

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
December 13th, 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 with prayer at 2:15 PM. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster. The chairman provided notice that 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, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Absent: Nelson Trambly.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD, Michael Schurman, Hastings, Chuck Keeney, Kearney, Jeff and Justin Armstrong, Karen Labenz, Dana Cole. Staff present: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, Kristen Heft, Scot Lennemann, Colt Livingston, Maclane Scott, Lynetta Snelling, Mary Goebel.

MATERIAL EMAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & MADE PUBLIC AT THE MEETING

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting and Index of Decisions

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report

LRNRD Staff Report

FY 2018 Draft Audit Report

Variance Requests 272, 273 & 274

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan updates

Comments from the Public: none.

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

Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Karen Labenz presented the FY2018 financial audit report to the board.

Motion #3 by Dave Bartels seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the FY2018 financial report presented by Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP, CPA Karen Labenz. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1.

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

Managers Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed the written staff report. The Department of Natural Resources early forecasting for Compact Compliance in the Republican River basin was held in Holdrege on November

14th. The early forecast meeting provided a positive but cautious outlook going into 2019. The LRNRD's 2019 obligated shortfall is -19,700 acre-feet. However, water conditions in the basin have improved including the Harlan County Lake (HCL) volume. Based on the volume of water expected to be in HCL at the end of December 2018, it appears that the Water Short Test will have been met. Additionally, Kansas has not requested any of the remaining compact compliance volume. Based on the early forecast, no management actions (NCORPE pumping) would be required until October 2019. No pumping at NCORPE has occurred since March of 2017.

Harlan County Reservoir – The reservoir has hit a volume of 244,000 acre-feet which we expect to meet the Water Short Year Test. Currently the lake is 77.6% full and is almost 2 feet higher than it was last year at this time. The BOR numbers indicate that Harlan is storing ~22,000 acre-feet more water than this same time last year.

Harry Strunk is 74% full, storing approximately 26,000 acre-feet of water. Full pool is 34,600 acre-feet.

Lovewell Reservoir is 104% full, storing approximately 37,000 acre-feet. Currently, flood release is 250 cfs.

Siel added that; based on current water conditions in Harlan, it appears we will move into the 5-year averaging due to the Water short trigger being met. Official word from the NDNR would not come until after the first of the year.

Dicke announced the 2018 average water usage will be less than 5 inches for the district.

Dicke attended the UNL TAPS competition results and awards banquet. LRNRD producer, Brian Ballou from Wilsonville, was the winner of the irrigated sorghum competition.

The NE Bostwick Rubicon gate project is not completed due to weather conditions.

Charles Keeney 's variance request was presented to the board for approval.

Motion #4 by Brad Wulf seconded by Terry Hoit to approve Variance Requests 272 & 273 for Charles Keeney. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Michael Schurman's variance request was presented to the board for approval.

Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve Variance Request 274 for Michael Schurman. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Manager Todd Siel gave the post-hearing modifications to the draft Republican River Basin-Wide Plan. These changes were made to the draft Plan following consideration of testimony from the four public hearings. Modifications were made on page 10 of the hearing draft, in Section 1, *Introduction* and on page 71 of the hearing draft, in Appendix A, *Local Hydrology*. A full copy of the modifications is in the minute book.

Motion #6 by Dave Bartels seconded by Toby tenBensel to adopt the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan, as written in the Final Draft, with the exception that the placeholder for the effective date of the plan, which is located on page 4 of the Final Draft, will be replaced with a date that is consistent with the effective date stated in the orders issued by the Districts and NeDNR, and that will be no later than March 31, 2019. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 2 - Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Absent 1.

Manager Todd Siel stated that the LRNRD has executed the bill of sale for the three (3) wells with the Village of Hardy. We still have not fully resolved the issue of ingress and egress easement with the United States

Bureau of Reclamation. Dicke also stated that it is public knowledge the NRD now owns the wells and inquires have been made regarding the future use of the wells by adjacent landowners.

NCORPE Update: The NCORPE budget was approved. The LRNRD in-kind balance of \$386,837 was paid. NCORPE has approved a land trade and purchase, two sections across from highway 83. We are selling those 8 pivots to Kurt, Mark and David Pieper. Pieper's in return are selling 4 pivots to NCORPE. Dicke added that LB 758 requires an annual report to the Legislature on activities, expenditures and revenues. Other items discussed at NCORPE included the development of information request policy and request of the LRNRD to support NCORPE renewable energy development.

NARD Update: NARD Legislative Conference will be January 28-30, 2019 in Lincoln.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be January 10th, 2019 at 2p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Secretary

Date