

**MINUTES**  
**LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
*Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE*  
*Immediately following the Conclusion of the Variance Hearings*  
July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 pm

**Board of Directors Meeting**

A notice of the meeting was published on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

**MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING**

1. Agenda
2. LRNRD Board Meeting, Variance Minutes & Index of Decisions, 6/17
3. LRNRD/RWP/PRDP Treasurer's Report, 6/17
4. NRCS Report
5. Manager/Assistant Manager's Report
6. Variance Requests
  - a. Aspegren-Reiss
7. Water Service Agreement – CNPPID – PRD
8. LRNRD FY18 Rural Water Budget
9. Rubicon Water Scoping Study – NE Bostwick Irrigation District
10. USA State of NE LRNRD Limited Obligation Occupation Tax Supported River Flow Enhancement Refunding Bond

Vice Chairperson Bill Bose called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:07 p.m. Bill Bose noted at the beginning of the Variance Hearing that guests should sign the attendance roster and noted the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Absent: Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Charlie Books, TBNRD, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, Bruce Lefler, Ameritas, Omaha, Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Leland Aspegren, Wilcox. Staff present: Mike Clements, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, and Kristen Heft.

**Motion #1 by Roger Nelson seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the board minutes, variance minutes. Motion carried.**  
Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3.

**Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3

**NRCS report:** Jerry Kovarik, reported on EQIP, RCPP and CStwP.

**Manager's report:** - The Platte – Republican Diversion project water service agreement was approved by the CNPPID Board of Directors on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Scott attended the UNL Water tour this last month where our Platte-Republican Diversion project was highlighted. Tri-Basin and the LRNRD provided a discussion of the project and took the tour across the diversion point near Smithfield, Nebraska. Additionally, the tour visited the N-CORPE project where the importance of the project was discussed as it related to the Platte and Republican River systems.

The Twin Valley Weed Management has been spraying at the west end of Harlan County Reservoir. In addition, a 5 mile stretch of Indian Creek just east of Red Cloud was cleaned. That area received 8 inches of rain a few weeks ago which deposited a lot of debris into the channel. The TVWMA has just submitted another \$100,000 grant application with the Nebraska Department of Ag and will be submitting an Environmental Trust Grant in early September. The organization continues to do great work in our district.

The Schluntz Hearing on our motion to dismiss is scheduled for Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 P.M. in Furnas County District Court.

We are very excited to announce that Colt Livingston has been hired as a Water Resources Technician. Colt resides in Oxford and has been working for the Nebraska Game and Parks in Cambridge for the last five years. Colt's first day was June 26<sup>th</sup>. Welcome aboard Colt.

As final follow-up and for the most part, tree plantings from the last two years look remarkable. Although there are few species that struggle, many of our sites have a success rate near 90%. Field technicians are busy with chemigation and have also started water sampling in a few areas.

Variance Request for: Aspegren/Reiss was presented to the board.

**Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Roger Nelson to approve Variance Request for: Aspegren/Reiss, #264. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3.

Moved agenda item 14.

Bruce Lefler, Ameritas Investment Corp., spoke to the board about the resolution authorizing the issuance of an amended limited obligation Occupation Tax Supported River Flow Enhancement refunding bond to replace the 2017 bond previously. A copy of this Series 2017 bond refunding is attached to the minutes.

**Motion #4 by Brad Wulf seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of an amended limited obligation Occupation Tax Supported River Flow Enhancement refunding bond to replace the 2017 bond previously. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3.

Scott Dicke presented the Water Service Agreement. One change is that we will now be co-applicants on the water right and will get a lower rate after the project is constructed on the water cost of about 50%. CNPPID approved the Water Service Agreement on July 5<sup>th</sup>. When the LRNRD and TBNRD approve this Water Service Agreement we will be able to start filing for appropriation to get water from the Platte.

**Motion #5 by Dave Bartels seconded by Matt Harrison to approve authorizing our representative to the PRD project, to approve the Water Service Agreement with CNPPID subject to changes suggested upon review by legal counsel and subsequently agreed to by CNPPID. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3.

The LRNRD is one of the recipients receiving funding under the Water Resources Cash Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 through the NDNR. Other districts received funding as well. NDNR wants the LRNRD to identify how we are going to be spending the funds soon. Mike has a couple of options to consider.

Mike Clements reviewed the Rural Water Budget for FY2018.

**Motion #6 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Dave Bartels to approve the FY18 Rural Water Budget. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3.

The NCORPE budget is tabled until next month.

**NCORPE Update:** Manager's had a meeting in North Platte, currently no Wind Turbine Proposals had been submitted to NCORPE. NCORPE will be hosting an educational open house July 26<sup>th</sup> in North Platte. Scott Dicke added; that the board approved an economic study of NCORPE by UNL, NRC is having a meeting in October to educate the new senators on NCORPE, more public hunting was approved at NCORPE, and land trade of seven quarters is waiting on appraisals.

The Rubicon Water Scoping Study for Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District was discussed by the board. This project describes the Rubicon Water's Network Control proposal to allow NE Bostwick Irrigation District to increase water efficiency by reducing the spill of water out of the canal. The increased efficiency allows for water to be stored in Harlan County Reservoir longer. The cost of the Network Control implementation is estimated at \$3,0245,624 amortized over a 30-year period with the feasibility report from Rubicon estimating the cost of the water saved normalized to a value of \$37 per acre-ft saved per year.

**Motion #7 by Brad Wulf seconded by Dave Bartels to support the Bostwick Irrigation District Rubicon Project in an amount not to exceed one million dollars pending acceptable compact accounting crediting from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3

**Motion #8 by Dave Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to extend an offer of employment for the Lower Republican NRD Manager position to Todd Siel. Motion carried.** Ayes 8, Nays 0. Absent 3

No comments from the public.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017@ 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

DRAFT

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Secretary

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Date