



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,  
30 North John, Alma, NE  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7pm

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 7:08pm. 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, 3/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 3/22

NRCS Staff Report, 4/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 4/22

Excused Absences: Brad Wulf.

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

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Troy Fletcher, Lynette and Sid Gruwell, Mike Hynek, Guide Rock, John Thorburn, Jared, Michelle and Kaylee Baker, Kynn and Ayden Molzahn, Cody Hubl, Bonnie Hatch, Lee Fintel.

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

**Comments from the Public:** none.

**Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Bill Bose to approve the March minutes and Rules Violation minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 1.**

**Motion #2 by David Bartels seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for March. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 1.**

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

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Fires continue to spread and burn in Gosper and Furnas County, scorching an estimated 35,000 acres.

**Trees:** The NRD is gearing up for tree planting and have plans to get started the first part of May. Over 14,000 trees were sold this year, which is slightly more than last year.

**Water Jamboree:** The annual Water Jamboree will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> near the Harlan County Reservoir. Approximately 500 students and 75 adult volunteers will participate in the event this year.

**Recycling** - We are pleased to announce Trailblazer RC&D has been awarded grants from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE) for Tire Recycling and from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) for Electronic Recycling in 2022. These events provide a way for individuals to dispose of used tires and electronics at no cost and are a joint effort with the LRNRD, Supervisors and Commissioners of Harlan, Franklin, and Webster Counties, and local communities.

There will be three locations within our district that will host collections this summer:

**Electronic Recycling:** Hildreth – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00-12:00; Alma – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00-5:00; Red Cloud – Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00-12:00 PM.

**Tire Recycling:** Guide Rock – Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00-12:00; Franklin – Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00-12:00; Alma – Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00-12:00 PM.

**LRNRD Scholarship Recipients:** Cody Hubl, Kaylee Baker, and Ayden Molzahn each thanked the board for the \$1,000 scholarships awarded and spoke of their future plans.

**Violation of rules:** Violations of Rule 5-6.3 in Sections 8-1-16 and 9-1-16 in Franklin County for Roger and Lynette Gruwell were presented to the board. Staff recommended to the board the following penalty: a 13-inch hard cap for the 2022 irrigation season, and limit carryover for the next allocation period (2023-2027) to no more than 4.5 inches per acre on 183.2 acres in Sections 8-1-16W and 9-1-16W, in Franklin County. Wells G-065981 and G-040098 will only be allowed to irrigate 94.7 acres in 8-1-16W and well G-065865 will only be allowed to irrigate 88.5 acres in 9-1-16W. Gruwells were also directed to cap the pipeline that crosses the section line, under County Road 22, to prevent ground water from being pumped from Section 8 to Section 9. LRNRD Staff will prepare the required documents to be signed by both the LRNRD and Gruwells.

**Motion #3 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to enforce penalties of a 13 inch per acre hard cap for the 2022 irrigation season and limit carryover for the next allocation period to no more than 4.5 inches per acre on 183.2 acres owned by Roger and Lynette Gruwell in Section(s) 8-1-16W & 9-1-16W in Franklin County for the violation of rule 5-6.3. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 1.**

Sub District 5 candidates Lee Fintel and Mike Hynek both gave a brief biography of themselves and why they wish to be appointed to the LRNRD board of directors.

**Motion #4 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Clark Andrews to appoint Lee Fintel as LRNRD Director for Subdistrict 5, with Oath of Office being administered at our next regular meeting on May 12th, 2022. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Don Duffy, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose. Nays 0, Absent 1 Brad Wulf.**

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA):** The WFPO Ad Hoc Committees met with Olsson to discuss progress for each watershed. Olsson will now revise the preferred alternatives, schedule public meetings for later this summer, and lay out the steps moving forward. Simonson submitted the one-year progress and financial reports to NRCS. LRNRD has approximately one year left to complete the assessment and submit findings and alternatives to NRCS.

**Rural Water Update:** Todd Siel said the rural water system will need to have an engineer conduct a hydraulic study to evaluate the maximum unit capacity of the system. There is an increased interest in connecting to the water system. Siel also discussed the excess equipment to be sold.

**Motion #5 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Bill Bose to approve listing the LRNRD Rural Water equipment with an online auction service. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 1 David Bartels, Absent 1.**

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** The PRD met in March. A multi-year grazing lease with Abe Kuck was approved.

**NCORPE Update:** There is a regular board meeting scheduled for April 20, 2022, at North Platte.

**NARD Update:** The LRNRD will be hosting the NRD Manager's retreat the end of August.

**Other Business:** Discussion was held on the wildfire in Gosper and Furnas County. The fire covered an estimated 35,000 acres. It started on April 7<sup>th</sup> in Gosper County when wind gusts were recorded at over 60 mph across the region. USDA Disaster Assistance Workshop will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Ella Missing Center in Arapahoe for farmers, ranchers and rural landowners impacted by the recent wildfire in the Gosper/Furnas County Area. Various disaster assistance programs will be presented.

**Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Bill Bose move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:46pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 1.**

**Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Bill Bose to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 10:05pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 1.**

**Flag Creek:** Plans are to continue moving forward on the acquisition of the Flag Creek property for the augmentation project.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.

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Secretary

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Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant  
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