



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Agenda Item #7

Memorandum

Date: March 9, 2021
To: Each Director
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager
Subject: Executive Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Subcommittee met at noon on Monday, March 8, 2021 via video/teleconference. Directors participating were Deborah Eagan, David Landis, Bob Andersen, Luke Peterson and Larry Ruth. Others participating included Susan Seacrest, Michael Farrell, David Potter, Nathan Kuhlman and myself.

Chair Eagan called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and moved to the first agenda item concerning the Subdistrict #10 vacancy on the Board. The Subcommittee discussed the scheduled interview questions and process. Application letters of the interviewees and a copy of the NRD Operating Policy C-2: Director Vacancies is attached. The Subcommittee then conducted 20 minute interviews with both Michael Farrell and Susan Seacrest. The Subcommittee expressed their appreciation for their interest in being considered along with the other 14 applicants. Both applicants were knowledgeable, experienced, and very qualified. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Andersen, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee members present to **nominate Susan Seacrest to fill the Subdistrict #10 vacancy on the Board of Directors.**

The next item was to consider the appointment of a second Director to the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Board of Directors. I reported that the attached email was provided to the NRD Board requesting those Directors interested contact me. I reported that Gary Hellerich contacted me expressing an interest in this position. It was moved by Landis, seconded by Ruth, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee members present to **recommend the Board of Directors appoint Gary Hellerich to serve as a Lower Platte South NRD representative on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Board of Directors.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider a resolution to release deferred compensation (457) funds owned by the NRD on behalf of former and current employees. I reported that Glenn Johnson desired to move his 457 funds from an Ameritas account but was informed by Ameritas that the owner of the account (LPSNRD) must pass a resolution authorizing the transfer of those funds. A copy of a suitable resolution is attached. Johnson and myself are the only two employees remaining with a 457 account at Ameritas. The Subcommittee discussed the challenges of transferring some of these older 457 accounts. It was moved by Andersen, seconded by Landis,

and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the Ameritas Resolution authorizing the release of deferred compensation funds.**

I then updated the Subcommittee on several other items, including that the authorized Consulting Services Agreement was not approved by Kathy Spence, changing accounting software lead to some corrections on withholding Medicare Tax on retirement (414h) contributions for employees and the NRD, and the Subcommittee discussed legislation updates on LB 83 (Open Meetings Act) and LB 408 (Property Tax Request Act – 3% limit).

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

PDZ/pz

pc: Steve Seglin
Corey Wasserburger

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
PO Box 83681
3125 Portia Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

Greetings:

I am interested in serving as a representative from sub-District 10 filling the seat recently vacated by Karen Amen.

I am a 49-year resident of Lincoln; I have resided in the district in question, living in the same house on Park Avenue for the past 37 years. I am a registered voter and have never missed casting my ballot once in all the years I've been a part of our community.

Earlier in the late '70s and early '80s I served several terms on the Mayor's Community Development Task Force with one term as chair, representing the Woods Park Neighborhood. I have served on the board at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center for several terms including one as chair. I am currently on my second term as a board member of the Friends of the State Museum (Morrill Hall), recently concluding a year as Secretary. I am also a member of the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor Cabinet.

My deceased wife Katherine and I were founding members of Open Harvest Food Co-op. We have three children (now adults) who attended the public schools in Lincoln.

I am a half time employee of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Natural Resources where I teach a course in Digital Image Making and Story-telling as well as serving as Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Platte Basin Timelapse (PBT) project. I have been with the University for 49 years as of this spring mostly with NET as a filmmaker/tv producer and manager. I have taught college level courses for many of those years including stints in Centennial College, English, Journalism and Ag Leadership and Communications. I instituted an internship program during my last years at NET bringing students from Journalism and Fine Arts to NET for paid gigs working with our professional staff. We have a similar component for student interns at PBT which is funded by the Daugherty Water for Food Institute. I am a fellow with DWFI and with the Center for Great Plains at UN-L.

