

NWLEPG BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 6th, 2019 @ 6:00PM

Thomas County Office Complex – Board Room

Board Approved on September 12, 2019

| County / Board Member | 6/6 | 6/21 | 11/1 | 1/3 | 3/7 | 6/6 |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| (CN) Derek J. Barnhart | | | | | | X |
| (DC) Marilyn Gamblin | X | | X | | X | |
| (GL) Corbin Meyers | | | | | | |
| (GO) Duane Vollbracht | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| (LE) Diana Paris | | | | X | | |
| (LG) Rhonda Sperber | X | X | X | X | X | |
| (RA) Louis Sabatka, Treasurer | X | X | X | | X | X |
| (SC) Monica Beeson | | X | X | X | | X |
| (SD) Joe Bainter, President | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| (SH) Donna Terry, Vice President | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| (TH) Brad Flipse | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| (TR) Wesley Hobbs | | X | | X | X | |
| (WA) Bruce Bolen | | | | X | | X |

LEPG Staff: Tim Hansen and Connie Albers

Guest(s): Shirley and Raymond Weber, Larry Heier, and Marian Ballard

1. Determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Joe Bainter with a quorum of seven voting members present. Monica Beeson arrived shortly after the meeting began making a total of eight voting members.

2. Additions/approval of Agenda

- Add "Executive Session – Non-elected Personnel" towards the end
 - Proposed by Bruce
- Add "Larry Heier – 10-minute limit" to agenda

Donna moved to approve the agenda as amended. Duane seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Past board minutes should state that Brad Marcuson was present for Decatur, not Marilyn Gamblin.
 - Amendment by Duane

Duane moved to approve the minutes as amended. Joe seconded. Motion was carried.

4. Financial Report

- Water Well Permits are starting to return after a long cold winter and very wet spring.
- Two "man camps" went in this last year at \$2,500 apiece. An oil field directional well camp in Gove County and a construction camp for the pipeline.
- Only two Childcare Evaluations this past year.
- Eight Commercial Systems will be completed in the near future.

Monica moved to approve the financials as is. Bruce seconded. Motion carried.

5. Larry Heier – 10-minute limit

- Larry said that he installed 8 septic systems in last year. This year he will be up to 6 systems. A lot of these people are strapped for money. Usually talks to his customers for an hour and a half to get them to understand they will need to pay this fee of \$300. Very against having fee increases, which is an item on the agenda.
- No board action was taken.

6. Shirley Weber - 10-minute limit

- Shirley read a two-page letter to the board. She demanded an official apology from the board.
- No board action was taken.

7. Water Testing Program

- In FY17 – 90 tests, FY18 – 174 tests, and FY19 – 334 water tests have been done. The NWLEPG member health departments have been the backbone, the point of contact, for the success of this program. 12 of the 13 health departments of the counties we represent scheduled a day for us to pick up water samples.
- The most rewarding run was Dighton, Scott City, Tribune, and Sharon Springs. Out of 5 tests that had high nitrates, 3 of those 5 had babies or were expecting mothers. Those people were called.
- Spreadsheet of collected data attached.

8. Grant Application – New Equipment

We will be working on a grant application for new equipment. Hach no longer supports the nitrate machine or the TDS machine. \$4300 for a new spectrograph and \$1700 for a new TDS machine. We are over the budget for the current grant testing program. We have \$15,000 to \$16,000 in expenditures for this Water Testing Program. Would like to have the grant application done by August 1st, 2019.

9. Abandon Oil Field Water Supply Wells

In January, with an anonymous complaint, this issue was brought to light. After research on this well type, it was discovered it had not been transferred to the landowner. There were three layers of discovery as to ownership. The company that funded the oil well drilling, by state statute, was responsible for plugging the well or transferring it to the landowner within 30 days of the completion of the well. Not the oil well driller or landowner. This particular well was drilled over 3 years ago and had a broken well casing. Upon further investigation, there are 106 wells of this type that exist in our 13 participating counties. So far, most are in the same disrepair. We have been in contact with KDHE Geology & Well Technology section to enforce these violations. They are permitted through the Division of Water Resources for a nominal fee, with no oversight.

