

NWLEPG BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019 @ Noon

Thomas County Office Complex – Board Room

Board Approved on March 12, 2020

County / Board Member	6/21	11/1	1/3	3/7	6/6	9/12	12/4
(CN) Derek J. Barnhart, Vice President					X	X	X
(GL) Alena Ballinger						X	
(GO) Duane Vollbracht, President	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
(LE) Diana Paris			X				X
(LG) Rhonda Sperber	X	X	X	X		X	X
(RA) Louis Sabatka, Treasurer	X	X		X	X	X	X
(SC) Monica Beeson	X	X	X		X	X	
(SD) Joe Bainter	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(SH) Donna Terry	X	X	X	X	X		X
(TH) Brad Flipse	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
(TR) Wesley Hobbs	X		X	X		X	X
(WA) Bruce Bolen			X		X		X

LEPG Staff: Tim Hansen and Connie Albers

Guest(s): Legal Counsel – Craig Uhrich

1. Determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM by Duane with a quorum of 9 voting members present.

2. Additions/approval of Agenda

- Shirley saw Connie in the hall before the meeting and said she wasn't going to be able to make today's meeting and to remove her from the agenda.
 - Shirley contacted Connie before the meeting
- Add "Wes Hobbs – TR Co."
- Add "Bruce Bolen – WA Co."
- Add "Executive Session – 30 Minutes Personnel"
 - Proposed by Duane

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Louis moved to approve the minutes of the last board meeting as is. Derek seconded. Motion carried.

4. Financial Report

Brad moved to approve the financials as is. Donna seconded. Motion carried.

5. Trego County – Wesley Hobbs

- Has had a lot of push back from people at Cedar Bluff. People want the Trego County Commissioners to grant variances, but the commissioners have left all those decisions with the NWLEPG.
- Wes presented to the board a letter sent to Mr. Don Bickle regarding Trego County Commissioners support of the NWLEPG.
- Robert Mitchell and Tim visited with the Trego County Commissioners. It was very informative and helped the Commissioners better understand what was going on.
- Cedar Bluff cabin sites have a lot of rock, which is not ideal for septic systems. In certain cases, a holding tank is the only option.
- Having problems with 2 contractors out of the 42 licensed by the NWLEPG.
- Wes stated, if one variance is granted, worried everyone will want their septic system granted a variance.

6. Wallace County – Bruce Bolen

- Has had a new business move into the county. A Dollar General.
- Bruce made a motion at his last commissioners meeting to at least regulate commercial systems within the county. Motion failed for lack of a second.
- Local contractors weren't even given a chance to bid on Dollar General system.
- Wallace County code doesn't require licensed contractors or for septic systems to be approved.

7. Loan/Mortgage Inspection Protocol

- Criteria has changed for inspections. We used to request, but now we require septic system tanks to be pumped in the presence of the NWLEPG representative.
- Property transfer evaluations – We are not competing with local contractors.
- Private companies that do Loan/Mortgage inspections, and profit from a it, can cause a lender to pull the loan.

8. Dane G. Hansen Grant Application Decision – Derek Barnhart

- Derek rewrote the grant application to the best of his ability, and we were denied funding again.
- Asked Dane G. Hansen Foundation why we were denied. Received an e-mail back stating that the foundation receives several applications a month requesting funding and ours was not selected.
- Craig Uhrich suggested that we go to the local community foundations and request around \$700 from each county.
- Our equipment was new in 1992. There have been 2 other models come out since.

9. Tim's Report

- Tim met with all of the county commissioners except Gove County. He's been to 15 county commissioners' meetings, Trego County 3 times.
- Was requested to meet with the Wichita County Commissioners about possibly joining the NWLEPG again. They decided not to join the NWLEPG at this time.
- Passed around a detailed list of all of the transactions we've done this year.
- Still has 5 NPS systems to evaluate before the end of the year.
- 11 commercial systems have gone in this year.
- 54 septic systems will be put in at Cedar Bluff Reservoir by June 30, 2020.

10. Connie's Report

- Collected 74 water samples from the Health Departments this fall. 45% of those samples had either high nitrates or bacteria present.
- 292 water tests since January 1, 2019.
- Discussed with the board Brad Flipse's idea of spreading the lab equipment replacement costs over the 12 participating counties? The most it would be is \$667 per county.
- Connie will come up with a few options and e-mail them to the board members to look over.
- With the new equipment, reagents to test the water samples will be safer for us to use.

11. Executive Session – 30 minutes Personnel

Duane moved to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss "Personnel". Derek seconded. Motion carried.

- Duane called the meeting back to order at 1:52 PM.

The board discussed Connie's annual review and Brad moved to give Connie a \$0.50 raise after her one-year anniversary of employment with the NWLEPG. Duane seconded. Motion carried.

12. Adjournment

Next meeting tentatively scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 2020 @ Noon.

- With no other business before the board Wes made a motion to adjourn, Brad seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM.


Respectfully Submitted by Connie Albers.



Connie Albers, NWLEPG Secretary



NWLEPG President



NWLEPG Vice.President