

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 John Street, Alma, NE
May 13th, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 7:05pm immediately following the Variance Request hearing. 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. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 4/21

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 4/21

Variance Request #303 Tim Schmidt/Clyde Lueking

Variance Request #304 Clyde Lueking/Tim Schmidt

Variance Request #305 Jerry Guthrie

Excused Absences: Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Rhonda and Kristen Herrick, Franklin.

Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser, and Kristen Heft.

Comments: The LRNRD awards three (3) \$1,000 LRNRD Post High School Scholarships. Scholarship recipient Kristen Herrick thanked the board for the scholarship and plans to attend UNL in the Fall.

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the March Minutes and Variance Request minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 4 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Brad Wulf arrived at 7:11pm.

Motion #2 by Roger Nelson seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

Todd Siel announced Nick Simonson accepted the Assistant Manager position at the LRNRD. Nick's first day was May 10th.

Motion #3 by David Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to hire Nick Simonson as the LRNRD Assistant General Manager. Further, it is moved that Nick Simonson be authorized to sign checks on all LRNRD accounts and all Rural Water Accounts for the Lower Republican NRD. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) Assistant Director Jesse Bradley presented the draft Fifth Generation Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The draft IMP was prepared jointly by the Lower Republican Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) in accordance with the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.

Assistant Director Bradley discussed the Monitoring and Studies Technical Memorandum for the URNRD, MRNRD and the LRNRD. This memorandum was originally developed and adopted concurrently with the fifth generation Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) jointly developed by the NeDNR and each of the three Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), as indicated in each of the three IMPs. It contains the specific calculations

and other procedures to fulfill the requirements of the monitoring plans in the IMPs. A public hearing date is set for July 8th, 2021.

Motion #4 by Brad Wulf seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the Draft Fifth Generation Integrated Management Plan, jointly developed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Lower Republican Natural Resources District and set the public hearing date for July 8th, 2021. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

LRNRD wrote a letter of support for NeDNR to receive a \$2 Million Water Smart Grant. Assistant Director Bradley said NeDNR matched the grant, with a portion of the funds coming from the Colorado Settlement Funds. NeDNR then increased the match to raise the grant total to \$4.5 Million.

NRCS Staff Report: The NRCS staff report was presented at the board meeting. Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS update on EQIP, CSP, Covid protocols at USDA Service Centers and President Biden's 30 by 30. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: General Manager Todd Siel gave the LRNRD Staff Report. Todd received countless compliments from individuals on the support the LRNRD Directors and Staff provided to the Scot Lennemann family. Todd thanked those for attending Scot's funeral. Scot will be greatly missed. A tree will be planted in the Outdoor classroom in memory of Scot. Todd mentioned the NRD is just getting started on planting trees. Todd spoke on the Rural Water infrastructure needing work and upgrading.

Flow Meter Program: The LRNRD signed an agreement with JEO to look at taking a proactive approach to water management through continued evaluation of improvements. One on-going initiative the LRNRD is evaluating includes the modernization of how flow meter data is collected across the District. Staff and Board Members have begun to analyze and plan for a potential implementation of new equipment, and telemetry system upgrades.

Variance Requests #303 and #304 were postponed for further review.

Variance Request #305 for Jerry Guthrie was presented to the board for approval.

Motion #5 by David Bartels seconded by Clark Andrews to approve variance request #305 for Jerry Guthrie. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD): PRD hearing date for Motion to Dismiss is set for July 19th. Pasture grazing was awarded to Abe Kuck for 3 months, starting on May 15, 2021.

NCORPE: The NCORPE board meeting was held Tuesday, April 20 at the LRNRD office in Alma.

NARD: State Envirothon was held the end of April. NRD Manager's meeting will be in Ord on June 2nd and 3rd.

Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 9:08pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation, and personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:58pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

Motion #8 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Brad Wulf to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and sign contracts with Olsson for both the Turkey Creek and Thompson Creek WFPO EA-Watershed Plans. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be June 10th, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm.

Secretary

Date