



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
October 8, 2026, LRNRD Board Meeting, at 7:30 AM – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Chairman Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 7:31 am. The Chairman noted that the current copy of the statute regarding public meeting laws is posted on the south wall of the boardroom and is available on the district website.

Excused Absences: Don Duffy and Tim Kahrs.

Directors present via Zoom: Brian Ballou, Dave Bartels, Lee Fintel, Chris Grams, Brad Wulf and Toby tenBensel.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Marlin Murdoch, Troy Fletcher and Matt Harrison

Staff present: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, and Mary Goebel.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 9/2026

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 9/2026

Motion #1 by Troy Fletcher, seconded by Matt Harrison, to approve the September minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2, Don Duffy and Tim Kahrs.

Don Duffy joined the meeting at 7:36 am.

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison, seconded by Troy Fletcher, to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Abstain with conflict 1, Lee Fintel, Absent 1, Tim Kahrs.

NRCS Staff Report: There was no NRCS report.

LRNRD Staff Report: District land judging was held in Franklin County on October 7. There were 241 students from 13 area schools that participated. Thank you to Tim Kahrs and CW Ranch for allowing us to hold the competition on their property. Scoring was completed in about 20 minutes with the use of the scantron machine and awards were presented to the schools. Much needed rain fell across the district. Meter reading has begun but the rain slowed progress for several days.

NSWCP: An inquiry about NSWCP application for a well and tank project was received by an interested party to the application. The application was completed at the NRD office and forwarded to the NRCS office for mapping and plans around 6/27/2026. Nick had informed the inquiring party about that same time that we expected the application to be funded, and arrangements could be made for the implementation of the project. Due to an injunction on the NSWCP funds imposed by the Lancaster County District Court on 6/29/2026, funding could not be approved. He was informed that they had not yet started on the project. Due to their unique situation regarding the injunction, the board discussed following DWEE's recommendation to pause any funding that was not already approved by DWEE. No action was taken.

Rural Water Update: We plan to have the test well drilled and tested by the November meeting. We were lucky to get pond filling rain to help alleviate the high usage as we had been pushing the limits on the system for several weeks. We did have an issue with a few meter lids getting pushed off in the lowland flooding, but luckily no major damage was found.

Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA): Kansas made a call for water on September 30. The request was for Nebraska to deliver 20,000 acre-feet to the KBID account in Harlan County Reservoir by June 1, 2027. We will be meeting with all the partners to discuss how we will deliver the water with as little disruption as possible. The good news is that Harlan County Lake is storing 7,000 acre-feet more than the lowest level in September, due to the recent precipitation.

NCORPE: Our next meeting is November 18 in Alma at 10 am. We will be discussing our capacity for pumping this winter and spring to meet KBID's compliance volume request.

WaterSmart Grant: Received an order of meters for fall and winter installation. Phase 1 will be closed out in the next 90 days.

NARD Update: Annual conference was held September 28-29. One Red has been rolled out to the public and producers can start enrolling. It will be county-wide information on what producers are doing with fertilizer, water, cover crops, etc. Dean Edson has announced his retirement effective at the end of this year. If needed, he will stay on as a consultant for our insurance. Three resolutions were discussed at the conference, proposing changes to state statutes: 1. Shifting Chemigation responsibilities to the NRD level; 2. Changing legal notification requirements for NRDs; and 3. Establishing bonding authority for the NRDs.

Other Business: Lee Fintel gave an update on the Superior Diversion Project. The quality and craftsmanship of the project is outstanding. They tested the system on October 7, and it appears that the system worked flawlessly. The project is complete. The board expressed interest in organizing a trip to see the project.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on November 12 at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 am.

Secretary

Date