



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,  
30 North John, Alma, NE  
August 11<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:**

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 7:00pm. 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, 7/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 7/22

NRCS Staff Report, 8/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 8/22

FY2023 Draft Budget, 8/22

Excused Absences: David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at NRD Office: Clark Andrews, Don Duffy, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Jim Schneider and Mallory Morton, Olsson.

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

**Comments from the Public:** None.

**Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Don Duffy to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for July. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. The report provided updates on EQIP, CSP and CRP. 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. The report provided updates on WFPO, Tire Recycling, WaterSMART Grant, Rules and Regulations workshop and NARD Annual Conference. A copy of the report is in the minute book.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** A public information open house has been scheduled regarding the Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Thompson Creek watershed in Kearney and Franklin Counties. The open house will be at the American Legion Hall 328 in Riverton, NE on Thursday, August 25, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. This meeting is being held to provide information regarding the project and to receive the public's input on three preliminary alternatives that are under consideration. The open house for the Turkey Creek watershed is scheduled for September 7, and a public notice with meeting details will be finalized by mid-August.

Jim Schneider and Mallory Morton, Olsson, spoke to the board about potential alternatives for both Thompson Creek and Turkey Creek watersheds. Information can be found at [www.LRNRD.org](http://www.LRNRD.org).

Manager Siel discussed the occupation tax rate with the board and stated that it has been at \$8 per acre since FY2019.

**Motion #3 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Don Duffy to set the FY23 Occupation tax rate at \$8 per acre. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

Manager Todd Siel discussed the FY23 Draft LRNRD budget. Todd highlighted several different categories.

**Motion #4 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the FY2023 Draft LRNRD budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**Motion #5 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Don Duffy to set FY2023 Budget Hearing date and time for September 8th, 2022, at 6:30pm. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**Rural Water Update:** Miller and Associates continue to work on the hydraulic study and results should be available by early September. The Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) in the pump house quit working. Sargent Irrigation was able to modify the control panel and return to automatic control. Siel received bids on updating the Master panel and the telemetry system.

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** PRD continues to interview attorneys for the purpose of selecting new legal counsel for PRD.

**Flag Creek:** Jim Schneider and Mallory Morton spoke about how a pump test would work and evaluating the timing of when that could be accomplished. A request for bids from three different well drillers would be obtained and then the time frame for conducting the test will be set at that time. Jim Schneider spoke about installing monitoring wells and looking to determine locations and number. Twin Valley Public Power has been contacted to get electricity to the site for well testing and installation.

**NCORPE Update:** Kyle Shepherd and NRD managers are finalizing the draft FY2023 budget. The lease is up on the last pivot this year. Beginning with 2023, there will be no irrigated acres on the property.

**WaterSMART Grant** – McCrometer President Bernie Duffy, National Sales Manager Pete Oveson from California, and Ken Quandt, met at the LRNRD office to discuss the grant timing and other factors that McCrometer may be able to assist us with, such as compliance with the Buy America Act. This was an informational meeting to ensure that the goals of the grant can be implemented as efficiently as possible. Nick has been working with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to provide the needed information to the Grants and Agreements team to complete the contract for our grant. There are some requirements with the new Buy America Act that we are working on with our vendors to ensure we follow the Act. Nick spoke with BOR about making purchases before the grant is executed. The BOR confirmed that purchases can be made as long as nothing that is considered an undertaking that would require a cultural resources review was commenced. We plan to purchase the "Gateway", which is the transfer between the data that will come off the meters and then transferred to the designated server located at the NRD office. If we transfer meter information to a designated server, then we will not have to reimburse McCrometer to host the data. Nick asked the board to allow the district to incur expenses associated with the grant prior to final execution. This grant includes 8 weather stations that will be installed across the district.

**Motion #6 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to allow the district to incur expenses associated with the WaterSMART Grant prior to final execution of the agreement. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**NARD Update:** The NARD Managers meeting will in Alma on August 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Staff are finalizing plans for the meetings and activities associated with the event. Annual Conference will be September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and there is a block of rooms reserved for directors and staff.

**Other Business:** None.

**Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 9:23pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

**Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:45pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. David Bartels, Bill Bose, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Brad Wulf.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, immediately following the 6:30pm budget hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

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Secretary

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Date