

**MINUTES**  
**LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
*Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE*  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 immediately following the 7 p.m. Variance Hearing  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

A notice of the meeting was announced over radio station KRVN and published in the newspapers within the District.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL MAILED OUT PRIOR TO MEETING:**

1. Agenda, LRNRD Variance Hearing, 4/11
2. Agenda, Monthly Board Meeting, 4/11
3. LRNRD Board Meeting & Variance Minutes and Index of Decisions, 3/11
4. Treasurer's Report and Budget Comparison, 3/11
5. Budget Comparison, 3/11
6. Manager's Report, 4/11
7. NRCS Report, 4/11
8. Rural Water Treasurers Report, 3/11
9. Rural Water – City of Franklin Water Rates
10. LRNRD System Optimization Review (SOR) Resolution
11. NARD – Legislative Report
12. Rural Water Treasurer Report, 3/11

**MATERIALS HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:**

1. Variance Requests, 4/11
2. Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property, 4/11
3. TVWMA – Completed Projects
4. NSWCP Cost Share Report

Chairperson Nelson Trambly called the regular monthly meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:20 p.m.

Chairperson Nelson Trambly informed the audience of the Open Meetings Law posters posted in the meeting room.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Absent: none.

Others present: Rich Holloway, Tri-Basin NRD, Jerry Kovarik, Harlan County, NRCS, Art Kimminau, Guide Rock, Jerry Schluntz, Stamford, Pat Underwood, LRNRD Grant Consultant, Merle Illian, TVWMA, Brad Edgerton, FCID, Ray Winz, Holdrege, Brad Lundeen, Wilcox, Steve Nelson, Axtell. Staff present: Mike Clements, Bryan Lubeck, Shirlee Poyser, Kristi Coe.

**Motion #1 by Matt Harrison seconded by Terry Hoit to approve the board and variance hearing minutes from the March meetings. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

**Motion #2 by Roger Nelson seconded by Jim Moore to accept the March treasurer's report as distributed. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Mike Clements did not have any updates to his Manager's report. Bryan Lubeck briefly commented on the fact that 300 soil moisture sensors were sold and if all were being installed on full pivots, we would be covering 39,000 acres. This would be a savings of one inch or 3,250 Acre Feet.

Jerry Kovarik, Harlan County NRCS, gave an update on EQIP, AWEP, and CSP. Jerry also commented that the applications for the 2012 soil moisture sensors would tentatively have to be signed by January 1, 2012. We need to advertise. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Merle Illian, TVWMA gave a power point presentation on projects completed by the TVWMA. A copy of this handout is in the minute book.

Bryan Lubeck announced that Adam Vetter of Franklin and Nicholas Rempe of Superior were chosen for the 2011-2012 NRD Scholarship. Patrick Hoxmeier of Orleans is the alternate.

Marlin Murdoch gave an update on the Sustainability Task Force meeting. The meeting was about defining the word sustainability. Marlin feels that a big part of sustainability has to do with the depletion of the water table. Mike Clements added that when the Task Force was put together the east end of the basin came up short. Mike feels that Marlin and Brad have done a really good job speaking up for what our NRD stands for. It is very political and defining sustainability should be very easy to do but when you tie in economics and everything else, then it becomes very complicated. Marlin added that Senator Tom Carlson reminded everyone not to take water out of sustainability.

Marlin Murdoch presented to the board, Every Drop Counts, Conservative Irrigation sign. The thought is to have the NRD put up these signs in noticeable places, so people will become aware that the LRNRD is doing what it takes to conserve water. The NRD will use match money from our grant to pay for the signs. Marlin Murdoch has fence posts to donate and the district will put them up.

**Motion #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Bill Bose to purchase from Those Blasted Signs, 300 Every Drop Counts, Conservative Irrigation signs and distribute throughout the District. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Kristi Coe discussed Surface Water Option with the board. After the March meeting it was decided to take water away from someone that is not using that water. Kristi asked the board to consider rescinding last months motion and go back to the original way the program was run.

**Motion #4 by Bill Bose seconded by Brad Wulf to rescind motion #9 from the March 2011 board meeting regarding the Surface Water Option. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Kristi Coe prepared and mailed out 514 letters to well owners that had meters that showed no usage. She has received all but twenty-five back; ten of those meters did have usage. Kristi asked if this is something that she should continue each year. The board decided this mailing should continue.

Variance Request #134 for Gerald Schluntz was presented to the board for consideration.

**Motion #5 by Marlin Murdoch seconded by Bill Bose to approve Variance Request #134 for Gerald Schluntz. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Variance Request #135 for Arthur and Erwin Kimminau was presented to the board for consideration.

**Motion #6 by Roger Nelson seconded by Jim Moore to approve Variance Request #135 for Arthur and Erwin Kimminau. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

All the Changes in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property were presented for consideration.

**Motion #7 by Marlin Murdoch seconded by Bill Bose to approve Tim Bohl, Randall Burton, Don Tegtman, James Farm, Inc., Joelene Schafer, Rodney Warner Estate, and Loyd Lowes Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Comments from the public were from Steve Nelson, Axtell and Brad Lundeen, Wilcox.

Mike Clements gave the NARD report and updated the board on LB229, LB645, and LB653.

Pat Underwood gave the grant update. BOR Water Smart grant sent notification requesting additional information/clarification on a few items. This is a really good sign, since we are just a few days away from a funding decision. Pat stumbled upon another Water Smart grant opportunity, the System Optimization Review (SOR). This

would include both NRD and Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District. It involves scientists that are not politically motivated and give their suggestions and recommendations as to what would be sustainable in a quantifiable sense.

**Motion #8 by Jim Moore seconded by Dave Bartels to approve System Optimization Review (SOR) Resolution #2011-04 in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

**Motion #9 by Jim Moore seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the Rural Water treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

Mike Clements talked to the board about the Rural Water Rate increase. The Rural Water received a letter from the City of Franklin explaining their need to increase water rates 25%. According to the letter the rural water system is paying a meter charge of \$54.50 and .9072 cents per thousand gallons of water delivered. As of the June 15, 2011 billing date the rate for water will increase to \$70.85 meter charge and \$1.13 per thousand gallons of water. We are proposing an 11.5% increase to rural water customers. A copy of this letter and information is in the minute book. After discussion the board decided that Mike needed to go speak with the City of Franklin and get a better understanding of what the increase is really for. Mike said this could be tabled until the May meeting.

**Motion #10 by Dave Bartels seconded by Bill Bose to table the Rural Water rate increase until the May meeting. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

**Motion #11 by Marlin Murdoch seconded by Bill Bose to approve the Cost Share Time Extensions as presented. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly,. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

H599	Gale Dorn	July 23, 2011
H598	Joel Wessels	July 23, 2011
FU755	Robert O'Marshall	July 29, 2011
FR515	Richard Bush	August 10, 2011

There were no RC&D reports. The Government closed the RC&D offices.

**Motion #12 by Jim Moore seconded by Toby tenBensel move that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss possible litigation pertaining to the Republican River Settlement Agreement and Personnel. Motion carried.** Ayes 11 Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

**Motion #13 by Brad Wulf seconded by Roger Nelson move that the Board come out of Executive Session at 10:25 p.m. and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session.** Ayes 11 Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews. Nays – 0. Absent 0.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date