



## **LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,  
30 North John, Alma, NE  
February 10, 2022, at 2pm

A notice of the meeting was published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

### **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 2:11 pm. 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, 1/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 1/22

NRCS Staff Report, 2/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 2/22

Variance Requests #308 & #309 Winchester LLC/Premier Trust, Inc.

Excused Absences: None.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Don Duffy, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Tyler Cappel, Arapahoe, Joe Haas, Oxford.

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

Don Duffy was sworn in as director in Sub-District 5 prior to the LRNRD Board Meeting.

**Comments from the Public:** Tyler Cappel introduced himself as a running candidate for State Legislature district 38.

**Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the January minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 0.**

**Motion #2 by Brad Wulf seconded by David Bartels to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for December. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 0.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. The report provided updates on EQIP, CSP and RCPP. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Extension Climatologist Al Dutcher was the keynote speaker at the South-Central Water Conference held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Even though the winter has been dry, larger climate patterns show that ample moisture exists in the Western Hemisphere.

The Unicameral is exactly one-third of the way done with their 60-day session, as of February 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were 593 bills and 29 resolutions introduced in the second session. There are a few bills that we are monitoring closely but believe the NRDs are in pretty good shape. We continue to be told that not every bill will be debated, and they may not even be able to get to all of the priority bills. This is due to Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and all the bills submitted for that money. LB 1262, introduced by Senator Murman, would carve out funds for recreational uses and target four (4) lakes in Nebraska, including Harlan County Lake. It would provide 8 million dollars for new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities. We provided support of this bill

through written testimony and will wait to hear the results. While NG&PC would administer the funds, we could potentially partner on projects if the board found it in our best interest.

South Platte Compact and the Perkins County Canal. The Governor has a legitimate concern that Colorado may deplete the South Platte River to a trickle if we do not protect our interest. What this means is the project warrants some serious consideration by our State.

Due to the resignation of Terry Hoit, a vacancy exists in Sub-District 5. Advertisements for the opening have been run in the Red Cloud Chief and the Superior Express, as well as contacting those who have shown interest in the past.

**Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Bill Bose to accept the resignation of Terry Hoit from LRNRD Subdistrict 5. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 0.**

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch left the meeting room during the discussion of Variance Requests #308 and #309. Vice Chairperson Bill Bose conducted the meeting.

**Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve Variance Requests #308 & #309 for Winchester LLC/Premier Trust, Inc. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Abstained 1 – Marlin Murdoch.**

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch returned to conduct the meeting after motion 4 was completed.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA):** The WFPO projects are continuing as scheduled. Information is being compiled for the upcoming public meetings in late March, or early April, with details being finalized over the next month.

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** Director Reilly was asked during our meeting with him and our senators if there was anything to report on the status of our Motion to Dismiss with PRD. He responded that they are still reviewing the information from July.

**NCORPE Update:** NCORPE accepted grazing bids on the property.

**NARD Update:** Todd, Nick, Shirlee, Mary and Matt Harrison attended the legislative conference in Lincoln in January. Todd, Nick and Matt discussed the bills that will affect the NRDs or in which the NRDs have an interest. All bills were unanimously agreed upon by the NRDs and we will continue to monitor them throughout the legislative process. Matt was commended for his efforts at the meetings.

**Other Business:** None.

**Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 3:10pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 0.**

Clark Andrews left closed session at 4:34pm

**Motion #6 by Matt Harrison seconded by Brad Wulf to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 5:10pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 0.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

---

Secretary

---

Date