

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
June 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm and 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 in the LRNRD Meeting room and was accessible 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 7:02 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: Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

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

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Mike ??, Brian Dunnigan, and ??, Olsson (via teleconference). Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, and Shirlee Poyser.

Bill Bose joined via teleconference at 7:04pm.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Bill Bose to approve the LRNRD Board Minutes from the May 2020 board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, absent 2.

Brad Wulf joined via teleconference at 7:05pm

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Roger Nelson to approve May treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, absent 1.

NRCS Report: NRCS report was emailed out prior to the meeting. Jerry reported on EQIP, CSP, and RCPP. 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 LRNRD has unlocked the office doors and has started normal operations within the guidelines issued by direct health care measures. With business returning to normal, our Electronic Recycling events across the LRNRD have been rescheduled for next week: Webster County at Blue Hill – June 17th from 8:00-12:00; Nuckolls County at the County Road Yard in Nelson – June 18th from 1:00-5:00; Harlan County at John & South St. in Alma – June 19th from 8:00-12:00; Franklin County at the Fairgrounds in Franklin – June 19th from 1:00-5:00.

During the recent rioting in Lincoln, almost every office building on Lincoln Mall from the Capitol to the City County building had been vandalized with graffiti and broken windows. Protesters started fires in the building which houses the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (NARD). The second floor, where the NARD office is located, did not have as much fire damage but has a lot of smoke and water damage. The building is considered a total loss and will possibly be razed. The NARD staff is currently working out of temporary office space and have already started the search for a permanent office location.

The LRNRD insurance carrier, League Association of Risk Management (LARM) will no longer be insuring NRD's. Manager Todd Siel is currently seeking insurance providers.

Harlan County Reservoir is currently at 100% full, with the flood pool at 2.6%. The May inflows averaged 264 CFS and outflows averaged 121 CFS. The BOR numbers indicate that Harlan is storing nearly 63,567 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year.

Rural Water Update: Todd Siel stated that there is still ongoing construction on highway 136 from Riverton to Red Cloud.

Platte-Republican Diversion Project (PRD) Update: – The PRD finalized the amended water service agreement (WSA) with CNPPID. This amended water services agreement addresses the NDNR “show cause” order received on February 26th, 2020. The PRD approved and signed the amended WSA on June 4th. Specifically, the amended agreement details that the PRD is allowed to use facilities owned and operated by CNPPID and that the PRD is the sole owner of the appropriation. Additionally, the WSA does not include fees associated with storage of water in Elwood Reservoir.

NCORPE Update: The NCORPE Board meetings will hold the next board meeting in North Platte on June 17th, at 10 am.

NARD Update: Roger Nelson gave the NARD & NARD Risk Pool Board of Directs Update. The NARD board approved the FY20-21 and FY21-22 budgets. The NARD foundation approved \$1,000 for the NE Farm Bureau Foundation for Ag Awareness. The NARD Native Vegetation Committee awarded LRNRD Director Terry Hoit, as Tree Planter of the Year. The awards will be presented at the NARD Annual Meeting in Kearney on September 27-29, 2020. NARD Risk Pool board approved at 7.5% increase in the health insurance rates for FY20-21 and no change in the dental premium.

The NARD Board accepted the opportunity to host The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) 2021 Envirothon. The 2020 NCF Envirothon originally scheduled for Nebraska was cancelled.

Other Business: Nothing to report.

Motion #3 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 7:41pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation. Motion carried. Chairman admonished the board that this is the only subject that can be discussed in closed session. Ayes 10, Nays 0, absent 1.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:02 pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, absent 1.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be July 9th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Secretary

Date