

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
January 14, 2021 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.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 12/20

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 12/20

Staff Report, NRCS

Variance Request #290 Craig Hoxmeier

Variance Request #291 Gale Lush

Scott Dicke announced prior to the meeting that he has accepted a position at Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID). Marlin Murdoch acknowledged Scott for his six years of service and for all the goals achieved while at the LRNRD. Scott's accomplishments are greatly appreciated. Scott thanked the board and mentioned that he is proud of what he accomplished while here.

Four of the Five Director's that were incumbents took their Oath of Office prior to the meeting.

Excused Absences: Tim Kahrs.

Directors present via Zoom: Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Nick Simonson, NRCS; Troy Fletcher, Oxford.

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

Manager Todd Siel presented the 2020 Executive Committee, Representatives, and committees.

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Clark Andrews to accept the Executive Committee/Officers, Human Resources Committee, Scholarship Committee, LRNRD Project Committee, Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project representatives, Representatives and Alternates as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Executive Committee/Officers:

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| Marlin Murdoch | Chairperson |
| Bill Bose | Vice Chairperson |
| Dave Bartels | Secretary |
| Tim Kahrs | Treasurer |

Representatives:

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|----------------|--|
| Roger Nelson | NARD Representative |
| Nelson Trambly | NARD Alternate |
| Brad Wulf | Trailblazer RC&D Representative |
| Todd Siel | Trailblazer RC&D Alternate |
| Brad Wulf | Rural Water District Advisory Committee Rep. |

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|----------------|---------------------------|
| Nelson Trambly | NCORPE Representative |
| Tim Kahrs | NCORPE Alternate |
| Toby tenBensel | NRRMDA Representative |
| Matt Harrison | NRRMDA Alternate |
| Toby tenBensel | SW NE RC&D Representative |
| Clark Andrews | SW NE RC&D Alternate |

LRNRD Project Committee:

Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel

Platte River Diversion Project: (PRDP) Representatives:

Todd Siel, Voting Member

Scholarship Committee:

Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Toby tenBensel, Mary Goebel

Human Resource Committee:

Clark Andrews, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch

Motion #2 by Roger Nelson seconded by Bill Bose to authorize the Lower Republican NRD Board Chairperson, Treasurer and the District's General Manager, Assistant Manager and Administrative Bookkeeper/Assistant to sign/open/close on all LRNRD accounts, LRNRD Rural Water Accounts and the Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project (PRD). Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Comments from the Public: None

Motion #3 by David Bartels seconded by Bill Bose to approve the December Minutes and Variance Request minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

NRCS Report: Nick Simonson, Acting District Conservationist, gave the NRCS report. The report updates included EQIP and CSP. Jerry Kovarik is currently the Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Offices - West.

LRNRD Staff Report: Manager Todd Siel gave a brief NRD Staff report. The South-Central Water Conference will be held on February 2nd. This will be a combined in-person/virtual meeting event. Tom Riley is the new Director of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). He addressed the Nebraska Water Resources Association (NWRA) Round table. He spoke about the Six Keys regarding DNR's mission and challenges on how to maximize every drop of water in the State of Nebraska. Tom also stated that 2021 would not be a Compact Call year.

Assistant General Manager Scott Dicke reported that the 2020 District-wide water use average is 8.15" per acre. Harlan County Lake is approximately 2' below pool. Dicke and Siel met with Olsson Associates regarding dam projects and contracts.

Manager Siel presented the board the LRNRD Master Plan. NeDNR requires a revised plan every ten years.

Motion #5 by Bill Bose seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the 2021-2030 Lower Republican NRD Master Plan as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Modifications to the Cooperative Agreement between the NRCS and the LRNRD was presented to the board. Minor changes included: vehicle and equipment usage for the field office secretaries.

Motion #6 by Roger Nelson seconded by Bill Bose to approve the Unfunded Cooperative Agreement between the NRCS and the Lower Republican NRD. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Craig Hoxmeier's Variance Request #290 for a water transfer was presented to the board.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by David Bartels to approve variance request #290 for Craig Hoxmeier. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Gale Lush Variance Request #291 for a water transfer was presented to the board.

Motion #8 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Roger Nelson to approve variance request #291 for Gale Lush. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

The Platte-Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project: NeDNR has received objections to the amended application. The Department is now reviewing those objections. NTV recently did a segment on the pros and cons of the project.

NCORPE: The next NCORPE board meeting is January 20th, in North Platte. Bill Sellers, Range Manager at NCORPE accepted a job with Nebraska Game and Parks.

NARD Update: NARD Legislative conference will be held will be January 25-27, 2021. This will be a combined in-person/virtual meeting event. They will allow virtual participation during the Benefits committee, Managers meeting, Business sessions, and NARD Board meeting. The Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Directive limits the hotel meeting capacity at 25%. This was set to expire on January 15th, but now has been extended to January 31st.

The NARD office was destroyed by a fire on May 30th, 2020. Siel discussed the NARD and the NARD Risk Pool boards approved transferring NARD Risk Pool funds for buying of a building.

Motion #9 by Clark Andrews seconded by Bill Bose to approve the NARD Building Purchase Resolution. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 1 Matt Harrison, Absent 1 – Tim Kahrs.

Other Business: None.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be February 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Secretary

Date