



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

### **Board of Directors Meeting:**

Vice Chairperson Bill Bose called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00pm. Due to the absence of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson Bill Bose 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, 6/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 6/22

NRCS Staff Report, 7/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 7/22

Excused Absences: David Bartels, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, Bill Bose, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Chelsea Erickson, KS-DWR.

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

**Comments from the Public:** Chelsea Erickson stated that the RRCA annual meeting will be on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in Burlington, CO.

**Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the June minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 4, Abstain 1 Bill Bose.**

Matt Harrison arrived at 7:04pm.

**Motion #2 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for June. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. The report provided updates on EQIP and gave a CSP presentation. A full copy of this report is in the minute book. The Southwest Regional Land Judging Contest will be in Harlan County, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. A copy of the report is in the minute book.

**WaterSMART Grant** –On July 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a webinar with the Grants Division of USBOR to discuss the grant funding and contracting process. Nick spoke with USBOR representatives, and they stated that these agreements will take considerable time and are not dependent on the end of the Federal Fiscal Year, which means that this will probably be late 2022 or early 2023 before we have all the necessary paperwork completed.

**Republican River Compact Administration:** The Annual RRCA meeting will be held in Burlington, CO, August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. This will overlap with the NARD Managers Meeting being held in Alma, so the LRNRD will not be attending in person.

**LRNRD – Open House Meetings** - The NRD is planning to have several meetings throughout the district this coming Fall/Winter to update producers on what is taking place in the LRNRD. No specific dates have been set up yet, but the timeframe is expected to be late November and early December.

**League Association of Risk Management (LARM):** The LRNRD insurance coverage through LARM is up for renewal. Todd Siel asked the directors to consider the coverage for three (3) years, which will lead to a significant savings in premium.

**Motion #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the renewal of League Association of Risk Management (LARM) insurance coverage for three years (2022-2024) and to grant authority to the General Manager to sign the 2022-2023 LARM Renewal Resolution. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**Groundwater Rules and Regulations:** Plans for a Groundwater Rules and Regulations modification workshop were made for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00am at the LRNRD office.

**Motion #4 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Brad Wulf to approve holding a Groundwater Rules and Regulations Modifications workshop on August 17, 2022, at 10am. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** The Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report for the Flag Creek watershed will be presented to the State Conservationist in the next few weeks and should be submitted to the National Water Management Center by August. We continue to work on the Turkey Creek and Thompson Creek alternatives. We hope to have meetings scheduled for the public input on the alternatives in late August.

**Rural Water Update:** Miller and Associates are starting the hydraulic study to determine limits to our system, in its current state. With the hot, dry conditions and leaks we are realizing how close we are to full capacity.

Manager Siel presented the draft Rural Water FY2023 budget to the board for approval.

**Motion #5 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the Draft FY2023 Rural Water Budget. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** The PRD is interviewing for a new attorney. Current attorney Dave Barga was appointed to District 1 as a Judge.

Manager Siel presented the FY2023 PRD Budget to the board for approval.

**Motion #6 by Brad Wulf seconded by Lee Fintel to approve the Draft FY2023 Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project budget. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**Flag Creek:** The purchase of the Flag Creek Property closed on June 28<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was held with Olsson and NeDNR about the Water Resources Cash fund subcontract for this project. The subcontract will need to be in place to get funds obligated for starting on the groundwater sub-model and moving into the development and construction phases of the project.

**NCORPE Update:** Legal condemnation procedures with McDermott continue as we are waiting on an appraisal. Kyle Shepherd and NRD managers are starting the draft FY2023 budgeting process.

**NARD Update:** This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NRD. Several NRD's are having festivities to celebrate.

**Other Business:** None.

**Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:00pm to discuss Contractual Negotiation, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0 Absent 3.**

**Motion #9 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:30pm 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.**

**Motion #10 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Brad Wulf to approve FY2023 salaries as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8, Nays 0 Absent 3.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

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Secretary

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Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant  
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