

Board Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2015

Present were:

Doug La Follette, Commissioner
Matt Adamczyk, Commissioner
Brad Schimel, Board Chair
Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary
Richard Sneider, Loan Analyst
Vicki Halverson, Office Manager
Randy Bixby, Land Records Archivist
Mike Krueger, IT Specialist

Secretary of State
State Treasurer
Attorney General
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
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ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Schimel called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2. DISCUSS BCPL'S BUDGET REQUEST

Board Chair Schimel said the only item on the agenda was a discussion of the agency's budget request. He asked Executive Secretary Nelson how many Joint Finance Committee members she would be meeting with in relation to the agency's budget. She replied that there would be a total of 16 meetings. Board Chair Schimel asked if any of the meetings had been scheduled. Executive Secretary Nelson said that all but two had been scheduled, it would take a couple of weeks to conclude the meetings, and the agency's budget would be up the week of April 13.

Board Chair Schimel asked if a motion was required and how the agency's budget process was conducted in the pass.

MOTION: Commissioner La Follette moved the Board authorize the Executive Secretary to meet with Joint Finance members to present the budget as recommended by the Governor and to answer any questions they may have. Board Chair Schimel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Adamczyk said there seemed to be a slight discrepancy between the Governor's proposed budget and what the agency had submitted in September. It was his understanding that two of the agency's positions would be transferred to DOA under a "Shared Agency Services Pilot" program. He asked whether or not the Executive Secretary supported that program.

Executive Secretary Nelson replied that she did not support that and said she had expressed concern over the potential loss of the agency's accountant and its impact on managing a \$1 billion Trust Fund. She said there had been an "errata correction" to the Governor's budget and the Shared Agency Services Pilot program had been delayed until July 2, 2016.

Commissioner Adamczyk asked if she was in favor of those staff cuts. Executive Secretary Nelson replied that she did not expect to discuss that with the Joint Finance members and she would be supporting the Governor's budget. She added that the office was committed to working with DOA to implement the program in a way that would ensure continuity of BCPL services.

Commissioner Adamczyk questioned the need for the agency's land records archivist position and the costs associated with it. He called it "almost illegal" for the board to be funding the position with no benefit to the Trust Funds. Executive Secretary Nelson replied that the position has been a part of the agency for 167 years and

“strenuously” disagreed with his assertion that there was no benefit to the Trust Funds. She said that current law required that the board maintain the historic land records. Commissioner Adamczyk said the legislature could change the law and move the records elsewhere.

Commissioner La Follette said the agency had preserved and maintained the important records and the cost associated with the position wasn't a “large amount of money.” He noted that 96 cents of every dollar earned on the Trust Funds is returned the beneficiaries.

Executive Secretary Nelson said that the land records archivist was responsible for conducting the necessary title research in order for the Board to sell Trust Lands. Commissioner Adamczyk did not see that as a problem since the Board was not currently selling land.

Board Chair Schimel said the Board could authorize the Executive Secretary to advocate for the agency's budget as currently proposed and if the commissioners decided to make cuts to the agency's budget in the future, they could make that decision later. Commissioner La Follette agreed with that but did not think the Board should make “precipitous changes” at this time.

Commissioner Adamczyk said he would not authorize Executive Secretary Nelson to meet with the Joint Finance members because he assumed she would work against the “Shared Services Pilot Committee,” which he supported.

Board Chair Schimel called the vote to permit Executive Secretary Nelson to meet with member of the Joint Finance Committee and advocate for the budget as proposed by the Governor.

VOTE: The motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3. ADJOURN

MOTION AND VOTE: Commissioner Adamczyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Chair Schimel seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.



Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary

These minutes have been prepared from a tape recording of the meeting. The summaries have not been transcribed verbatim. Anyone wishing to listen to the recording may do so at the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, 101 E. Wilson Street, 2nd Floor, Madison, Wisconsin.