

NWLEPG BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2020 @ Noon

Thomas County Office Complex – Board Room

Board Approved on June 4, 2020

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

LEPG Staff: Tim Hansen & Connie Albers

Guest(s): Larry Heier

1. Determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Duane with a quorum of ten voting members present.

Alena Ballinger arrived shortly after the meeting began making a total of eleven voting members.

2. Additions/approval of Agenda

- Change #10 to "Tim's Report"
- Larry Heier will speak during "Open Forum". If someone wants to be added to the agenda, that needs to be done before the day of the board meeting.

Brad motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Monica seconded. Motion carried.

3. Open Forum

- Larry asked if the next meeting would be when fees were discussed.

4. Approval of Minutes

Louise moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting as is. Monica seconded. Motion carried.

5. Financial Report

- All counties have participated in the purchase of the new water testing equipment from Hach.

Derek motioned to approve the financial report. Diana seconded. Motion carried.

6. Water Testing Equipment

- Thanks to each board member and their respective county commissioners for participation in sharing the cost of the water testing equipment.
- Not having to handle the hazardous reagents is the biggest benefit for Connie and Tim while testing water samples.
- With the new lab equipment, in the future we could offer screenings for additional water contaminants other than Nitrates. Example: Lead
- In addition to the lab equipment purchased by the member counties contributions, the NWLEPG will spend close to \$1000 for an interactive training with Hach, reagents, and standard solutions for calibrating.

7. SWLEPG - Used Lab Equipment

- Before folding, the director of the SWLEPG gave the NWLEPG a used DR2500. We attempted to calibrate it last fall, and see if we could use it. Would have had to spend several hundred dollars to check if it worked.
- Robert Mitchell from the CKLEPG has a working DR2500 and asked if we were not able to use ours, if he could have it for parts, because this was donated equipment consensus was to donate DR2500 to CKLEPG.
- Needs to updated: inventory list for the NWLEPG office

8. Testing Program

- Spring water testing programs already completed: Lane, Cheyenne, and Sherman
- We have some of the other counties scheduled for pickup dates and need to schedule pickup times for Rawlins, Scott, Thomas, and Wallace counties.

9. Loan/Mortgage Policy Letter to all Realtors and Banks within our area

- These inspections are for the protection of both the buyer and seller.
- If violations found, a copy will be sent to county commissioners and county attorney. Deficiencies will be corrected.
- Why is this not a part of the County Codes? Need to keep in mind when updating County Codes.
- If it is a working septic system, does the septic tank need to be pumped before a Loan/Mortgage inspection is performed? Yes. To be able to inspect the integrity of the septic tank.

10. Audit Committee by June

- Need committee appointed today to audit the NWLEPG books before the next board meeting in June 2020.

Brad Flipse, Duane Vollbract, and Louise Sabatka volunteered to be the audit committee.

11. Tim's Report

- Sent out letters to the Septic Pumpers that we regulate. Asked them to turn in their pumping logs to the office by December 2019.
- Have heard from all Pumpers but one. In a phone conversation, he disclosed that he is dumping illegally. A violation will be sent and his license will not be renewed.
- Received communication from Colby Community College pertaining to the Colby Community College farm. This has been discussed by this board three times in the last two years. NWLEPG's stance is that this issue is between Colby Community College and Larry Heier.
- The Zoom meeting app is a good alternative for hosting future board meetings in light of the corona virus.
- Loan/Mortgage property transfer was reviewed by the CKLEPG yesterday. Besides a name change, the CKLEPG board also approved the criteria for Loan/Mortgage Inspections.

12. KS Unemployment Tax raise - 0% to 6.5%

- SUTA tax increase was not figured into our budget. About \$1100 that was not budgeted.
- Annual QuickBooks fee of \$500 coming due in April 2020.
- \$6200 invoice to pay to Hach for our new lab equipment.

Louis motioned to write a check to pay for the new Hach lab equipment. Brad seconded. Motion carried.

13. Adjournment

- The next meeting tentatively scheduled on Thursday, June 4, 2020 @ noon.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM.

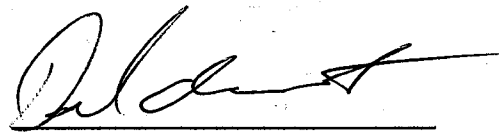
Respectfully Submitted by Connie Albers.



Connie Albers, NWLEPG Secretary



NWLEPG President



NWLEPG Vice President