

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE

May 13th, 2010 at 7 p.m.

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, 5/10
2. LRNRD Board Meeting & Index of Decisions, 4/10
3. Treasurer's Report, 4/10
4. Budget Comparison, 4/10
5. Managers Report, 5/10
6. Assistant Managers Report, 5/10
7. RRBC Report, 5/10
8. Rural Water Treasurer Report, 4/10
9. LRNRD NSWCP Cost Share Report

MATERIALS HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:

1. NRCS Report, 5/10
2. RRBC Report, 5/10

Chairperson Nelson Trambly called the regular monthly meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

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, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Absent: none.

Others present: Pat Underwood, Lower Republican NRD Grant Consultant, Rich Holloway, TBNRD, Traci Witthuhn, RRBC, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, Nick Simonson, NRCS, Roger Stockton, SW RC & D, Brad Edgerton, FCID, Ray Winz, Holdrege. Kersha Kahrs and Dave Rucker, Franklin High School, Charlie Robison, Alma, Garrett Schutz, Arapahoe. Staff present: Mike Clements, Bryan Lubeck, Shirlee Poyser and Kristi Coe.

Motion #1 by Matt Harrison seconded by Bill Bose to approve the board minutes from the April meeting. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf. Absent 0.

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

Mike Clements updated his manager's report. He discussed how Zebra Mussels cause tremendous damage to lakes once it becomes infested. Most recently they have been found in Kansas. Once you get them it is impossible to get rid of them. Mike Clements presented Bryan Lubeck with a gift from the LRNRD. Bryan is celebrating his 25th year of dedication with the LRNRD on May 28th.

Bryan Lubeck discussed with the board the Static Water Level Measurements and that tree planting is pretty much done.

Nick Simonson gave the NRCS report. NRCS has been working on the CCPI, there is approximately \$500,000 - \$750,000 in that program to remove trees along the river. EQIP received over a million dollars and currently we are waiting on more money to get other water conservation projects approved. Another \$2 million is coming in a fund that we didn't expect is coming to the state. Hopefully, we will get some of that to approve more contracts. Another CSP sign up is coming up in June. Nick announced that this is his last meeting as an NRCS employee he took a job in the

private sector working for an oil company. Jerry Kovarik from O'Neil will be replacing Nick. He will start June 7th. Joe Vavricka is also retiring; his last day is May 21st.

Traci Witthuhn gave the Republican River Basin Coalition report. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Bryan Lubeck announced that Charlie Robison, Alma and Garrett Schutz, Arapahoe are the LRNRD Scholarship recipients this year. Bryan presented each one with a certificate.

Dave Rocker, Ag Instructor at Franklin High School and Kersha Kahrs gave a presentation on the Franklin FFA Greenhouse. They are raising money to pay for the greenhouse.

Motion #3 by Jim Moore seconded by Matt Harrison to approve donating \$1,000 towards the Franklin FFA greenhouse project. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels. Absent 0.

Cambridge Ethanol met with the Executive Committee. There were still a few legal questions that needed researched so it was decided to meet with them next month.

Pat Underwood reviewed the Water Smart grant. The Water Smart grant was mailed in on April 22nd. This grant was for approximately \$500,000 where we were able to structure things where there would be no actual match from the NRD. This grant is mostly for the tributary clean out and a small number of soil moisture sensors. One of the strategies on these grants is that we are asking for one thing in one grant and then trying to back that up with things that we really want before we start getting creative on other things. If we get the Water Smart Grant and we get the money for the soil moisture sensors and then we end up getting the AWEP Grant which also has money for Soil Moisture sensors we will have the option usually with a grant making agency to renegotiate.

The next application is for the CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative). The total project came to approximately \$759,000. This would provide 50% match for the soil moisture sensors for every irrigated acre in this district. It would be prioritized based on the 10-2 10-5 and then outlying acres. If we get the soil moisture sensors in one of the other grants we can reduce the amount of this grant or renegotiate and put that money towards something else. We are putting in for approximately 25% match. Through Pat's grant writing experience if you don't put some cash money on the table you usually don't get these types of grants. We are putting in a minimum amount but we are putting in enough that it will make it effective to the grant maker. This grant also includes an education campaign and it is a professionally designed campaign. The AWEP proposal included that as well. CCPI is due the 27th of May.

Motion #5 by Brad Wulf seconded by Jim Moore to approve the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Grant. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison. Absent 0.

Pat has found a large private corporate foundation that makes grants available for water use efficiency all around the world. We are discussing this and believe there will not be any actual match from the NRD. This would be a back up on the tributary clean-out. Then develop a second category where we start to get a little bit more creative because this particular foundation is going to be looking for very creative and innovative kinds of agricultural water use efficiencies. By structuring it this way using some of the money to help with the tributary clean out we would be able to use the same sort of match funding as used on the Water Smart grant application. We should go in with a 50-50 secured match and what they would see as a relatively small grant. This one will take some time to put together as we will have to partner on this one with a 501(c)(3) organization.

Mike Clements presented the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Resolution to the board.

Motion #6 by Brad Wulf seconded by Bill Bose to approve the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Resolution 2010-05. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit. Absent 0.

Mike Clements asked the board to consider changing the office hours to be more suitable with the flex office scheduling.

Motion #7 by Dave Bartels seconded by Marlin Murdoch to change the office hours to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze. Absent 0.

Nick Simonson had a question on field office secretary hours. Ray Winz inquired about the AWEP program.

Kristi Coe presented the board with the Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property.

Motion #8 by Bill Bose seconded by Matt Harrison to approve Steve Henry, Gary Vontz and Tracy Guthrie's Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore. Absent 0.

Mike Clements updated the board on the rural water project with Dennis Nelssen. The project is now complete and cost approximately \$14,000.

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

Salary Proposals were discussed in executive session.

Roger Nelson gave a brief NARD report and told about helping with the Envirothon.

LRNRD Integrated Management Plan was tabled until the June meeting.

The Executive committee talked with those from Cambridge Ethanol. They will be back at the June meeting.

There was no Groundwater Management Area Report.

Roger Stockton gave the Southwest RC&D report. There was a clean up day at Swanson Reservoir. Furnas County received their Tire Recycling Grant through DEQ. SW RC&D applied for a grant from AmeriCorp Work Camp. May's SW RC&D meeting will be in Arapahoe on May 27th.

Applications for a permit to construct a well were reviewed.

There were no WILD NE applications.

There were no Time Extensions.

Traci Witthuhn spoke with Don Blankenau regarding the Kansas v. Nebraska Supreme Court Lawsuit. The suit has not actually been filed right now. Kansas is asking the court if they will hear the suit. Then Nebraska has 60 days to respond, and the court can make their decision whether to hear it or not within 10 days after that. However, it generally takes four to nine months for that decision to be made.

Motion #10 by Dave Bartels seconded by Bill Bose move that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss possible litigation on the Republican River Settlement Agreement and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch,. Absent 0.

Motion #11 by Bill Bose seconded by Clark Andrews move that the board come out of Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch. Absent 0.

Motion #12 by Jim Moore seconded by Clark Andrews to reduce the proposed salary increase by 1½% and Assistant Manager's salary capped at 50,000. Any further raises will not be monetary. General Manager's salary raised to \$76,000. Motion carried. Ayes – 11 Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Brian Holtze, Jim Moore, Marlin Murdoch. Absent 0.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be June 10th, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Secretary

Date