

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
August 10th, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING

1. Agenda
2. LRNRD Board Meeting, Variance Minutes & Index of Decisions, 7/17
3. LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 7/17
4. NRCS Report
5. Manager/Assistant Manager's Report
6. FY2018 LRNRD Budget
7. FY2018 NCORPE Budget

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. Marlin Murdoch noted that guests should sign the attendance roster and noted the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws.

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

Absent: None.

Others present: John Thorburn, TBNRD, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, Katie Spohn and Mary Jacobsen, Bruning Law Group. Staff present: Mike Clements, Scott Dicke, Todd Siel and Shirlee Poyser.

Comments from the public.

Attorney Katie Spohn informed the board that Judge Urbom issued his order to dismiss the appeal in the Schlutz case.

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the board minutes, variance minutes. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Bill Bose to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

Marlin Murdoch asked to move agenda items 10 and 11 forward on the agenda.

Mike Clements reviewed and explained the FY2018 LRNRD Budget.

Motion #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the proposed FY2018 LRNRD Budget. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

Motion #4 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Bill Bose to set the FY2018 LRNRD Budget hearing for September 14th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

The board discussed lowering the Occupation Tax to from \$10 per acre to \$9 per acre for 2017 irrigation season.

Motion #5 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve lowering the 2017 Occupation Tax from \$10 per acres to \$9 per acre. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

Attorney Katie Spohn updated the board on the Groundwater Rules and Regulation modifications. Katie reminded the board that the NRD needed to take this opportunity to update the Rules and Regulations since it is at the end of the current allocation period (2012-2017). This opportunity gives us a chance to set new allocation rates and schedule, look at staff concerns and clarification, and updating the enforcement actions.

Also circulated, were the calculating procedure for over use penalties.

Marlin Murdoch left at 7:40.

Motion #6 by Matt Harrison seconded by Dave Bartels to set the Groundwater Rules and Regulations hearing for September 14th, 2017, immediately following the 6:30 p.m. Budget hearing. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

NRCS Report: Jerry Kovarik's NRCS report was mailed out prior to the meeting. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Manager's Report: Mike Clements presented his last manager's report. Mike's retirement party will be Friday, September 1st, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Assistant Manager's Report: Scott Dicke presented the Assistant Manager's report.

N-CORPE Modeling – N-CORPE partners met in Lincoln to review the year-long modeling efforts. The completed model can run all kinds of pumping scenarios to observe the relationship of pumping with groundwater level changes. Scenarios reviewed included a 160k AF pumping effort over ten years, equivalent to the allocation of 12 inches per year for a ten-year period, currently being considered by the MRNRD and the TPNRD.

Basinwide Plan - The Republican NRD's with stakeholders continue to finalize the Basinwide Plan. The completion of the plan appears in sight with just a few meetings remaining. The planning efforts started about two years ago. Considerable information has been generated from this planning effort.

WaterSmart Grant - The LRNRD was awarded a WaterSmart grant as part of the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects. Our award is for the development of a "Real-Time Water Use Data Delivery System." The \$110,000 project will support software development and field implementation. The result from this project allows water users the capability to see remaining allocation in real-time from an electronic device.

Platte Republican Diversion project (PRD) – The PRD has prepared and submitted a Water Sustainably Fund grant application. If awarded, funds would support construction of the diversion structure and outlet works. Also, Turkey Creek flows at Edison reached 150 cfs on August 4th and over 300 cfs on July 18th this summer. Seasonal event flows of this rate continue to affirm the channels capability to handle the proposed diverted water out of the E-65 canal.

Management Action Opportunity model (MAO) - Met in Lincoln to see the completion of our MAO model. The model has been presented to the NDNR and other NRD's have shown interest in this innovative project. Water management ideas in the District can be evaluated to see results through the RRCA model.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - The RCPP has \$900,000 remaining for the three Republican NRD's. The NRCS has a sign-up deadline set for December 15th, 2017. Last year, the LRNRD awarded contracts for conversion of gravity to sub-surface drip, retirement of end-guns on pivots and for the installation of high end soil moisture sensors.

Todd Siel, updated the board on what he has been doing for the first eight days of being in the office. Todd did mention that he will be contacting directors, so he can get to know them better.

Mike Clements presented the FY2018 NCORPE budget to the board.

Motion #7 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the FY2018 NCORPE budget. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

NCORPE Update: The next NCORPE meeting is Wednesday, August 16th in Curtis. Twin Platte NRD and the Middle Republican NRD are moving forward on developing an allocation at NCORPE. They are going to put a cap on NCORPE of 12 inches per year for a 10-year allocation period. Managers attended a modeling meeting in Lincoln where allocation modeling scenarios were run

Motion #8 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to approve a \$40 cell phone compensation for the General Manager and Assistant Manager. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

There was no other business to be discussed.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be September 14, 2017 immediately following the 6:30 p.m. Budget Hearing and the Groundwater Rules and Regulations hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and Distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
F:\Shirlee\Board Meeting Information\FY18 Agenda, Minutes\MINUTES 8-10-2017.docx

DRAFT