subject: Executive Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Subcommittee met at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the NRD Office in Lincoln. Subcommittee members present included Larry Ruth, Deborah Eagan, Milt Schmidt, and Dan Steinkruger. Others present included Steve Seglin, Corey Wasserburger, David Potter and myself.

Chair Ruth called the meeting to order and opened discussion on NRD operations as the area impacted by the coronavirus increases. Ruth reported on the evolving situation and our decision to not attend the NARD DC Conference due to health concerns, decreasing benefits of attending, and the potential additional costs due to quarantines, hospitalization, or both.

I then reported on our interest in accommodating Directors who are unable to attend Subcommittee Meetings by utilizing “GoTo Meetings” and the need to look into ways to do something similar for Board Meetings. It was pointed out that currently under this scenario there would be some limitations on the ability to vote and/or receive per diem.

I then reported that staff is taking precautionary measures around the NRD Office, including everyday preventative measures and scaling back events & group meetings, to slow the spread of coronavirus. Depending on the level of impact, closing the office to the public or even closing down the office might be warranted. I reported that staff quarantined at home will likely do some work from home via smart phone, tablet, on-line access, respond to phone messages, and others may also bring paperwork home.

The Subcommittee further discussed the importance of providing for the possible changing of office hours and that it’s anticipated that the General Manager would confer with the Chair. It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager authority to change Office hours at any time for any reason.**

The Subcommittee then discussed the probable impacts of coronavirus and as the situation worsens that there will be the need for staff to be away from the office to lessen the spread of coronavirus to co-workers, Directors, and visitors. While sick leave may be utilized by all employees it would be

more problematic to newer employees who have not worked enough time to accumulate additional sick leave. The Subcommittee discussed a variety of options and the need to be equitable to all employees.

The Subcommittee discussed several different types of leave and the appropriateness of each to this situation, especially for instances where an employee is quarantined as a precautionary measure and not necessarily sick, in this case the employee should not come to work. It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Schmidt and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors grant authority to the General Manager to grant temporary leave from job assignment as necessary to respond to emergency conditions, with pay and benefits intact.**

The final item on the agenda was a review of Legislative Bills of interest to the NRD. An updated Legislative Bill Summary sheet was distributed. Very few bill of interest to the NRD, either in support or opposition, will likely be voted on this year. Three bills of interest LB 1201 – Flood Mitigation Plan, LB 769 – NRC residency requirements, and LB 861 – encourage uniform regulation of containers have been incorporated into LB 632, along with a few other provisions. The Subcommittee also discussed Senator Pansing Brooks' LB 283 – Climate Change study and the unlikelihood it would “go anywhere”.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

PDZ/pz

pc: Steve Seglin
Corey Wasserburger