

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
August 13, 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.lnrnd.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.

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 7:00 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.lnrnd.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

FY21 Rural Water Budget, NCORPE Budget, PRD Budget and the LRNRD Budget

Directors absent: None.

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

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Lee Fintel, Superior, Jesse Bradley, DNR. Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, and Shirlee Poyser.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Brad Wulf seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD Board Minutes from the July board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the July treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

NRCS Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS reported. Jerry discussed EQIP, CSP and the NRCS – Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP) Directors mentoring an NRCS employee. 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 held tire recycling events in Alma, Hildreth, and Guide Rock bringing in over 300 tons of tires. Champlin Tire Recycling, Concordia, KS, pick up the tires and recycles them. The next Household hazardous waste event is tentatively set for October. There were no additions to the report. A copy of this report is in the Minute book.

Lower Superior Canal: Jesse Bradley, Department of Natural Resources Interim Director, presented the Lower Superior Canal Potential Conjunctive Management Projects to the board. Jesse is seeking support for a Watersmart Grant application.

The LRNRD is statutorily required to designate a media outlet for the district.

Motion #3 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to select the Harlan County Journal as the designated media outlet for the Lower Republican NRD. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, absent 1 - Tim Kahrs.

The LRNRD board discussed the FY21 Occupation tax rate.

Motion #4 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Terry Hoit to set the FY21 Occupation tax rate at \$8 per acre. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 1 – Bill Bose, Absent 1 - Tim Kahrs.

The LRNRD board reviewed the Rural Water Budget. The FY21 increase in expenses is due to the probable refunding of the Rural Water Bonds and infrastructure upgrades that need to be done.

Motion #5 by Brad Wulf seconded by David Bartels to approve the draft FY21 Rural Water budget. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

Motion #6 Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the draft FY21 NCORPE budget assuming no substantial changes. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Terry Hoit to approve the draft FY21 Platte Republican Diversion Project budget. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

LRNRD FY21 highlights are Special Projects Construction costs, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation (WFPO), NCORPE bond prepayment.

Motion #8 by Toby tenBensel seconded by David Bartels to approve the draft FY21 LRNRD budget. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

Motion #9 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Roger Nelson to set the budget hearing date and time for September 10th, 2020 at 7 p.m. Motion carried. Ayes 11, Nays 0, absent 0.

Rural Water Update: None

Platte-Republican Diversion Project (PRD) Update: – A tour of the PRD site was conducted with LRNRD Directors on July 28th, they were able to observe the site before cattle bids were awarded on August 7th. The PRD received a bid for 90-day lease from Brett Lindstrom for the pasture.

NCORPE Update: The next NCORPE Board meeting will be held in Alma on August 19th, at 11:00 am. NCORPE is exploring the refinancing of the bonds at a lower rate. On July 14th, the NCORPE Board of Directors voted to enter into a lease agreement for renewable energy with Invenergy based out of Chicago, Illinois. The lease allows Invenergy to study solar and wind resources at the property. The study may take several years to determine if the solar and wind resources are sufficient to develop a renewable energy project. If the resource is adequate, then it will be up to Lincoln County officials to permit construction of a power generating facility. NCORPE also provides other leases at the site such as cattle grazing and haying.

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: League Association of Risk Management (LARM) has issued the LRNRD a proposal for FY21, even though the LARM state board elected to no longer insure NRD's. Our Agent, Nate Fox, fought for the LRNRD and LARM decided to keep the LRNRD and provided a proposal.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be September 10th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Secretary

Date