

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
March 8th, 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 opened the meeting with prayer. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster. The location of the current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall and the booklet with the information is provided to all directors.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Absent: Terry Hoyt, Roger Nelson.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, John Thorburn, TBNRD, Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Jason Anderson, Arapahoe, Sally Hansen, Red Cloud, Dennis Hansen, Red Cloud. 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

Variance Request #266 Robert & Leora Anderson, M&M Anderson Farms, Inc.

Variance Request #267 James and Laura Dake

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 2/18

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 2/18

Staff Report, NRCS Report

Comments from the Public: none

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Bill Bose to approve the board minutes. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, RCPP, CStwP renewals, and the LRNRD Local Work Group Meeting (LWG). A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Managers Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed details of the written staff report. The report covered detailed updates on the Governor signing LB758 which provide for augmentation projects such as NCORPE to legally pay-in-lieu of taxes on a voluntary basis. The executive committee met with NBID BOD regarding the principle concepts of our Memorandum of Agreement for our funding portion of the automated gate project on the Franklin Canal. The LRNRD LWG held their annual work group session to direct funding percentages. Republican River Basinwide Plan planning efforts should be completed this year. This ongoing effort has involved stakeholders from all across the basin over the last three years. Other Updates: The Department of Natural Resources settled with the State of Colorado for \$4 million. The deadline for tree orders is March 9th, 2018 and the BOR numbers indicate that Harlan is storing nearly 22,500 acre-feet more than it was at this

time last year. Average flows last month were about 97 cfs which added 2,700 acre-feet into Harlan. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

The Valley Child Development Center was developed to help with affordable, reliable, high quality early care and education for children and their families in Red Cloud and the surround communities. The Valley Child Development Center was selected to be one of ten communities from across Nebraska to be a part of the Communities for Kids Initiative. The child care center currently has 41 children enrolled and was created with the support of city and local business. Sally Hansen presented drawings of the Infant-Toddler Outdoor Classroom. Volunteers work on the outdoor classrooms, where supporters are assisting in starting the Edible Schoolyard Program. Sally said they are seeking trees, shrubs, natural grasses for their outdoor classroom.

The LRNRD and the NRCS held the annual working group session to direct funding percentages. No changes were made to the percentages from the previous year which focuses on 65% cropland and 35% rangeland. Funding for EQIP applications will have nearly a \$500,000 allotment.

Republican River Basinwide Plan – The basinwide planning effort should be completed this year, hopefully in August. This ongoing effort has involved stakeholders from across the basin over the last three years. Feedback from many stakeholders representing agriculture interest is that they have gained a broader understanding of others interest relating to surface water and groundwater along with the challenges facing each. It is the hope that the NDNR will have a few more meetings in order to complete it the effort. In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statutes § 46-755 (3) (Reissue 2016) “A basin-wide plan shall be completed, adopted, and take effect within three years after April 17, 2014, unless the department and the natural resource districts jointly agree to an extension of not more than an additional two years.” The LRNRD will send a request for a second extension to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to complete the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan development and implementation, moving the completion date to April 2019.

Motion #3 by Matt Harrison seconded by Brad Wulf to authorize the extension of the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2

Variance request #266 for Robert and Leora Anderson/ M&M Farms, Inc.

Motion #4 by Brad Wulf seconded by Clark Andrews to approve Variance Request #266 for Robert & Leora Anderson/M&M Anderson Farms, Inc. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2

Variance request #267 for James and Laura Dake.

Motion #5 by Dave Bartels seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve Variance Request #267 for James and Laura Dake. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2

NARD Update: The Governor approved LB 758 by signing the bill into law on February 28th. This is the bill which provides for augmentation projects such as NCORPE to legally pay-in-lieu of taxes on a voluntary basis.

LB 1123 Senator Groene's proposal allowing the separation of groundwater from the overlying land was killed in committee.

LB 98 the three-cent levy, was debated and moved to cloture (limit and debate) and failed.

NCORPE Update: There has not been an NCORPE meeting during the last month. No other updates beyond the legislative passing of LB758 which has been made effective.

Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Executive session at 3:27 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 #7 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Brad Wulf to move that the Board come out of Executive Session at 4:49p.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 #8 by Dave Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf move the Lower Republican NRD enter into an agreement with Bostwick Irrigation District of Nebraska, by giving our executive committee authority to approve the minor revisions to the Agreement and our Chairman authority to sign the Agreement. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be April 12th, 2018 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.

DRAFT

Secretary

Date