




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Agenda Item #5

Memorandum

Date: March 18, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager 
Subject: Executive Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Subcommittee met at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 in the NRD Office in Lincoln and via video/teleconference. Subcommittee members present at the office included Larry Ruth & Milt Schmidt. Directors attending via video/teleconference were Deborah Eagan, Bruce Johnson, Ray Stevens, and Dan Steinkruger. Others participating included Steve Seglin, Corey Wasserburger, David Potter, Kathy Spence, Nathan Kuhlman, and myself.

Chair Ruth called the meeting to order and welcomed those participating virtually and introduced those in attendance at the NRD Office. Ruth mentioned the Subcommittee's recommendations from last week's meeting and reported that today's recommendations will also be considered at the Thursday Board Meeting. Concerns about the COVID-19 Pandemic caused for the cancellation of the regular NRD Board Meeting on Thursday, so an Emergency Board Meeting has been scheduled for the same time. An Emergency Board Meeting can be held via teleconference, but only emergency items may be considered. Legal counsel has identified those emergency items.

Ruth reported that Governor Ricketts issued an Executive Order today to permit local government boards to meet by virtual means through May 31, 2020. We will review this order and consider utilizing it for future meetings.

Ruth then asked me to report on the background information in regard to the Board considering the need to delegate authority to approve non-emergency items necessary for the NRD to conduct our business. I reported that each month we have several proposals that need to be considered to allow staff to do their work. During the COVID-19 pandemic era the Board's ability to meet and take action is limited.

I stated that these issues are all important and the NRD needs to take action on these issues in a timely manner. In order for the NRD to do this, I feel it would be in the best interest of the NRD to delegate authority to approve non-emergency items to the General Manager, with concurrence of the Chair. Those items determined to be an emergency or of more interest to the Board could be deferred until the next meeting of the Board and considered at that time.

The Subcommittee discussed the issue, the potential delegation of authority, and the need to keep things moving forward. The Subcommittee members expressed support for the motion, a prudent step and felt it was a good solution. Seglin recommended that once the Board returns to regular monthly Board Meetings the Board of Directors should ratify the prior actions.

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Ruth, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee members participating (will need a second) in the virtual meeting to recommend the Board of Directors delegate authority to the General Manager to approve, with the concurrence of the Chair, those non-emergency items that would normally require Board action in order to continue with the business of the District during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ruth then called on Steinkruger to discuss his request concerning today's technology and NRD meetings. Steinkruger suggested that it is time that the NRD consider allowing or requesting authority to allow NRD Board and Subcommittee meetings to be held via teleconferencing and videoconferencing, allow Directors to vote if participating remotely, and also pay per diem for those meetings.

The Subcommittee felt that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for these changes. Several Directors discussed the benefits of meeting in person and the need to limit virtual meetings. It was moved by Steinkruger, seconded by Schmidt, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee members participating (will need a second) in the virtual meeting to recommend that while the intent is for Directors to attend meetings in person, in cases where Board or Subcommittee Meetings are held via teleconference or video conferencing during the COVID – 19 Pandemic, the Board of Directors approve allowing Directors to vote remotely and receive per diem for participating in their assigned meetings.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

PDZ/pz

pc: Steve Seglin
Corey Wasserburger