

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
May 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm via teleconference

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Lower Republican Natural Resources District (LRNRD) Board of Directors meeting was conducted via teleconferencing from the LRNRD office allowed under the Public Meetings Law with the Executive Order 20-03 signed on March 17th, 2020 by Governor Ricketts.

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 1:02 pm. Guests were asked to introduce themselves. The 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 on the LRNRD website at www.lrnrd.org.

MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & AVAILABLE ON THE LRNRD WEBSITE:

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report

Staff Report: NRCS, LRNRD

Directors absent: None

Directors present via teleconference: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf. Directors present at LRNRD office: Marlin Murdoch

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Chelsea Erickson (via teleconference). Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, and Kristen Heft.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the LRNRD Board Minutes and Variance Request Hearing Minutes from the April 2020 board meeting and LRNRD & Rural Water Treasurer's Reports as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

NRCS Report: NRCS report was emailed out prior to the meeting. Jerry reported on EQIP, CSP, RCPP and CREP. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: The NRD staff report was emailed out prior to the meeting. The NRD office is operating by appointment only or via phone or email due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Todd Siel talked about the PRD property being burned, and both NTV and the Kearney Hub provided news coverage of the burn. The 2020 District Tree planting season is complete, with only a few left-over trees. Area lakes Lovewell and Medicine Creek are at or near conservation pool levels. A copy of the full report is in the minute book.

Chuck Burr contacted the NRD regarding sponsoring the UNL-TAPS program again for 2020. Scott Dicke provided history on the TAPS program. This program started in 2017 with 15 teams. In 2018, it expanded to 20 corn teams, and 8 milo teams. In 2019, 24 corn pivot teams, 16 corn sub-surface drip teams, and 10 milo teams. Through conversation with Chuck, Dicke found out that in 2018, there was a total of 6 rewards, 4 of those rewards were in the Republican River Basin. One was from the LRNRD, with Brian Ballou, and Murdoch Farm finished in the top three. In 2019 there were 50 teams, the Republican River Basin took 8 out of the 9 total first place rewards, including a tie. Four of those 9 were from the Lower Republican that got first place.

Josh Becker of Beaver City took first place in efficiency, yield, and profitability. Murdoch's were in the top three in yield, and Ron Robison was tied for first place in efficiency. Dicke said this showcases how well and efficient producers are in the Republican Basin.

Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Bill Bose to approve \$1,000 for sponsorship of the UNL-TAPS Farm Management Program. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0. Absent 0.

Rural Water Update: Todd Siel stated that there is still ongoing construction on highway 136 from Riverton to Red Cloud. Van Kirk Brothers will be moving the water line.

Platte-Republican Diversion Project (PRD) Update: – Currently, we are working on updates to the Water Service Agreement.

NCORPE Update: The NCORPE Board meetings was held via teleconference on April 22, 2020. Business discussions were on the topics of grazing leases and renewable energy. COVID-19 has slowed or put the process on hold.

NARD Update: Nothing to report.

Other Business: Nothing to report.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be June 11th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41pm.

Secretary

Date