



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
September 8th, 2022, at 7pm

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

FY 2023 Budget Hearing

A Notice of Budget Hearing & Summary Hearing, and Public Meeting Notice was published in the Harlan County Journal on September 1st, 2022, and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

FY2023 BUDGET HEARING & SUMMARY PUBLIC HEARING

The Lower Republican NRD FY23 Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Marlin Murdoch at 6:30 pm. The notice to this hearing was published in the Harlan County Journal on September 1st, 2022. Manager Todd Siel provided the proof of publication affidavit for the notice. 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. Siel presented an outline of the key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Three (3) copies of the budget were available for public review. County Valuations were reviewed, and the amount of property tax asking is set at \$1,400,824; levy is 0.033989 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 3.81%. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue and grants, the total operating budget of the LRNRD will be over last year's by 22.37%. The floor was then opened for public comment on the proposed budget statement. All members of the public wishing to address the governing body were provided a reasonable amount of time to do so. There were no comments from the public.

Marlin Murdoch closed the budget hearing at 6:45pm.

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 6:45pm. 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, 8/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 8/22

NRCS Staff Report, 9/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 9/22

FY2023 Amended Draft Budget, 9/22

Excused Absences: Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, 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 #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by David Bartels to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for August. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

NRCS Staff Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. The report provided updates on EQIP, RCPP, and CSP. The Southwest Regional Land Judging Contest will be in Alma, October 5th, 2022. 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. The report provided updates on WFPO, WaterSMART Grant, NRD Manager's Retreat, LRNRD Rules and Regulations update, RRCA Annual Meeting and NARD Annual Conference. A copy of the report is in the minute book.

Manager Todd Siel presented the LRNRD FY2023 amended budget, the additional 1% for Restricted Funds Authority and LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09082022-01 to the board for approval.

Motion #3 by David Bartels seconded by Don Duffy to approve the increase in Restricted Funds Authority by an additional 1%. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Motion #4 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the FY2023 LRNRD amended budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Motion #5 by Don Duffy seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09082022-01, as required by Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02, setting the property tax request at \$1,400,824.00 (\$.033989 per \$100 of assessed value). Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Rules and Regulations: Siel and Simonson have spent a significant amount of time reviewing and revising the Rules & Regulations. Discussion was held on items that did not get finalized during the workshop. Plans are to have the final draft prepared for approval at the October meeting. Once the final draft is approved, the public hearing date will be set.

Rural Water Update: Miller and Associates continue to work on the hydraulic study. Siel spoke with Haug Communication, and they are hopeful that materials for the Master panel will arrive in October.

Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update: A decision on new counsel will be made at the next PRD meeting on September 13th.

Flag Creek: We are reviewing the draft subcontract under the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF). Jim Schneider, Olsson, is formulating details for the subcontract and scheduling a test pump. LRNRD staff will also be measuring existing wells in the area during meter reading this fall. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will also review the WRCF subcontract before finalizing.

NCORPE Update: The LRNRD has been getting inquiries as to why we are not pumping the wells at NCORPE. We are not in a water short year nor are we in a compact call year for 2022. NeDNR will provide the annual forecast in November. The probability is high that 2023 will be declared a Compact Call Year if dry conditions continue this fall.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): Open House Public meetings were held in Riverton on August 25th and in Oxford on September 7th, to present the preferred alternatives to the WFPO plans on Turkey and Thompson Creeks. Attendance was lower than the November 2022 meetings. We hope to get the final touches put on these plans once the public comment period closes and then we will submit them to NRCS.

WaterSMART Grant: The last of the required budgetary grant information for the Bureau has been sent in. We will not have the final execution date for the grant right away, but it may be getting closer. We continue to work on the other items that will help us hit the ground running once we receive the final funding.

NARD Update: Annual Conference will be September 26th and 27th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. There is a block of rooms reserved for directors and staff.

Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:52pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 8:59pm 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. Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Brad Wulf.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be October 13th, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
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