

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 John North, Alma, NE
June 10th, 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 7:00pm. 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 & Variance Request Minutes, Index of Decisions, 5/21

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 5/21

Excused Absences: Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Cody Hubl, Guide Rock, Zach Jones, TVWMA.

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

Comments from the Public: Scholarship recipient Cody Hubl thanked the board for the scholarship award. Cody plans to attend Northeast Community College, pursuing a degree in Agronomy and Precision Agriculture. Zach Jones introduced himself as the new Project Coordinator for Twin Valley Weed Management Area. Zach replaces Merle Illian who recently retired.

Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by David Bartels to approve the May Board Meeting Minutes and Variance Request minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

NRCS Staff Report: The NRCS staff report was emailed out prior to the board meeting. Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS update on EQIP, CSP and FSA Compliance reviews. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Assistant General Manager Nick Simonson prepared the LRNRD Staff Report. Our new Water Resources Technician, PJ Holmes, starts Monday, June 14, 2021. Jim Zimmerman has started working for the Rural Water District. The 2021 Tree planting season took longer than anticipated, it was a wet spring, but the job is finally complete. The NRD Managers meeting was held in Ord on June 2nd and 3rd. Several topics were discussed. The legislature adjourned on May 27th and several bills passed and some that will come up next session that will affect us. Legislative Resolution 23 (LR23) will require our attention.

Milrose Project: Discussion was held on the Milrose Project. The LRNRD is the caretaker of the Milrose funds and the LRNRD does cleanup work in the Milrose area. Marlin Murdoch spoke with Lee Bose and Roger Luther, landowners in the project area, and it was decided to leave the account with the LRNRD for future use.

Legislative Resolution 23 (LR23): LR23 requires our attention. The purpose of the interim study is to assess the progress of the natural resources districts relative to the purpose(s) for the creation and existence of the 23 NRDs throughout Nebraska as set forth in 1972. The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature is gathering information needed to carry out the purpose of LR23. Nick Simonson will assist in preparing information for this study.

Rules and Regulations: Manager Siel spoke to the board regarding possible revisions to the LRNRD Rules and Regulations. A workshop will be planned for 2022 and if there are any updates needed, it will be addressed at that point.

Flow Meter Pilot Program: This program began over three years ago. Owen Kruger and Ken Quandt from McCrometer met with LRNRD staff. Technician Mark Bantam recognized a mechanical issue with the FlowConnect meters and received permission from McCrometer to disassemble a meter to discover there was a fault in the design. Discussion was held on utilizing a different model to finish out the requirements of the grant from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the ordering of five (5) McCrometer FlowConnect meters, with ExactRead technology, using WaterSmart grant funds. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA): Todd and Nick will meet with Olsson in Lincoln to review the next steps of the WFPO EA Plan and Design. Nick will also get guidance on the MAO tool that we use to forecast consumptive use when preparing variance requests and when analyzing project scenarios.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD): PRD hearing date addressing the Motion to Dismiss is set for July 19th in Lincoln.

NCORPE: No updates.

NARD: 2022 will be the 50th anniversary of the formation of the NRD system. The NARD will be hosting the National Envirothon July 25-28. The NARD Fall Conference will be in Kearney September 26-28th.

Rural Water District: Nebraska Rural Water Association circuit rider Randy Hellbusch met with Todd, Nick, and Dave at Franklin. Randy was impressed with the condition of the pump house and water tower. He indicated nothing required immediate emergency repair. He gave several suggestions of what could be replaced as part of our maintenance operations to avoid having issues that could become larger problems.

Other Business: The LRNRD was contacted for sponsorship of the 2021 UNL-TAPS program.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve \$1,000 sponsorship of the UNL-TAPS Farm Management Program. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 – Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

The NRD sponsors two (2) weather stations. The Guide Rock/UNL contract expires June 30th. The other contract is with the Tri-Basin NRD.

Integrated Management Plan public hearing date is July 8th, 2021, at 6pm in the LRNRD board room.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be July 8th immediately following the 6:00 pm public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Secretary

Date