

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
December 10, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was conducted by videoconference - allowed under Public Meetings Law with Executive Order 20-36 signed by Governor Ricketts. Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District (LRNRD) Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 2:00 pm. Chairperson Murdoch turned control of the meeting over to manager Todd Siel. Manager Siel noted that the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings law is posted on the LRNRD website.

Excused Absences: Terry Hoit.

Directors present via Zoom: Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf, Clark Andrews.

Others present via Zoom: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS; Steve Ingracia, Lonnie Burkland, Lalit Jha, JEO Consulting Group; Todd Whitney, UNL Extension Agent-Phelps County; Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune.

Staff present at LRNRD office via Zoom: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser and Kristen Heft.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 11/20

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/20

Staff Report, NRCS & LRNRD

Variance Request #288 Michael Schurman

Variance Request #289 Wayne Hinrichs

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #1 by Matt Harrison seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the LRNRD Board Minutes with correction from the November board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 – Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Motion #2 by Bill Bose seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the November Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2 – Terry Hoit, Brad Wulf.

Brad Wulf entered the meeting at 2:18 via Zoom.

NRCS Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry discussed that the service centers were rolled back to either Phase 0 or Phase 1. Office doors are still closed, but they are still taking applications and completing field reviews with or without producers.

There has been significant interest in EQIP this year with a total of 102 applications taken by Field Offices.

CSP interest varied by County, but for Classic CSP, there is a total of 91 applications.

A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicate that two of our three Watershed Flood Prevention Operation (WFPO) fund applications were approved. Both the Thompson Creek application and Turkey Creek (near Edison, NE) application will each receive the full WFPO funding request of approximately \$675,000 per project. NRCS will be sending out agreement forms in December or January. The total win for the LRNRD is nearly \$1,350,000. These funds will be used to determine whether these watersheds can provide viable storage options within the LRNRD.

Although the Flag Creek application was not selected to be funded, the NRCS intends to do a Preliminary Investigative Report (PIR) to determine if there is a viable project to fund. The NRCS allocated \$50,000 internally to make the determination. If the NRCS determines that the Flag Creek watershed is sufficient for a project, the LRNRD would simply reapply for full WFPO funding.

On October 28th, the Red Cloud Land Judging team placed 3rd in the 2020 state competition held at McCool Junction. The Upper Big Blue NRD partnered with NRCS to host the annual competition, where 32 FFA chapters from across the state were in attendance. As one of the top 5 teams, the Red Cloud team will now advance to the national competition held in Oklahoma City, OK on May 4-6, 2021.

Rural Water: In January, we will be refunding the water revenue bonds. South of Franklin there is a highway project starting this fall for the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). The rural water project's line is not conflicting. The NDOT project between Inavale and Red Cloud has a water line that is conflicting and will be moved soon. Van Kirk Bros Contracting, of Sutton, NE was hired to carry out that project.

Steve Ingracia and Lonnie Burklund from JEO Consulting Group discussed the future flow meter program and how to best utilize telemetry in the LRNRD.

Motion #3 by Bill Bose seconded by David Bartels to sign an agreement with JEO Consulting Group, time and expense not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Terry Hoit.

Variance Request #288 for Michael Schurman was presented.

Motion #4 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve variance request #288 for Michael Schurman. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Terry Hoit.

Variance Request #289 for Wayne Hinrichs was presented.

Motion #5 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve variance request #289 for Wayne Hinrichs. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Terry Hoit.

Manager Todd Siel presented the board with three (3) bids for the 2021 Chevy Pickup. The three dealerships that submitted proposals: Tripe Motor - Alma, Faw Motor Co. - Cambridge, and Alexander Motors - Superior.

Motion #6 by David Bartels seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve purchasing a 2021 Chevrolet pickup with trade-in of the 2015 Chevrolet Pickup from Alexander Motors in the amount of \$14,908. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Terry Hoit.

The Platte-Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project: NeDNR has issued an Order to affirm the amended Water Services Agreement (WSA) objectors have 60 days to refile objections with the Department. Adams Construction repaired a drainage issue on the west side of the PRD property.

NCORPE: The next NCORPE board meeting is December 30, in North Platte.

NARD Update: NARD Legislative conference will be January 25-27, 2021. Terry Hoit will be recognized as Tree Planter of the year at this year's Legislative Conference. In January, the Republican River Basin Caucus for selecting an appointee to the Natural Resources Commission will be coming up. Roger Nelson gave an update on the new NARD office building.

Other Business: None.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be January 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Secretary

Date