



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,  
30 North John, Alma, NE  
June 9, 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:**

Secretary David Bartels called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00pm. Due to the absence of the Chairman, and Vice Chairman, Manager Todd Siel informed the board a Chairman Pro Tempore must be designated, through a vote of the body, to preside over the meeting until Chairman Marlin Murdoch arrives. Chairperson Pro Tempore 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.

**Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to designate Secretary David Bartels as Chairman Pro Tempore for the June 9th, 2022, Lower Republican NRD board meeting, until Chairman Marlin Murdoch arrives at the meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0 Absent 3.**

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 5/22  
LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 5/22  
NRCS Staff Report, 6/22  
LRNRD Staff Report, 6/22

Excused Absences: Bill Bose, Brad Wulf.

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

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Troy Fletcher, Oxford.

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

**Comments from the Public:** none.

**Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the May minutes and Variance minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0 Absent 3.**

**Motion #3 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for May. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0 Absent 3.**

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

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report.

**Drought Planning Exercise:** Todd, Nick and Marlin Murdoch attended the drought planning exercise meeting in Cambridge on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the meeting went well and even though the turn out may not have set any records, it was great to have several of the key stakeholders in the Republican River Basin meeting and working together on a common goal. While planning for drought always comes with its challenges, we all felt that the meeting was a good opportunity to discuss things that can be done better when dealing with any natural disaster. We have not received any materials at this time but there should be some results forthcoming from DNR.

**Trees** – Machine planting was here and gone before we knew it this year. The contractor tilled every site this year with their machines in two days. They started south of Wilcox and went east through Franklin and Webster counties on Hwy 4 over to Rosemont (South of Hastings) and ended Monday evening at Terry Hoit’s planting. Tuesday, they went across the south end of Webster and Franklin Counties and came back into Harlan County on Hwy 136 before being stopped by some storms. Wednesday, they finished Harlan and Furnas and headed home. Nick received messages and calls about the efficiency and quality of work from several landowners and the staff was impressed as well. Terry Hoit gave them his stamp of approval and his only issue was they were there and gone so fast that he never got out to see them planting! Nick had spreadsheet showing what was planted in each county.

Marlin Murdoch arrived at 7:20pm.

**WaterSMART Grant** – On May 16<sup>th</sup> the NRD received notice from the Bureau of Reclamation that our application for the telemetry meters was approved for the full \$2 million dollars. The LRNRD was one of the 22 applications selected of the 131 submitted across the Western States. Senator Deb Fisher’s office reached out to us and did a press release on our project as it was the only Nebraska application approved in this round of funding. The LRNRD will start the process of finalizing a contract with the BOR over the next several months and once all that is done, the LRNRD should be able to move forward with the installation of the telemetry meters.

**Managers Meeting:** May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup> was the Managers meeting in Norfolk. Several topics were discussed but as could be expected the main topic was water quality. DNR provided updates on the Natural Resources Commission and requested help in filling the vacancies there. Some other items were the upcoming meeting with NDEE and the new structure of that department. There will be a meeting this fall to improve the NRD and NDEE relationship and how we work with one another.

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

**NARD 414(h) and 457 Plan Restatement:** Both the 414(h) Plan and 457 Deferred Compensation Plan are required to be updated to a more modernized platform per Executive Director Dean Edson. These are not being updated for legislation and no changes have been made to design. Signed resolutions and participation agreements are to be emailed back to the NARD by July 31, 2022.

**Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the NARD 414(h) & 457 Amendment and Restatement Resolutions, Participation Agreements, and authorize our General Manager to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

**Groundwater Rules and Regulations:** Manager Siel discussed having a director’s workshop the end of July for modifications to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations. Siel reminded the board, at the May board meeting the board voted to postpone the consideration of any variance requests relating to Rule 6-5.1 requiring board approval until the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board Meeting.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA):** No update.

**Rural Water Update:** Adam Marshall Land & Auction sold three pieces of Rural Water equipment; the tractor and backhoe, blade, and trailer. There is a temporary freeze on new hook ups until a hydraulic study is completed. The study will indicate how many “hook ups” the system will allow. Original Engineer of the Rural Water Project, Ted McIntyre retired, Miller and Associates was selected to do the hydraulic study. The Rural Water Master Panel crashed. Manager Siel contacted Haag Communications and Municipal Automation & Control for a quote on a new Master Panel.

**Motion #5 by Matt Harrison seconded David Bartels to approve an agreement with Miller & Associates, time and expense not to exceed \$7,000, for a hydraulic study of our rural water system and authorize our General Manager to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

**Motion #6 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve upgrades to the Master Panel at the Rural Water System Booster Station and authorize the General Manager to review and sign an agreement to install the equipment necessary for the Master Panel replacement. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** There are no updates. NeDNR Director Tom Riley said the focus is currently on the South Platte Project.

**Flag Creek:** There was an extension on the closing of the property due to a bank delay. Olsson has been contacted to assist with the pump test.

**Motion #7 by Nelson Trambly seconded by David Bartels to approve the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson, for our Flag Creek Project, and authorize our General Manager to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 1 Absent 2.**

**NCORPE Update:** No update.

**NARD Update:** Matt Harrison attended the NARD meeting in Scottsbluff on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Matt is on the NARD Information & Education committee.

**Other Business:** None.

**Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:27pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

**Motion #9 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:29pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

**Motion #10 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Lee Fintel to approve a \$40 per month mobile phone stipend for our Water Resources Technicians that are using their personal mobile phones for work. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0 Absent 2.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

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Secretary

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Date