

# NWLEPG BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2020 @ Noon

Thomas County Office Complex – Board Room

Board Approved on December 3, 2020

County / Board Member	1/3	3/7	6/6	9/12	12/4	3/12	6/4	9/3
(CN) Derek J. Barnhart			X	X	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	
(RA) Louis Sabatka, Treasurer		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
(SC) Monica Beeson	X		X	X		X		X
(SD) Joe Bainter	X	X	X	X		X		X
(SH) Jennifer Cure	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
(TH) Brad Flipse, Vice President	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(TR) Wesley Hobbs	X	X		X	X		X	X
(WA) Val Reiss	X		X		X	X	X	

LEPG Staff: Tim Hansen and Connie Albers

Guest(s): None

## 1. Determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM by Duane with a quorum of seven voting members present.

## 2. Additions/approval of Agenda

Derek moved to approve the agenda as is. Louis seconded. Motion carried.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Wesley moved to approve last meetings minutes as is. Monica seconded. Motion carried.

## 4. Financial Report

- Financial report reflects the county match. The first of June we submit billing to the counties to be paid by the end of June which is the end of our fiscal year.
- Printed 15 System Contractor Handbooks, which are being sold for \$20 apiece.
- Two reports: first report is the current fiscal year; second is the report for fiscal year 2020.

Derek moved to approve the financial report as is. Wesley seconded. Motion carried.

## 5. Tim's Report

- In the last three months we did 32 new site visits, 26 post inspections, and 6 loan/mortgage inspections.
- Violation on a loan/mortgage inspection in Cheyenne county the water well didn't have a proper seal and found an abandoned water well on the property. Violations have to be corrected before we would sign off on the loan/mortgage inspection.
- The septic system was pumped at the Thomas county landfill and found the tank was a steel tank. Only option was to install a holding tank. The tank was set this morning and will be completed after three months of discussion.
- Last couple months have been filled with open discharge violations. Three open discharge violations turned in within two days in Lane county in the same half section. First individual was discharging effluent onto adjoining property and was corrected within 24 hours. Second violation was the first violator turned in the second violator for open discharge to the surface of the ground.
- Trego county violation: letter sent to landowner and their assessment of the septic system was that it wasn't their problem and wasn't going to fix it. Owners sent an eviction notice to the tenant and the property will be destroyed.
- Abandoned oil field water supply wells:
  - Thomas county – one violation notice is still pending
  - Cheyenne county – three violation notices with one plugged and two under investigation

- Met with all 12 participating counties County Commissioners. No issues at this present time. Gave a copy of the Ellsworth Environmental/Sanitary County Code as a guideline for what we would like to do in the 12 counties in Northwest Kansas. Hopefully in the spring when the states model code comes out, we can take a hard look at that.
- Haven't decided on a replacement for Tim's 2004 model computer yet. Backed up Tim's computer for the first time ever two weeks ago.
- Water testing equipment is wonderful, thank you again. It's fast and accurate. Had to contact Hach to get directions on how to dilute a sample which exceeded the Nitrate level of our reagents. We have since then purchased reagents to test the higher-level Nitrates. Done 110 water tests since June. Missed all water testing in spring threw the Health Departments due to Covid. Hoping we can catch everyone in the fall. Only one we have scheduled so far is Lane county. Identified a hot spot in Sherman county. Nitrate levels have risen significantly, caught one residence with a new baby.
- Alternative Representative form in your packet. Four members not present today. If you can't make a meeting, we need to have an alternate attend. Very important to have representation present to keep abreast of the present issues within the entire NWLEPG area.
- A year ago, we talked about the issues of septage pumpers pumping and dumping. We've gotten a good handle on that. Now, we've ran into the issue of septage pumpers pumping cesspools. Cesspools are only legal in the 15 NW counties in Kansas until they fail. Then they need replaced. We don't allow a cesspool pumped as a maintenance item. Pumper can pump a cesspool once so it can be replaced.
- Uncovered an unlicensed contractor putting in unpermitted systems this morning.
- Large farm buildings and floor drains is always an ongoing issue. A week ago, went to go size a septic system for a new farm building that had two floor drains. One on the chemical containment side and one on the wash bay side. Those holding tanks went in the first part of this week.

#### 6. Connie's Report

- Been in the office supporting Tim by making sure all the paperwork is in line for him and have tried to keep up with filing.
- Can do 8 to 10 water tests in considerably less than an hour.

#### 7. Executive Session – Personnel

Duane motioned to go into executive session for personnel for 15 minutes at 12:51 PM. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

The board came out of executive session at 1:32 PM with no action taken.

- Nora Urban contacted our office and inquired about a system in Decatur county at a winery that Tim designed the system for, but was put in after Decatur county had left our group. She would like us to inspect the system. This one-time Tim will go back and review the Construction Drawing and approve the system.
- Another system was inspected in Decatur county but was not approved because of the contractor's poor job installing the system.
- The current bank balance is \$141,029.50 total.

Duane motioned to into executive session for personnel for 15 minutes at 1:53 PM. Derek seconded. Motion carried.

Duane called the meeting back into session at 2:10 PM. Tim is looking to retire at the end of the year if replacement is found. Derek motioned to give Tim a \$3000 bonus. Jennifer seconded. Motion carried.

#### 8. Adjournment

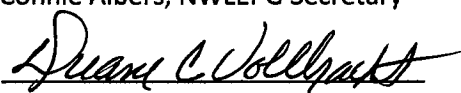
- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, December 3, 2020 @ noon.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Connie Albers, NWLEPG Secretary

  
NWLEPG Board Member

  
NWLEPG Board Member