

**MINUTES**  
**LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
*Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE*  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 following 2:00 p.m. Variance Hearing,  
Immediately followed by the Regular Monthly Board Meeting.

**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, Monthly Board Meeting, 11/10
2. LRNRD Board Meeting & Index of Decisions, 10/10
3. Treasurer's Report, 10/10
4. Budget Comparison, 10/10
5. Managers Report, 11/10
6. Assistant Managers Report, 11/10
7. NRCS Report, 11/10
8. Rural Water Treasurer Report, 10/10

**MATERIALS HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:**

1. News Article – Lincoln Journal Star
2. LRNRD NSWCP Cost Share Report & Amendments

Chairperson Nelson Trambly called the regular monthly meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 2:17 p.m.

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

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly.

Absent: Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Pat Underwood, Lower Republican NRD Grant Consultant, John Laux, NE G&P, John Palic, MRNRD, Bill Hoyt, McCook, Steve Cuppel, Culbertson, Blaine Stinson, Palisade, James Uerling, Indianola, Brad Edgerton, FCID, Ron and Bretta Robison, Alma, Janice Miller Boston, Alma. Staff present: Mike Clements, Bryan Lubeck, Shirlee Poyser.

**Motion #1 by Matt Harrison seconded by Dave Bartels to approve the board minutes from the October meeting. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 - Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

**Motion #2 by Clark Andrews seconded by Matt Harrison to accept the October treasurer's report as distributed. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 - Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Mike added to his Manager's report a copy of an article from the Journal Star written by Art Hovey.

Bryan Lubeck had nothing further to add to his report.

Mike Clement presented the Profession Service Contract from lobbying firm of Mueller Robak LLC, Lincoln, NE.

**Motion #3 by Matt Harrison seconded by Jim Moore to approve hiring Lobbyist Kim Robak. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 - Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

A copy of the NRCS report is in the minute book.

John Laux, NE Game and Park presented the NRD with a power point presentation on the South-Central Nebraska Prescribed Burn Association (SCNPBA) and the use of prescribed fire in our area. Since its inception, this landowner-based association has conducted over 20 safe prescribed burns on private lands totaling 800 acres. Interest in burning has increased among landowners in south-central Nebraska and is expected to continue to build over the next few years due to several new program offerings (e.g., Grassland Improvement Program, EQIP/WHIP Grazing Deferment), the recent general CRP sign-up, and the new CRP mid-contract management requirements. In fact, the SCNPBA has over 2,000 acres scheduled to be burned in 2011. Prescribed fire is a cost-effective management tool that enhances the overall productivity and health of our native grassland/woodland ecosystems. Burning is also used to suppress exotic cool-season grasses and woody encroachment from invading our grasslands. Currently, the SCNPBA uses one Mobile Prescribed Burn Unit (MPBU), which is an enclosed trailer furnished with all the equipment necessary to conduct a prescribed burn. Given the increased local interest in burning, John is working on a grant proposal through the National Wild Turkey Federation to purchase an additional MPBU and is requesting matching funds. This equipment will clearly enhance the SCNPBA's capacity to put additional fire on the landscape and will be useful in meeting the needs of landowners in south-central Nebraska.

**Motion #4 by Brian Holtze seconded by Matt Harrison to table the NE G&P request for contribution to the Mobile Prescribe Burn Unit until next month. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 - Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Mike Clements presented Ron and Bretta Robison's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property.

**Motion #5 by Brian Holtze seconded by Jim Moore to approve Ron and Bretta Robison's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Mike Clements presented Janice Miller Boston's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property.

**Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Jim Moore to approve Janice Miller Boston's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Mike Clements presented Gerald Schluntz's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property.

**Motion #7 by Dave Bartels seconded by Matt Harrison to approve Gerald Schluntz's Change in Location of Certified Acres on contiguous Property. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Mike Clements presented Variance Request #121 for Ron and Bretta Robison.

**Motion #8 by Dave Bartels seconded by Jim Moore to approve Variance Request #121 for Ron and Bretta Robison. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Comments from the public: Brad Edgerton talked about the releases starting from Harry Strunk Lake and Hugh Butler Lake. Frenchman Cambridge was disappointed in a letter that was received from the Governor, mentioning Commissioner Connor from the Bureau. Frenchman Cambridge has scheduled a meeting with Connor about the issues of the Republican River Basin.

There was no NARD report.

Pat Underwood, NRD Grant writer mentioned that in the NRCS report it talks about a deadline for AWEP & CCPI, stating the deadline is December 31, 2010. We received this grant in July with an August deadline; Pat thought that the NRD needs to be having discussions with NRCS about these deadlines. There was 6 weeks to spend AWEP, 3 weeks to spend CCPI (not all was spent). If our second year deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> instead of next year when we expected it we will not be able to meet our obligations under the grants.

The State Wildlife Grant, we did not sponsor this, but did help Twin Valley Weed Management go forward with that grant. The main objective was to help clean out tributaries, and also there is an educational component. The SARE

Grant (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) only had minimal interest, so we will not go forward with those grants.

AWEP and CCPI spreadsheets, Kristi and Pat are continuing to work on them. They have had to collect additional information from NRCS, they may have to change a few things on how information is collected. Once these spreadsheets are set up, it will really show the numbers of water saved.

The promotional brochure that is required for CCPI, is done in draft and off to the ad agency. It has to be reviewed by a professional.

Pat is working on an application to another private foundation that is interested in NE agriculture, and on another federal program application for a project for beginning farmers on lower water-use crops.

Pat has been doing lots of research on the water storage issue and provided an overview of the amount of storage and/or water savings that might actually be needed based on estimates from BOR of how "short" we were in the short years at Harlan Lake over the last three decades. She pointed out the savings that are already adding up under the new programs we are implementing.

Mike Clements presented the board with a Resolution to adopt Amendment #1 on the NARD 414 (h) plan. This is required yearly to bring the Plan into compliance with the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

**Motion #9 by Brian Holtze seconded by Jim Moore to approve the Resolution to adopt Amendment #1 on the NARD 414 (h) plan. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

There were no updates on the Rural Water Project.

**Motion #10 by Jim Moore seconded by Dave Bartels to approve the Rural Water Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

There were no updates from the RC&D.

There were no permits to construct a well.

There were no time extensions.

**Motion #11 Matt Harrison seconded by Clark Andrews to move that the Board go into Executive Session at 3:35 p.m. to discuss possible litigation on the Republican River Settlement Agreement. Motion carried.** Roll Call. Ayes 6 Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

**Motion #12 by Matt Harrison seconded by Jim Moore to move that the board come out of Executive Session at 4:09 p.m. and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session.** Motion carried. Roll Call. Ayes 6 Dave Bartels, Matt Harrison, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews. Absent: 5 - Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date