

# MINUTES

**North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Friday, March 28, 2023  
8:30 A.M.**

Members Via Teams: Chairperson Mona Rindy  
Ms. Casey Goodhouse  
Ms. Yvonne Smith  
Mr. Adam Miller  
Mr. Jason Grueneich  
Ms. Claire Ness  
Mr. Dirk Wilke

Members Absent: Representative Dobervich  
Representative Stemen

Others: Mr. Scott Miller, NDPERS  
Mr. Derrick Hohbein, NDPERS  
Ms. Rebecca Fricke, NDPERS  
Mr. Dean DePountis, Office of Attorney General  
Ms. Rebekah Ferstadt, Buck Consulting  
Mr. Ron Ariel, Buck Consulting  
Ms. Audra Ferguson, Ice Miller  
Mr. Bob Gauss, Ice Miller

Chairperson Mona Rindy called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

## **MEMBER**

### Retirement Benefit Appeal Case #801

This agenda item was noticed for Executive Session for the board, staff, and consultants to discuss negotiating strategy with the attorney in a Closed Session.

**MS. SMITH MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO N.D.C.C. §44-04-19.1(9) AND §44-04-19.2 TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OR PROVIDE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS ATTORNEY OR OTHER NEGOTIATOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. GRUENEICH.**

**Ayes:** Mr. Grueneich, Mr. Adam Miller, Ms. Ness, Mr. Wilke, Ms. Goodhouse, Ms. Smith, and Chairperson Rindy

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Representative Dobervich and Representative Stemen

## **MOTION PASSED**

All members named above, attorney Dean DePountis, representatives of Ice Miller Consultants Audra Ferguson and Rob Gauss, NDPERS staff members Scott Miller, Rebecca Fricke, Derrick Hohbein, MaryJo Anderson, and Jan Lund were in attendance for the Executive Session (closed meeting, electronically recorded) which began at 8:36 A.M. The meeting returned to Open Session at 9:40 A.M.

**THE BOARD GAVE DIRECTION TO THE ATTORNEY ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE MEMBER APPEAL.**

**Ms. Smith left the meeting at 10:00 A.M.**

**GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Review of Best and Final Offers Received

This agenda item was noticed for Executive Session for the board, staff, and consultants to discuss negotiating strategy with the attorney in a Closed Session.

**MR. ADAM MILLER MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO N.D.C.C. §44-04-19.1(9) AND §44-04-19.2 TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OR PROVIDE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS ATTORNEY OR OTHER NEGOTIATOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. WILKE.**

**Ayes:** Mr. Grueneich, Mr. Adam Miller, Ms. Ness, Mr. Wilke, Ms. Goodhouse, and Chairperson Rindy

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Representative Dobervich, Representative Stemen, and Ms. Smith

**MOTION PASSED**

All members named above, attorney Dean DePountis, representatives of Buck Consultants Rebekah Ferstadt and Ron Ariel, NDPERS staff members Scott Miller, Rebecca Fricke, Derrick Hohbein, Katheryne Korom, Lindsay Schaf, and Jan Lund were in attendance for the Executive Session (closed meeting, electronically recorded) which began at 9:44 A.M. The meeting returned to Open Session at 10:03 A.M.

**MR. WILKE MOVED TO AWARD THE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN CONTRACT TO VOYA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. NESS.**

**Ayes:** Mr. Grueneich, Mr. Adam Miller, Ms. Ness, Mr. Wilke, Ms. Goodhouse, and Chairperson Rindy

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Representative Dobervich, Representative Stemen, and Ms. Smith

**MOTION PASSED**

**LEGISLATION**

Review of Legislative Bills

The board received an update on the status of the bills on the staff's internal tracking list. Mr. Scott Miller summarized HB 1539, a delayed bill that eliminates the Employee Benefits Programs Committee and has NDPERS bills reviewed by Legislative Management. Discussion followed.

**MR. WILKE MOVED TO OPPOSE HB 1539 BASED ON THE BILL REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT OF ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS OF CHANGES TO PLANS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. NESS.**

**Ayes:** Mr. Grueneich, Mr. Adam Miller, Ms. Ness, Mr. Wilke, Ms. Goodhouse, and Chairperson Rindy

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Representative Dobervich, Representative Stemen, and Ms. Smith

**MOTION PASSED**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Prepared by:

Jan Lund  
Assistant to the Board