

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
January 10, 2019 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 2:00 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.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting and Variance Minutes, Index of Decisions, 12/18

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 12/18

Staff Report,

NARD Legislative Agenda

Those taking Oath of Office prior to the board meeting were, Bill Bose, Toby tenBensel, Matt Harrison, and Brad Wulf.

Directors present: Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Absent: Clark Andrews, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Nick Simonson, NRCS, Jack Russell, MRNRD. Staff present: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, Kristen Heft and Maclane Scott.

Clark Andrews joined the meeting at 2:02pm.

Manager Todd Siel presented the 2018 Executive Committee, Representatives and Committee's.

Motion #1 by Bill Bose seconded by Matt Harrison to accept the Executive Committee, Human Resources Committee, Scholarship Committee, LRNRD Project Committee, Republican River Diversion Project, Representatives and Alternates as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2.

Executive Committee/Officers:

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

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 Bill Bose seconded by Clark Andrews to authorize the Lower Republican NRD Board Chairperson, Treasurer and the District's General Manager, Assistant General 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.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #3 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the board and variance minutes. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

Motion #4 by Matt Harrison seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0. Absent 2.

NRCS report: Jerry reported that even though the government is shutdown the 2018 Farm Bill has been approved. With the new Farm Bill comes new appendices that need signed. EQIP and CSP money was authorized under the new Farm Bill. Currently, they are waiting on direction from Washington on administering the money. Jerry announced that Nick Simonson accepted the position as the Resource Conservationist in Furnas County.

Manager's Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed the written staff report:

Republican River Compact – On December 28, 2018, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) provided the 2019 Forecast of Allowable Depletions in the Republican River Basin. The LRNRD will not be required to provide any management actions prior to October 1, 2019. Kansas did not request any portion of the Remaining Compact Compliance Volume (RCCV), of which the LRNRD's share is 4,100 acre-feet. Also, the forecasted irrigation water supplies available in Harlan County Lake for the Nebraska and Kansas Bostwick Irrigation Districts are such that Nebraska's Compact compliance will be measured using a five-year average instead of a two-year average. By using the five-year averaging, the results of the forecast indicate a positive balance and thus, brings us out of a "Water Short Year". However, **NeDNR has designated 2019 as a Compact**

Call Year. The criteria set forth in the integrated management plans to remove the compact call designation will not be satisfied.

Manager Scott Dicke added the City of Red Cloud and the new mayor are working on the Red Cloud Dam. The City of Red Cloud is trying to figure out if they are going to keep the dam.

Dicke attended the retirement celebrations for Don Krause at the Central Public Power and Irrigation District and for Little Blue NRD Manager Mike Onnen on behalf of the Lower Republican NRD Director's and Staff.

Grain Bag Recycling – The LRNRD is leading the charge by coordinating recycling efforts with producers who use bags for on-field grain storage, and recyclers who haul them off. The LRNRD has tentatively set the recycling collection dates of March 6th, 7th and 8th for 2019. The LRNRD has worked to get a rough count of rolled-up ready to recycle grain bags and has been collecting survey information to help coordinate this recycling effort along with any potential future events. Based on communications and survey results with producers, we are estimating that up to 800 bags weighing ~500lbs each, are rolled up and ready to be recycled right now. This may be the first large scale grain bag recycling effort initiated in Nebraska, we are not aware of any others. Some learning will be accompanied with this first recycling effort, so we appreciate your support.

Water quantity updates:

- Ground Water - Overall, LRNRD usage came in at 4.9 inches per acre, which is the lowest average ground water usage in a single year since 2010.
- Surface Water - At a volume of 256,125 acre-feet, Harlan County Lake is storing over 30,000 acre-feet more than it was at this time last year and nearly 14,000 acre-feet more than last month.
- Harlan County Reservoir information is presented below:

Date/Time	Storage (A-F)	Elevation
3-Jan-19	256,125	1941.14
Month Ago	242,637	1940.01
Year Ago	224,469	1938.41

Water Conference is February 5th in Holdrege. Dicke will present an update on our water conditions.

Republican River Basin Wide Plan, the Order will be issued by both NRD's and Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) in the local newspapers for three weeks. The Plan should be officially adopted by the middle of February.

NCORPE Update: NCORPE has executed the land trade and sale with Pieper's. We sold 8 pivots to Kurt, Mark and David Pieper. Pieper's in return sold 4 pivots to NCORPE. An additional, \$2.7 million was going to be used to purchase three quarters from the Margritz's family, they declined and decided to keep their land. The extra money will be used to purchase land or pay down on the bond debt.

NARD Legislative Conference is January 28-30th in Lincoln.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be February 14th, 2019 at 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Secretary

Date