

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

April 14, 2016 at 7 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published in the local newspapers within the District and on the District Website at www.lmrnd.org.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING

1. Agenda, 4/16
2. Minutes, Variance Minutes, Index of Decision, 3/16
3. LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 3/16
4. Staff Reports
5. Letter to Kern Porter - Usage
6. Change in Location of Contiguous Property: Juanita Ulrichson & Craig Baily

MATERIALS HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:

1. NRCS Proposal to Raise the NSWCP Dollar Limit

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:05 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 and the booklet with the information provided to directors.

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

Absent: Bill Bose, Nelson Trambly.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, Tim Schmidt, Holdrege, Richard Coe, Alma, John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD. Staff present: Mike Clements, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, and Kristen Heft.

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the board minutes, variance minutes from the March board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Jerry Kovarik reported that the LRNRD 2016 EQIP funds have been allocated and contracts signed. Lincoln headquarters was moving forward with preapproving RCPP Upland Game Bird Habitat applications. This regional programs intent is to improve upland game bird habitat through cedar tree removal, prescribed burning, cropland conversions, and other helpful practices. The wildlife biologists are spearheading this program in Nebraska with the help of NRCS.

Mike Clements gave the Manager's report. As of March 31, NCORPE pumped 25,556 AF for the 2016 Compact Compliance. The wells were started in late October (2015) and plans are to begin a gradual shut down on April 19. The Platte Republican Diversion Project (PRDP) is progressing. Interviews with two engineering firms were conducted, the PRDP board will make a recommendation to the NRD boards for approval at the May meetings. Water Service Agreements are in the process and will outline the construction, permitting, operational and billing arrangements between CNPPID and PRDP. Mike attended the Nebraska Rural Water Conference in March. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant was approved for \$2.1 million, \$525,000 will be deducted for technical support and \$1,575,000 will be matched by Lower, Middle and Upper Republican NRD's.

Scott Dicke's Assistant Manager report informed the board on the *Platte River Diversion Project, Water quantity and Water quality updates:*

- *Turkey Creek Component* - Consultant proposals were accepted and evaluated for interviews. Proposals were evaluated on qualifications and those ranking the highest were interviewed. Next step is to select a consultant and get them to work.
- *CNPPID/Appropriation Permitting* - A Draft Agreement is in review process that details the PRDP operation

agreement with CNPPID.

- *Water quantity updates:* Harlan County Reservoir inflows increased due to a 300 cfs/day release out of Harry Strunk by BOR.
- *Water quality updates:* SPA quarterly sampling was completed.

Jerry Kovarik presented the board with a proposal to raise the NSWCP cost share dollar limit from \$3,500 to \$5,000. If an increase in the limit is not approved, then possibly allow producers to use two years' worth of NSWCP cost share assistance in one year. The main reason of the request is due to increased cost of conservation practices. The board decided to put this on the May agenda.

A letter was mailed to Kern Porter that included allocations sheets showing water usage and penalties for over usage during 2013-2015. The board was asked to set a Cease and Desist Hearing date and time.

Motion #3 by Matt Harrison seconded by Dave Bartels to schedule a Cease and Desist Hearing, May 12, 2016 at 7pm for Kern Porter. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Mike Clements presented the Schmidt/Coe Variance Request.

Motion #4 by Matt Harrison seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve Variance Requests #247 contingent on pending sale of land for Tim Schmidt and Richard Coe. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

NCORPE updates – They decided to shut down the wells due to the possible rainfall expected over the weekend. There is a meeting scheduled with Jim Schneider on the modeling. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th in Curtis.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be May 12th, 2016 starting at 7:00PM.

Secretary

Date