

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
September 9th, 2021

Board of Directors Meeting

A Notice of Budget Hearing & Summary Hearing, and Public Meeting Notice was published in the Harlan County Journal on September 2nd, 2021, and on the District Website at www.lnrnd.org.

FY2022 BUDGET HEARING & SUMMARY PUBLIC HEARING

The Lower Republican NRD FY22 Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Marlin Murdoch at 6:00 p.m. The notice to this hearing was published in the district newspapers on September 2nd, 2021. Todd Siel made a presentation outlining the key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Three (3) copies of the budget were available for public review. County Valuations were reviewed, and the amount of property tax asking is set at \$1,349,340; levy is 0.033989 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 2.2%. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue and grants, the total operating budget of the LRNRD will be under last year's by 14.58%. The floor was then opened for public comment on the proposed budget statement. All members of the public wishing to address the governing body were provided a reasonable amount of time to do so. There were no comments from the public.

Motion by David Bartels seconded by Nelson Trambly to close the budget hearing at 6:10pm. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3, Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 6:20pm. 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, 8/21

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 8/21

NRCS Staff Report, 9/21

LRNRD Staff Report, 9/21

Variance Requests – Tim Schmidt & Clyde Lueking #306 & #307

LRNRD Quad Counties Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

LRNRD Resolution No. LR09092021A

2022 LID Supporting Schedule

LRNRD Resolution #LR09092021B Property Tax Request

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

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

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Tim Schmidt, Holdrege, Jim Morgan, Campbell.

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

Comments from the Public: none

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the August Board Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Motion #2 by David Bartels seconded by Terry Hoit to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

NRCS Staff Report: NRCS staff report was emailed out prior to the meeting. Jerry provided updates on EQIP, RCPP, CStwP, Active Program Contracts as of September 1, 2021, and staffing in the LRNRD NRCS Field Offices. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Manager Todd Siel reported that the Fifth Generation Integrated Management Plan (IMP) will be effective the end of September 2021. LRNRD Manager's traveled to the Annual RRCA Tri-State meeting in McCook on August 25th, the Bureau projected that we would not be in a water short year. NDNR stated that Platte Republican High Flow Diversion (PRD) Motion to Dismiss is currently under review.

Jim Morgan is requesting a variance for the farm located in Section 23-4-13. The ground has been in CRP and he would like to restore all or part of the acres to irrigated land.

Variance Requests #306 and #307 were presented to the board for approval.

Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Clark Andrews to approve Variance Requests #306 and #307 for Tim Schmidt & Clyde Lueking. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Manager Todd Siel presented resolution #LR-09092021A to the board, calling for the adoption of the Quad Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Motion #4 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Terry Hoit to approve Resolution #LR-09092021A, adopting the Quad Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Manager Todd Siel presented the LRNRD FY2022 budget, Restricted Funds Authority and LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09092021B to the board for approval.

Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by David Bartels to approve the increase in Restricted Funds Authority by an additional 1%. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Motion #6 by Roger Nelson seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the LRNRD FY2022 budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Motion #7 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09092021B, as required by Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02, setting the property tax request at \$1,349,340,000 (\$.033989 per \$100 of assessed value). Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Manager Siel presented the updated vacation accumulation/carry-over leave policy for the personnel handbook.

Motion #8 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the change in the LRNRD personnel policy for vacation as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Leave accumulation/carry-over:

0-4 years:	120 hours
5-9 years:	180 hours
10 years & Over	240 hours

Manager Siel discussed the changes to the payments in the LRNRD Water Well Decommissioning Fund Program.

Motion #9 by Clark Andrews seconded by Terry Hoit to approve the changes to the LRNRD Water Well Decommissioning Fund Program as presented. Cost-Share of 75% up to \$750 maximum per domestic, livestock, or irrigation well and a maximum of \$1,000 per hand dug well. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

PRD Update: NRD Staff inquired with NeDNR regarding the PRD motion to dismiss and were informed it is currently under review. Based on the information that was given to Kansas at the Annual RRCA meeting, we do not know how long it will take for a decision to be made.

NCORPE Update: Nick attended the UNL West Central Research & Extension field day in North Platte. Senator Groene spoke about his plans to focus on the NCORPE project and his efforts to bring the legislation to the floor of the Unicameral, since this is his last year in the legislature. The next NCORPE meeting will be October 20, 2021.

NARD Update: NARD Annual Conference will be held on September 27th & 28th in Kearney.

Other Business: Nick Simonson talked about water quality and nitrate management issues across the state.

Motion #10 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Matt Harrison to move the November board meeting to Wednesday, November 10th at 2pm. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Motion #11 by Clark Andrews seconded by Terry Hoit to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 7:52pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation, and personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3 Bill Bose, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Motion #12 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:20pm 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, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be October 14th, 2021, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Secretary

Date