

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
July 9th, 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.

The LRNRD board meeting was conducted in the LRNRD Meeting room and was accessible via teleconference.

Vice Chairperson Bill Bose called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:12 pm. Guests were asked to introduce themselves. 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 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: LRNRD

Directors absent: Terry Hoyt, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Tim Kahrs (present via teleconference).

Directors present at LRNRD office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, William Andrew Goosic V, Franklin. Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser and Kristen Heft.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Bill Bose to approve the LRNRD Board Minutes from the June board meeting with the inclusion of Roger Nelson as a director present. Motion carried. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the June treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

NRCS Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS reported. The report was on Field and Status reviews, CRP, and CREP.

LRNRD Staff Report: The NRD staff report was emailed out prior to the meeting. The LRNRD is finalizing grant application to develop long-term watershed plans for three different watersheds within the District. The grant applications are through the NRCS Watershed Prevention and Operations Funds (WPOF). The LRNRD fund applications will be for Thompson Creek, Flag Creek, and Turkey Creek (near Edison) watersheds. The long-term identification of opportunities within each watershed will assess items such as agricultural water supply or flood prevention.

The LRNRD along with other NRD's across the state are supporting the UNL research project to evaluate existing nutrients in the groundwater essential to crop growth. The soil samples will be evaluated for 17 different water quality properties. Reporting of the results will include maps of variation in the properties across Nebraska as well as county and NRD level statistics. All total, the LRNRD will provide eight samples in Furnas, four in Harlan, twelve in Franklin, and ten in Webster counties.

We are pleased to announce the Lower Republican NRD has been awarded grants from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy for Tire Recycling in 2020. These events provide a way for individuals to dispose of used tires at no cost (commercial tire operations and dealers are **not** able to participate) and are a joint effort with Trailblazer RC & D and the Supervisors and Commissioners of Harlan, Franklin, and Webster Counties.

The LRNRD insurance carrier, League Association of Risk Management (LARM) informed the LRNRD that there is a possibility they will no longer be insuring NRD's. Manager Todd Siel is currently seeking quotes from other insurance providers.

Harlan County Reservoir is currently at 100% full, with the flood pool at 0.7%. The June inflows averaged 50 CFS and outflows averaged 113 CFS. The BOR numbers indicate that Harlan is storing nearly 97,258 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year.

Variance Request #285 for William Andrew Goosic V was presented to the board.

Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Clark Andrews to approve Variance Request #285 for William Andrew Goosic V. Motion carried. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

Rural Water Update: Todd Siel has explored the refinancing of the Rural Water (RW) loan to get a lower rate. Some of the RW infrastructure is in need of repair (vaults, meter replacement, software upgrade telemetry equipment) as the system is now 15 years old. Adding credit card payments is also being researched.

Platte-Republican Diversion Project (PRD) Update: – The amended PRD application has been delivered to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and waiting approval.

NCORPE Update: The next NCORPE Board meeting will be held in North Platte on July 15th, at 10 am. NCORPE is exploring the refinancing of the bonds at a lower rate.

NARD Update: 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.

Other Business: Nothing to report.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:08pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation and Personnel. Motion carried. Chairman admonished the board that this is the only subject that can be discussed in closed session. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 8:55 pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

Motion #6 by David Bartels seconded by Matt Harrison that all staff receive a one thousand-dollar (\$1,000) salary increase except for the assistant manager and manager receive a two thousand five hundred-dollar (\$2,500) salary increase. Ayes 7, Nays 0, absent 4.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be August 13 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary

Date