

**Minnesota Watersheds  
Board of Directors Meeting**

November 15, 2023

Via Zoom



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Vavra called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minnesota Watersheds Board (Board) members present: Peter Fjestad, Linda Vavra, David Ziegler, Mary Texer, Jeff Gertgen, Wanda Holker, and Don Pereira

MW Board member absent: Brad Kramer and Gene Tiedemann

Others present: Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds Executive Director

**2. ACTION ITEM**

***Lobbyist Succession Plan***

At the August meeting, the Board of Directors directed the executive director to work with Ray Bohn, obtain his list of lobbyist recommendations, and proceed with the interview process for a new lobbyist. During the month of October, initial interviews were conducted with four firms.

On November 9, the Executive Committee interviewed Cap O'Rourke, O'Rourke Strategic Consulting; Sarah Psick, Psick Capitol Solutions, Inc.; Sam Krueger, Hill Capitol Strategies; and Jess Lindeen, Amos Briggs, and Kevin Matzek, Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen (LGN).

After consideration of all the candidates, the cost estimates, and offering a counter proposal, the Executive Committee unanimously recommended hiring LGN to work with Lobbyist Bohn in 2024 and hiring them as our sole lobbying firm in 2025.

Discussion was regarding the interview process, LGN's experience with water issues, LGN's professional and respectful attitude, and the process to handle potential conflicts of interest. Discussion was also held regarding informing Lobbyist Bohn about the new firm and setting expectations for their working relationship in 2024. Director Pereira made a motion to approve the contract with LGN that was drafted by Smith Partners. Director Texer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding LGN's attendance at the annual conference. It was suggested they attend on Thursday to be introduced at the luncheon. This date provides the best opportunity for them to meet members.

Executive Director Voit gave an update on the Wednesday Workshops and the annual conference.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Director Texer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m. This was seconded by Director Fjestad and carried unanimously.

Wanda Holker  
Secretary