While at NET, in my capacity as TV Production Manager, I oversaw the building's three-year \$13.2 M renovation acting as the liaison between the UN-L Facilities Management team, the architects and contractors and NET's senior management. Innovations I instituted in the workflow and construction scheduling resulted in significant savings that were then available to be applied to areas not originally budgeted. I have familiarity with large scale high-cost projects.

In my capacity as Co-Director of Platte Basin Timelapse I have negotiated the deployment and installation of remote camera systems from one end of the watershed to the other. These partnerships have involved dozens of state and federal agencies, private and non-government

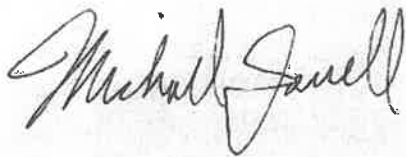
organizations. I have created SUPs with entities such as the Bureau of Reclamation, the Nebraska National Guard, the Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District and so on.

In my younger days, I have canoed most of Nebraska's rivers, many of them year after year. I have been upstream to all of the major dams and reservoirs on the Platte and its major tributaries. I have produced a number of documentary projects for both local and national audiences concerning water and our natural heritage.

Nebraska is unique in that our NRDs are based on watersheds and rely on citizen governance. Nebraska is also unique in that we have decided to partner with our upstream states Colorado and Wyoming to manage the Platte collaboratively and with the concept of adaptive management. These qualities of accepting the natural world's right to exist and to interact with it and our neighbors with collegial and respectful attitudes will be what drives our best decisions going forward as we struggle to find a good path in the face of climate change and the associated demands on our natural systems.

It would be an honor to serve the public as a member of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's board in the critical years facing us.


Thank you for your consideration,



Michael Farrell
2111 Park Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68502

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

SUSAN S. SEACREST
1603 Old Farm Road
Lincoln, NE 68512



February 4, 2021

Board of Directors
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Via email

Dear Directors:

Please consider this letter as my application for the vacancy on the Lower Platte South Board of Directors for Subdistrict 10. I have extensive state and national experience in environmental matters, including the following: founding and leading the Groundwater Foundation from 1985-2007; serving as a founding member of the Nebraska Environmental Trust's Board of Directors from 1993-2005; and serving on four advisory committees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. My major area of interest has been protection of groundwater resources through education, collaboration, and public engagement.

One of the highlights of my work at the Groundwater Foundation was the creation of the Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island, a program that has been widely replicated (including Lincoln's Earth Wellness Festival). Another highlight was the creation of Groundwater Guardian, a community recognition program that showcases the protection efforts of communities in Nebraska and across the United States.

During my tenure on the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board of Directors, I chaired the board and its grants committee. Through my experience with the trust, I was able to expand my knowledge about Nebraska's natural resources and the multiple tools needed to protect them.

After retiring from the Groundwater Foundation, I served as a school counselor at Lincoln North Star High School from 2008-14. Since 2016, I have served as a volunteer counselor for the Lincoln Public Schools' Pathfinder program at the Lancaster County Youth Detention Center.

Collaboration with Nebraska's NRDs was one of the most rewarding aspects of my environmental career. Nebraska's unique system of NRDs provides impactful and sustainable environmental benefits statewide.

My strong interest in natural resources has never wavered. Having an opportunity to serve on the Lower Platte South board would be a great honor. I believe I could be a strong representative for the citizens in Subdistrict 10.

Sincerely,
Susan S. Seacrest

C-2: DIRECTORS' VACANCIES

Neb. Rev. Stat. §2-3215 governs vacancies in the office of a Director and authorizes the board to fill such vacancies. The section in part provides that "in addition to the events listed in Section 32-560, a vacancy on the Board shall exist in the event of the removal from the District or subdistrict of any Director."

