

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
April 11th, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

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

Vice Chairperson Bill Bose called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:04 PM. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster. The vice-chairperson provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall and is available for anyone who may want to review the document.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting, Index of Decisions, 3/19

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 3/19

Staff Report, LRNRD and NRCS

Variance Request #276 Edwin or Patricia Choquette

Change in Location of Contiguous Property – Bradley Choquette

Draft: LRNRD Board of Directors Policy on Conditions of Sale of the NCORPE Property

Absent: Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Brad Wulf.

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

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Dave Rocker, Franklin FFA Instructor, Chase Haussermann, Courtney Meade, Joseph Kahrs, Franklin FFA Students.

Staff present: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, Kristen Heft and Sasha Hahn.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the board minutes from the March board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.

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

NRCS Report: Jerry Kovarik, gave the NRCS report. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CStWP) were reported on. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed the written staff report. Additional comments included: 2019 Water Jamboree, Tree Planting, Hazardous Household Waste Recycling, and funds owed to the district from the previous Harlan County Treasurer - criminal restitution for a total of \$5,556.64 was received. New Rural Water Superintendent David Bantam was hired to replace former RW Superintendent Lonnie Knehans.

LRNRD Scholarship winners for 2019 are: Emma Goosic, Franklin, Tanner Kauk, Alma, Hunter Swanson, Arapahoe, and alternate Cory Conway, Campbell.

Franklin FFA Members Chase Haussermann, Courtney Meade, Joseph Kahrs highlighted the FFA programs and activities. They are headed to National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma April 30th – May 2nd. The FFA is asking for donations to help cover expenses. Dave Rucker was recognized for his award as the FFA Advisor of the year by Nebraska Farm Bureau.

Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by David Bartels to approve donating \$1,000 to the Franklin FFA team for expenses occurred at the National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.

Variance Request Hearing was reconvened at 7:27.

LRNRD board meeting was reconvened at 7:28.

Variance Request #276 Edwin or Patricia Choquette was presented to the board for approval.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve Variance Request #276 for Edwin or Patricia Choquette. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.

Change in Location of Contiguous Property for Bradley Choquette was presented to the board.

Motion #5 by Matt Harrison seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the Change in Location of Contiguous Property for Bradley Choquette. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.

Brad Wulf entered at 7:34pm.

UNL-TAPS requested the LRNRD's interest in being a sponsor again this year. TAPS stands for Testing Agriculture Performance Solutions. The goal of the Nebraska Farm Management Competition is to promote efficiency and profitability while providing interaction among all those involved in the production and/or the business of agriculture production. Brian Ballou from Wilsonville was the overall winner of the 2018 sorghum competition. The UNL-TAPS is asking for a \$1,000 sponsorship donation. With the popularity of last year's contest, they are including sub-surface drip irrigation in this year's competition.

Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Terry Hoit to approve \$1,000 to the UNL Farm Management Program (TAPS). Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 2, Abstain 1 Brad Wulf.

NCORPE Update: Todd Siel read Section 46-715(3)(e) of current Nebraska Statute. Senator Mike Groene's has circulated a potential amendment to LB606 that would revise Section 46-715(3)(e) after discussion with the Attorney General's office and NeDNR. The revised subsection adds text stating that; *If real property was acquired to develop and operate an augmentation project for streamflow enhancement, the owner or owners of such project may later sell said real property and continue to pump ground water in the amount necessary for augmentation purposes without regard to land area or acres owned.* Todd Siel spoke with the Middle Republican NRD Manager Jack Russell who stated the MRNRD board voted to support LB606, with the proposed amendment. Russel indicated that the Board would like to keep all options available to them. The URNRD, TPNRD, MRNRD, LRNRD, and Don Blankenau have all voiced concerns regarding the long-term implications of LB606.

Todd Siel presented the current "NCORPE Policy – Land Ownership". When this policy was adopted by the NCORPE Board in 2017, the LRNRD had discussed development and adoption of our own policy, but then decided there was no need since NCORPE had a clear policy.

The draft LRNRD Policy on Conditions of Sale of the NCORPE Property was presented. This draft was adopted by the Twin Platte NRD in April 2018. Todd Siel read the policy to the board.

Motion #7 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Toby tenBensel to adopt the LRNRD Board of Director's Policy on Conditions of Sale of the NCORPE Property. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2.

NARD Update: none

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be May 9th, 2019 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Secretary

Date

DRAFT