

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System

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Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023

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, May 22nd, 2023; and was available for viewing/participating via Zoom video/teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM by Board Chair Joe Weber. A quorum was established with Commissioners Bill Ufkin, Earl DeWilde, Peter Petersen, Mitch Kling, Randy Kraus, Brent Feikema, Jan Moen, Rod Spronk and Jerry Lonneman in attendance. Also attending were DGR Engineer Darin Schriever, Board Attorney Ron Schramel, Lyon County Commissioner Rick Anderson, Nathan Kinner (Kinner and Co.) via Zoom, Lobbyist Sam Krueger via Zoom, Enterprise Technician Jodi Greer, Field Supervisor Tom Muller, and General Manager Jason Overby. Absent was Commissioner Frank Engels.

Agenda: *M/S Ufkin/Petersen to approve the agenda. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.*

Minutes: *M/S Lonneman/Spronk to approve the minutes from the April 2023 Board Meeting. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.*

Lobbying Report: Sam Krueger provided updates from St. Paul. After much back and forth from the legislators, an Appropriations Bill was passed and LPRW is to receive \$11.5 million in funding for capital improvement projects, including \$4 Million for Biottta, \$5 Million for System Improvements and \$2.5 Million for Burr (Fortier TWP) Improvements. Krueger noted that LPRW was one of three entities that had multiple projects fully funded. The Governor has three days to sign the bill.

Krueger also reported that the MN Joint Powers Board, as part of L&CRWS, received \$22 Million. This will fund LPRW's share of the expanded reserve capacity with L&CRWS. LPRW could have additional water within the next five years. Lonneman requested the GM to attend future Joint Powers Board meetings.

Krueger noted that the Legislature has intention to draft another bonding bill and possibly cash bill next session. He further suggested splitting the NAWS project into smaller funded projects to be more receptive. Other items noted: the rules/requirements of the Cash Option Appropriations bill were forthcoming; the tax relief bill did not pass; and changes to Tort Liability definition did not happen. On behalf of the full Board, Commissioner Spronk thanked Sam for all his hard work and success.

Engineer's Report: Darin Schriever presented the Engineers Report for May. Items covered further included:

- Holland Improvements/BIOTTTA: Continuing to work on equipment layouts and building floor plans for biottta. AdEdge submitted a proposal fee of \$35,000 to assist financially in this

design phase. DGR recommended splitting the cost of their services with LPRW. LPRW will review further. Proposal was tabled until the June meeting.

- City of Brewster 2nd Connection: Working on processing the contract documents for both pipeline and meter building projects. Pre-con meetings slated for June.
- City of Wabasso: Completed hydraulic analysis and cost estimates for municipal hookup to City of Wabasso. System improvements would be needed to provide water to the city.
- CTMP: Three quotes for CIT tank work on three concrete GSR's and one elevated tank have been received. DGR recommended accepting the lowest bid from Midco.

M/S Kraus/DeWilde to accept the CIT proposal from Midco Diving and Maine Services, Inc. in the amount of \$11,490.00. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

Operations Report: Field Supervisor Muller presented the May Operations Report. Replacement of the Honey Corner PRV structure went very well. City of Russell Well meter piping and meter building scheduled for installation. Water levels at our shallow sources all look good. Spronk asked about Hi-E Dry dehumidifiers. Muller noted they are needed at our WTP and pump stations to reduce moisture, preventing issues down the road.

Manager's Report: GM Overby presented the Manager's Report for May. Overby included the Cottonwood Support Letter and the New Vision Coop Letter in his packet. He will provide the pay schedule for Brewster and OCRWS out to the full board.

Attorney's Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Nathan Kinner presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2023.

M/S Lonneman/Moen to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

Paid Bills: April paid bills were reviewed.

M/S Feikema/Petersen to approve the transactions for April that includes check numbers 9965 through 10089, excluding voided check #9989. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

Pending Bills:

- DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company:
 - North Area Water Source = \$3,155.00
 - City of Brewster 2nd Connection = \$10,175.50
 - Holland WTP Improvements = \$8,320.00
 - Tank Maintenance = \$3,860.00
- Schramel Law Office:
 - General Services = \$1,239.80
 - City of Brewster = \$3,080.00
- DesignArc Group
 - Office & Shop Complex = \$180,078.18
- Northland Securities

- Pipestone County \$1.8 2016A = \$5,707.50
- Nobles County \$9.3 2020B = \$92,586.25
- Nobles County \$5.3 2021A = \$69,034.38
- US Bank
 - Yellow Medicine 2016A = \$33,181.25

M/S Ufkin/Kling to approve paying pending bills, as presented. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Budget and Finance Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Water Resources & Equipment Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **MRWA Representative:** Nothing to report.
- **L&C MN Joint Powers Board Representative:** Nothing to report.

Other Business:

- **Verdi-SD Land Lease Bids.** A total of four bids were received. LNJ Farms & Ranch was the highest bid at \$25,750.00. The designated land operator will have the option for a 10-yr or 15-yr term length coinciding with CRP term length options.

M/S Kling/Petersen to accept the land lease bid of \$25,750.00 annual payment from LNJ Farms & Ranch. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

- **PFAS Cost Recovery Program Retainer Agreement.** Acceptance of retainer agreement includes LPRW in any future PFAS litigation.

M/S Ufkin/Spronk to approve the PFAS Cost Recovery Program Retainer Agreement with Napoli-Shkolnik, PLLC. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

- **Lyon County Hwy 5 Permanent ROW Easement.** ROW Easement paid by Lyon County for a small portion at LPRW's Ghent Booster.

M/S Kling/Lonneman to authorize Permanent ROW Easement with Lyon County on Lyon Co Hwy 5 adjacent to LPRW's Ghent Booster site. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No responses.

Adjournment: *M/S Lonneman/Feikema to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. 10-Aye, 0-Nay, 1-Absent. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Kraus, LPRW Board Secretary