



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
June 11, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal, posted in the District NRCS Offices, and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

Vice Chairman Dave Bartels called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 1:30 pm. He noted that the current version of the statute governing public meetings is posted on the south wall of the boardroom and on the district website. Tim Kahrs led the group in prayer.

Excused Absences: Marlin Murdoch.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Brian Ballou, Dave Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel and Brad Wulf.

Others present: Shaina Vincent, NRCS; Sasha Hahn, TBNRD.

Staff present: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Kristi Heft, Mary Goebel.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 5/2026

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 5/2026

NRCS Staff Report, 6/2026

LRNRD Staff Report, 6/2026

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #1 by Chris Grams, seconded by Matt Harrison, to approve the May board minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Aye 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Marlin Murdoch.

Motion #2 by Troy Fletcher, seconded by Don Duffy, to approve LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports.

Motion carried. Aye 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Marlin Murdoch.

NRCS Staff Report: Shaina Vincent from Harlan Co. NRCS provided the NRCS update. Shaina updated the board on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Food Security Act (FSA). The FY27 LRNRD EQIP Local Workgroup meeting was held on June 4th in the LRNRD Board Room. Discussions were had and agreed to leave some items open pending FY27 Cost Docket and Payment Caps.

LRNRD Staff Report: Nick provided a staffing update. Moving forward Mary will be transitioning into our Office Administrator. She will be handling the bookwork and a lot of other duties that Shirlee had. Mary will continue to handle the Rural Water billing and bookwork. Miranda will be taking over the Chemigation program and running it going forward. Harlan County Reservoir is currently 69.3% full, 1.7 feet lower than at this time last year. The lake numbers indicate that Harlan is holding 18,708 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year. We did have some rainfall in the last 30 days. Our projected inflow for this year was around 47,000 and we received about half of that from January through May.

Motion #3 by Brad Wulf, seconded by Tim Kahrs, to add Mary Goebel as an authorized signatory to necessary accounts. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Marlin Murdoch.

Variance Requests: No variance requests that required approval of the board were presented.

Rural Water Expansion Project: The Rural Water tower painting has just been finished. At the time I was writing the staff report, we were doing state required testing to verify that the tower was properly disinfected after the painting. The tower was back in operation by the time the board met. For the expansion project, we are trying to get our new well and ground tank sited. A site meeting is scheduled for next week. Discussions are being held about how to proceed with the project as DWEE is looking at a single project bid. Todd met with Harley Scott of Southern Public Power District about providing service for the meter vault at Riverton.

RRCA Update: Completed augmentation pumping at Tri Basin's well. A total of 751-acre feet was pumped.

NCORPE Update: Meeting on May 20th attended by Troy Fletcher and Todd Siel. NCORPE purchased a new loader tractor. Public hunting was discussed on some of the ground. Only pheasant and quail hunting will be allowed, with no access permitted for deer hunting. Cows are in the pasture. There were no issues with augmentation pumping, and all of the available wells were used with the exception of maybe one or two.

WaterSmart: Phase I of the project will close out on 9/30/2026. We are about 98% complete with expenditures from the grants and have installed 1,030 meters. Final meters will be ordered for pipe sizes that were not common. Phase II of the project is just over 15% complete with about 325 meters installed. The grant has a project period ending on 3/31/2028 but we can request a 1-year extension, if necessary.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: Talking to Tri Basin and will be having a meeting to discuss well drilling within the Turkey Creek watershed.

Flag Creek Update: Reached out to Jim Schneider (Olsson) about the pipeline. Haven't received any updated numbers for this year. We would also need to meet with DWEE and get approval to move forward with Phase II of the project to be eligible for WRCF dollars.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPS AD Plan): The final resolution for the Turkey Creek Project is complete. We have done an extension on the Thompson Creek Project through 6/30/2027 to deal with some issues that have been raised by the Bureau of Reclamation.

NARD Update: Don Duffy texted Megan Grimes about his choices for the Conservation Awards. Annual Conference is in Kearney on September 27-29th. Managers Retreat will be in Ogallala to plan for the Annual Conference. The retreat will be held during the last half of August.

Other Business: Talked about touring NCORPE. Tabled that until it is pumping again. Discussion was held about hiring a hydrologist. The proposed Eakes MSP Agreement for Technology Services was discussed. We are contemplating a switch to a different technology service.

Motion #4 Matt Harrison, seconded by Tim Kahrs, to move the Board into Closed Session at 2:37 pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation, and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Marlin Murdoch.

Motion #5 by Matt Harrison, seconded by Troy Fletcher, to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 3:18 pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 3, Marlin Murdoch.

Motion #6 by Troy Fletcher, seconded by Matt Harrison, to approve the FY2027 salaries as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nay 0, Absent 1, Marlin Murdoch.

Scholarship recipient Carter Trambly addressed the board and let them know how thankful he was for the financial help and shared his plans for college and beyond.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on July 9th, 2026, at 1:30 pm, at the LRNRD office.

The meeting concluded at 3:32 pm.

Secretary

Date