

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
January 11, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 2:00 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, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Absent: Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, John Thorburn, TBNRD, Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Karen Labenz, Dana Cole, Randy Robison, North Platte, Ken Anderson, North Platte. Staff present: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser and Kristen Heft.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 11/17

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/17

Staff Report, NRCS Report,

LB758,

FY17 Audit report,

Change in Location on Contiguous Property – Chris Schluntz

Bureau of Business Research Report from UNL – Economic and Property Tax Impact of the NCORPE Augmentation Project in the Republican Basin and Twin Platte NRDs.

Comments from the Public: Randy Robinson, Landowners for a Common Purpose came to encourage the board to consider their proposal on moving towards the possible sale of the surface land of NCORPE while retaining groundwater rights of the augmentation project with NCORPE. Landowners for a Common Purpose had a meeting in Lincoln with several senators discussing several topics, such as, land management, and improvements. Following that meeting, they met with Governor Ricketts and NDNR Director Jeff Fassett, for whom Robinson stated, that both Ricketts and Fassett expressed support toward the Landowners position on selling the surface-ground. Fassett believes it is in the laws and statutes. They are working on legislation that would help clarify this.

Todd Siel conducted the election of officers:

Todd asked for nominations for Chairperson: Marlin Murdoch was nominated. Marlin Murdoch was elected as Chairperson with 9 votes in favor.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson: Bill Bose and Dave Bartels were nominated. Bill Bose was elected Vice-Chairperson with 6 votes in favor.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Secretary: Dave Bartels, was nominated. Dave Bartels was elected as Secretary with 9 votes in favor.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Treasurer: Tim Kahrs was nominated. Tim Kahrs was elected as Treasurer with 8 votes.

Executive Committee/Officers:

Marlin Murdoch	Chairperson
Bill Bose	Vice Chairperson
Dave Bartels	Secretary
Tim Kahrs	Treasurer

Motion #1 by Bill Bose seconded by Matt Harrison to accept the Executive Committee as nominated. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2.

Representatives:

Roger Nelson	NARD Representative
Nelson Trambly	NARD Alternate
Toby tenBensel	Southwest Nebraska RC&D Representative
Clark Andrews	Southwest Nebraska RC&D Alternate
Brad Wulf	Trailblazer RC&D Representative
Todd Siel	Trailblazer RC&D Alternate
Toby tenBensel	NRRMDA Representative
Matt Harrison	NRRMDA Alternate
Brad Wulf	Rural Water District Advisory Committee Rep.
Nelson Trambly	NCORPE
Tim Kahrs	NCORPE Alternate

LRNRD Project Committee:

Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel

Platte River Diversion Project: (PRDP) Representatives:

Todd Siel, Voting Member
Scott Dicke, Alternate Voting Member

Scholarship Committee:

Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Toby tenBensel, Scott Dicke, Sasha Hahn

Human Resource Committee:

Clark Andrews, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Toby tenBensel to accept the Representatives, Scholarship and LRNRD Project Committees as nominated. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #3 by Bill Bose seconded by Brad Wulf to authorize the Lower Republican NRD Board Chairperson, Treasurer and the District's General Manager, Assistant Manager and Administrative Bookkeeper/Assistant to sign and open on all LRNRD accounts and LRNRD Rural Water Accounts. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #4 by Matt Harrison seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the board minutes. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #5 by Matt Harrison seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, RCPP, CStwP renewals. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Manager's Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed details of the written staff report. Beyond the written report, Olsson informed the LRNRD that the MAO project received an Engineering Excellence Merritt Award from the American Council on Engineering Companies. Also, it was announced that the South Central Water Conference will be January 30th. The LRNRD, TBNRD and CNPPID will be sponsoring the event.

Todd Siel gave an update on legislative bills that will be discussed at the NARD conference. LB758 will be introduced by Senator Dan Hughes. This bill is for an ACT relating to the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, stating a natural resources district or districts that acquire private land to develop and operate a water augmentation project for streamflow enhancement pursuant to subdivision of this section shall collaborate with representatives of the county in which such land is located in order to lessen any impacts to such county's property tax base while ensuring that the objective of the project are met. NARD Legislative conference is January 22-24, 2018.

NARD Update: The 105th Legislative session started January 3rd, 2018. LB758 is the major natural resources bill. This bill would require a natural resources district or districts that acquire private land to develop and operate a water augmentation project for streamflow enhancement pursuant to subdivision (3)(e) of this section shall collaborate with representatives of the county in which such land is located in order to lessen any impacts to such county's property tax base while ensuring that the objectives of the project are met. NCORPE is a prime example of who this bill affects. MRNRD and URNRD both chose to produce a motion to show support of LB758. The hearing will be January 17, 2018 in Lincoln.

Motion #6 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Brad Wulf to support LB758 and continue to monitor any amendments to this bill. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

Karen Labenz presented the FY2017 financial audit report to the board.

Motion #7 by Matt Harrison seconded by Terry Hoit to approve the FY2017 audit report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0. Absent 1.

Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property for Chris Schluntz was presented.

Motion #8 by Bill Bose seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property for: Chris Schluntz. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Todd Siel discussed selling of the LRNRD 2012 Chevrolet ½ ton 4-wheel drive pick-up to the Rural Water District and put the 1997 Ford ½ ton 4-wheel Pick-up up for bids.

Motion #9 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Bill Bose to sell the 2012 Chevrolet LRNRD pick-up to the Rural Water District for \$10,000 and take bids for the Rural Water 1997 Ford pick-up. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

NCORPE Update: Tim Kahrs updated everyone that the next NCORPE meeting will be January 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Alma at the LRNRD office.

Bureau of Business Research Report from UNL submitted the Final Report on Economic and Property Tax Impact of the NCORPE Augmentation Project in the Republican Basin and Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts. A copy of this is in the minute book.

Other business: none

Motion #10 by Clark Andrews seconded by Dave Bartels to move that the Board go into Executive session at 3:21 p.m. to discuss contractual negotiations. Motion carried. Chairman admonished the board that this is the only subject that can be discussed in closed session. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #11 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Terry Hoit to move that the Board come out of Executive Session at 4:56p.m. and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #12 by Brad Wulf seconded by Terry Hoit for our voting delegate to proceed affirmatively to enter the Water Sustainability Fund contract with NDNR. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #13 by Matt Harrison seconded by Clark Andrews to enter into a property purchase agreement with terms as presented with Mr. and Mrs. Malcom R. Dornhoff. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #14 by Bill Bose seconded by Toby tenBensel to authorize the executive committee to finalize details with the Bostwick BOD for submittal to Legal Counsel for review. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be February 8th, 2018 at 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Secretary

Date