10. Fee Increase

- No increase in county participation, but Tim would like to have an open dialog about having a base fee for county participation. If we don't do any work in a county right now, we don't receive any money from that county. The year to year expenses to run the office are constant. For example, liability insurance, phones, car lease, etc.
- Other than increasing copy fees, the following dates state the fee increases since 2015:
 - June 3rd, 2015 minutes, Marilyn Gamblin moved to increase the county fees to \$150 for each wastewater system and \$100 for every water test performed in the counties. This is county participation.
 - March 1st, 2017, Marilyn Gamblin made a motion to charge \$25 to residents of any county or counties requesting copies of records, that are not in good standing with the NWLEPG. Fee paid prior to record release.
 - March 1st, 2017 board minutes. Commercial Letter of Intent, Marilyn Gamblin made a motion to charge \$600 for Non-Typical Letter of Intent. Donna Terry seconded. The motion passed.
 - March 1st, 2017 board minutes. Marilyn Gamblin made a motion to charge \$500 to oil well drillers drilling a water well onsite. Duane Vollbracht seconded the motion.
- Duane inquired why the Oil Field Water Supply Well fee was never implemented.
- Tim asked to implement this permit and a fee of \$500 for the Oil Field Water Supply Wells that was already approved by the board in 2017.

Duane moved to give Tim the authority to create a form for the implementation of permitting Oil Field Water Supply Wells with a permit fee of \$500. Brad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Tim requests that the NWLEPG enforce the minimum requirements of the EPA 503 rules, federal regulation for the disposal of domestic septage. Larry stated that if we do this it would probably add costs to the consumers since this would create more paper work. Tim would also like to increase the fee for a Septic Tank Cleaner license from \$100 to \$200 in 2020.

Duane made a motion to raise the Septic Tank Cleaner license fee to \$200 and adopt the EPA 503 rules.

Monica seconded. The motion was carried.

- The Loan/Mortgage Inspection fee is currently \$150. Inspections are taking more time. Increase the fee to \$250 per inspection.

Bruce made a motion to raise the Loan/Mortgage Inspection fee to \$250. Derek seconded. Motion carried.

11. FY 20 Budget

- Tim suggested to put \$60,000 into a CD for a year at 2.51%.

Brad moved to authorize Tim to transfer \$60,000 into a CD. Louis seconded. Motion carried.

- Discussed leasing a vehicle more suited for the remote places traveled. Tim drove his vehicle in the past when conditions were not ideal for a car. A pickup would cost more money to lease and less miles per gallon.

Donna made a motion to continue leasing a car from Harry's Motors for the next fiscal year. Joe seconded.

Motion carried.

Bruce moved to set the mileage rate at the Federal rate of 58 cents. Monica seconded. Motion carried.

12. Decatur County / Craig Uhrich

- Tim called the Decatur County Clerk that morning to receive clarification on when Decatur planned on leaving the NWLEPG: She said she would get back to him.

13. Connie's Report

- Went to a Grant Writing Workshop at K-State in Manhattan on the 20th of May. Learned how to get signed up to start applying for federal grants. There isn't much money available for our specific field, but there are a few opportunities. You just have to find them and apply for them.

14. Executive Session

Duane moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

- Joe called the meeting back to order at 8:33 PM.
- No action was taken.

15. Executive Session – Non-elected Personnel 10 mins

Bruce made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes regarding non-elected personnel. Duane seconded. Motion carried.

- Joe called the meeting back to order at 8:44 PM.
- No action was taken.

16. Election of Officers

Donna nominated Duane for president. Brad seconded. Joe moved for nominations to cease.

- President: Duane Vollbracht

Donna nominated Derek for Vice President. Joe seconded. Joe moved for nominations to cease.

- Vice President: Derek J. Barnhart

Joe moved to keep Louis as Treasurer. Duane seconded. Motion carried.

- Treasurer: Louis Sabatka

Donna moved to change the signature card at BankWest. Tim and Louis will remain on the card and Derek, Duane, and Brad need to be added to the signature card. Monica seconded. Motion carried.

17. Adjournment

- Tentatively set the next meeting date for September 12, 2019 at noon.

With no other business before the board, Brad made a motion to adjourn. Donna seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Connie Albers.


Connie Albers, NWLEPG Secretary


NWLEPG President


NWLEPG Vice President