In the event of a vacancy the Board shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term (a) in writing to the Secretary of State and (b) to the public by a notice published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District. The Board shall proceed to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

If the vacancy occurs during the first year of the unexpired term or prior to August 1 of the second year of the unexpired term, the appointee shall serve until the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January next succeeding the next regular general election and at such regular general election a Director shall be elected to succeed the appointee and serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

If the vacancy occurs on or after August 1 of the second year of the unexpired term or during the third or fourth year of the unexpired term, the appointee shall serve until the term expires. The procedure, which the Board shall follow in filling such vacancies, is:

1. The General Manager shall notify the Board of Director vacancy upon receiving notice.
2. The General Manager shall publish notice of the vacancy, which shall contain a request that persons interested in filling the vacated Directorship shall submit a letter of application to the Board, along with the applicant's qualifications for the position.
3. The General Manager shall also give written notice to persons who have previously indicated an interest in serving as a Director and reside in the subdistrict where the vacancy has occurred, or whose names have been supplied by Directors as possible candidates.
4. After applications have been received, the Executive Subcommittee shall review them and interview any or all the applicants that appear from their applications to have the appropriate qualifications to fill the vacancy.
5. After completing the interviews, the Executive Subcommittee, shall by motion select one or more applicants to recommend to the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board.

6. **At the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Executive Subcommittee shall report to the Board on its recommendations and place the names of those persons selected by the Executive Subcommittee in nomination to fill the vacancy. Directors may place in nomination the name of other applicants who have been interviewed but not selected by the Executive Subcommittee. All persons whose names have been placed in nomination shall have the opportunity to address the Board prior to the vote. The vote shall be by roll call vote and the person receiving a majority vote of the quorum shall be elected to fill the vacancy. In the event that a person does not receive a majority vote after the fourth vote, or subsequent votes, then the Board may by motion select the persons receiving the two highest number of votes, including tie votes, for the subsequent round or rounds of voting. If the names in nomination have been reduced by motion, the voting will continue until one person receives a majority vote of the quorum present at such meeting.**

7. **The person selected to fill the vacancy shall take the Oath of Office, execute the acceptance of the appointment, and file the acceptance with the Nebraska Secretary of State, all as required by law, before such person may be seated as a voting member of the Board, but in no event may the person be seated before the day following the selection.**

Paul Zillig

From: Paul Zillig
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Directors
Subject: Lower Platte River Basin Coalition
Attachments: SKM_C55821021012290.pdf; SKM_C55821021012291.pdf

Each Director:

The LPSNRD has 2 voting representatives on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Board. Don Jacobson and Greg Osborn have served as the LPSNRD representatives for several years. Each NRD and DNR has 2 voting reps on the Coalition Board. I've been the alternate. With Greg Osborn having gone off the NRD Board he is no longer on the Coalition Board and the LPSNRD Board needs to elect a new representative to replace Greg.

This Coalition includes 7 NRDs in the Lower Platte basin (Upper & Lower Loup, Upper & Lower Elkhorn, Pappio-Missouri River, and Lower Platte North & South) and the Nebraska Dept of Natural Resources. The Coalition developed a Basin Water Management Plan that guides the NRDs so they limit irrigation development and keep the Lower Platte River/basin from becoming "fully appropriated".

I've attached some additional background information if you'd like to know more about the Coalition plan on Depletion Limits and also a copy of the agreement that governs the Coalition Board.

Serving on this Coalition typically involves 1 or 2 meetings/year in Ord, Columbus, or Norfolk. Please let me know by March 1st if you're interested in being considered for this position. At that time the Executive Subcommittee can review the applicant(s) and provide a recommendation to the Board, the Board will need to elect a representative at their March Board Meeting. The Coalition Board plans to meet sometime in April.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Paul

GARY HELLERICH - yes

RESOLUTION

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, (the "District") hereby approves the following Resolution at the Regular Meeting of its Board of Directors on February 17, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that the District is the owner of certain 457 retirement funds held on behalf of former and current employees (the "Funds").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Funds are being held for investment purposes by Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation ("Ameritas").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a former employee of the District has requested the District to transfer the Funds held by Ameritas to another investment adviser.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District hereby authorizes Ameritas to transfer the Funds held in the name of the District to any entity designated by any former or current employee of the District and further authorizes Paul Zillig, it's General Manager, to sign this Resolution on behalf of the District and to sign any other documents requested by Ameritas in order to transfer the Funds requested by any employee or former employee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Resolution is executed by the duly authorized representative of the District.

Date _____

Paul Zillig, General Manager

Acknowledged:

Dated: _____

Deborah Eagan, Chairperson