

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water

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Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2022

The regular scheduled meeting of the Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) System Board of Commissioners was held at the LPRW Office in Lake Benton, MN, on Monday, March 28, 2022; and was available for viewing/participating via Zoom video/teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Board Chairman Joe Weber. A quorum was established with Commissioners Randy Kraus, Bill Ufkin, Frank Engels, Brent Feikema, Pete Petersen, Jan Moen, Jerry Lonneman, Mitch Kling in attendance, with Commissioner Rod Spronk attending via Zoom link. Also attending was Enterprise Technician Jodi Greer, General Manager Jason Overby, System Supervisors Patrick McCarthy and Tom Muller, Maintenance Technician Chris Hoss, and Nathan Kinner (Kinner and Co.), Attorney Ron Schramel and Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson. Engineer Darin Schriever arrived later in the meeting.

Absent: Commissioner Earl DeWilde

Agenda: *M/S Kling/Moen to approve the agenda with an additional item. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.*

Minutes: *M/S Ufkin/Feikema to approve the minutes from the February 2022 Board Meeting. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.*

Operations Report: The Operations Report for March was presented. Lonneman asked about L&CRWS delivery to LPRW. Muller indicated that it depends on Rushmore Tower levels and our minimum monthly purchase from OCRWS. Petersen suggested replacing second expansion joint at Rushmore Tower. Staff will investigate condition and additional cost. Lonneman inquired about water levels. Petersen requested that specific capacity of individual wells be reported to Board. McCarthy noted that pipe will be spotted along the Hwy 68 Road Project. Muller introduced Chris Hoss, as LPRW's new Maintenance Technician. Muller also acknowledged Matt Wieme and Keith Johnson for passing their MN Class C Water Operator test in St. Cloud.

Engineer's Report: Schriever presented the March Engineers Report. Schriever indicated property site survey for the NAWS water treatment plant is complete and DGR is working through items on the PER; Cottonwood connection hydraulics were generated; and design layouts for the new office/shop have been drafted.

Manager's Report: GM Overby presented the March Manager's Report. Overby reported there are three town hall meetings scheduled to solicit public interest for water service. City of Cottonwood has asked for LPRW to present connection cost estimates, water chemistry and water rates at their April 5th council meeting.

Attorney's Report: Schramel noted that Commissioners Petersen, Kraus and DeWilde

are up for reappointment starting 2023. General discussion on assessments and interest rates charged during an expansion.

Treasurer's Report: Kinner reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March. Kinner described the remaining funds (i.e. rebate) from Nobles County to close out the former BAB Bond account.

M/S Kraus/Lonneman to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.

Paid Bills:

M/S Ufkin/Feikema to approve payment on checks #8221 to #8324, excluding voided checks #8317 & 8323. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.

Pending Bills:

- DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company:
 - General Services = \$3,037.00
 - North Area Water Source = \$856.27
 - Comprehensive Tank Plan = \$595.50
- Schramel Law Office:
 - General Services = \$2,803.62
 - North Water Source = \$665.00
- Abdo
 - Audit Services = \$4,400.00
 - Certified Audit Services = \$8,000.00

M/S Engels/Moen to approve paying pending bills, as presented. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Budget and Finance Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Personnel Committee:** *Moved discussion to after Other Business and Public Comment on the agenda.*
- **Water Resources & Equipment Committee:** Ufkin noted that members of the committee met with staff during a weekly staff meeting. They listened in on regular operations discussions and participated in preparations for upcoming public town hall meetings. Commissioners Ufkin and Kling encouraged other commissioners to take the opportunity to attend a regular staff meeting on occasion.
- **Joint Powers Board Representative:** Lonneman noted that Nobles County withdrew

funding for water improvements with L&CRWS.

Other Business:

- Governmental Affairs (Lobbying Services) Agreement with Hill Capitol Strategies, Inc.

M/S Kling/Engels to approve the two-year agreement with Hill Capitol Strategies, Inc. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion Carried.

- Stratmoen-Stratmoen-Leasman Service Connections. Board approval is being sought for a line extension involving three service connections, one being a livestock facility, and all of which are within the moratorium-designated service area. Spronk suggested to have Preston Stratmoen understand he is only going to be allowed one capacity.

M/S Kling/Petersen to approve the three service connections and to have Preston Stratmoen sign a document acknowledging that LPRW does not guarantee additional water beyond the normal 50,000 gallons per month in the future until LPRW secures additional water source. Ayes: 10, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.

- Board Age Policy - Age Limits on Board Members. Discussion regarding age limits for appointment/reappointment of Commissioners.

M/S Ufkin/Kling recommending policy change to the effect that if a Board Commissioner will turn 72 years of age prior to the start of their next 4-year term that reappointment is to be approved by unanimous secret ballot of the LPRW Board; and any Board Commissioner who is of 75 years of age or older prior to the first day of their next 4-year term is not eligible for reappointment of said term. Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Absent: 1 (DeWilde), Abstained: 1 (Spronk). Motion carried.

A written policy will be drafted for Board consideration and approval at the next monthly meeting.

Public Comment: Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson suggested to visit with Todd Patzer (LQP Co. Commissioner) to discuss upcoming NAWS and associated town hall meetings.

Committee Reports (continued):

- **Personnel Committee:** Kraus went through the minutes of the Personal Committee meeting. There was discussion on hiring the HR firm Alternative HR LLC.

M/S Ufkin/Lonneman to hire the HR firm Alternative HR LLC for the HR Risk Assessment program and go through our HR policy. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, (DeWilde). Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about the managers salary.

M/S Feikema/Engels to raise the General Manager's salary to \$115,000.00 annually with wage increase retro-active back to January 1st. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, (DeWilde). Motion carried.

Further discussion recognized that, going forward, the managers' wage should be separate from the employee's budget. Management should meet with the Executive Committee before year-end to discuss salary and concerns.

Adjournment:

M/S Lonneman/Feikema to adjourn the meeting. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 (DeWilde). Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Kraus, LPRW Board Secretary