



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
October 13th, 2022, at 7:30am

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at 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 7:30am. 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, 9/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer’s Report, 9/22

LRNRD Staff Report, 10/22

Draft Key Proposed Changes to the Ground Water Rules & Regulations

Excused Absences: None

Directors present at NRD Office: Marlin Murdoch.

Staff present via Zoom: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Matt Harrison, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Troy Fletcher, Oxford,

Others present via Zoom: Jack Russell, MRNRD.

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

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the September minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #2 by Brad Wulf seconded by David Bartels to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer’s reports for September. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

NRCS Staff Report: There was no NRCS report this month.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. The report provided updates on WFPO, WaterSMART Grant, Rules and Regulations update and NARD Annual Conference. The LRNRD received thank you’s were received from Evan Lutkemeier, Ace Camp, LEAD Group, Shirlee Poyser and Kristi Heft. A copy of the report is in the minute book.

Coffee with the NRD will be held in late November and early December.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City</u>
11/29/2022	1:00 - 3:00	Johnson Center	Alma
12/1/2022	9:00 - 11:00	Superior Country Club	Superior
12/1/2022	1:00 - 3:00	Community Center	Red Cloud
12/6/2022	9:00 - 11:00	Fire Hall / City Hall	Hildreth
12/6/2022	1:00 - 3:00	Franklin Country Club	Franklin
12/13/2022	9:00 - 11:00	Community Building	Holbrook
12/13/2022	1:30 - 3:30	Hilltop Event Center	Oxford

Ground Water Management Rules and Regulations: Managers Siel and Simonson spoke to the board about the key proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations. Barring any last-minute changes, we need approval of the final draft and schedule the Public Hearing for November 10th at 2:00pm.

Motion #3 David Bartels seconded by Nelson Trambly to approve the DRAFT LRNRD Ground Water Management Rules and Regulations, as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #4 David Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to set the Ground Water Management Rules and Regulations hearing for Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 2:00pm. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Rural Water Update: Preliminary information has been received from Miller on the engineering study. Jim Zimmerman has been out getting some pressures to help pinpoint our potential problem areas. There seem to be no major issues in the system, however there are concerns about adding to it.

Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update: PRD hired new legal counsel, Attorney Paul Peter of Keating O’Gara. New counsel is working with DNR in regard to the legal process to remove our previous attorney and firm. There has not been an update on the hearing from July of 2021 but we hope to have DNR’s response to our request to remove the objectors prior to the next board meeting.

Flag Creek: Static Water level measurements have been taken on 24 wells in the area around our property. This will provide some baseline information to incorporate with the other data we are compiling. Most of the wells have not been measured since they were drilled, so no definitive conclusions can be drawn from these measurements. These wells will be measured again in the spring. We are continuing to work with Olsson and DNR to get the contract ready for our pump test.

NCORPE Update: The next meeting will be October 19th, in North Platte. We are planning to discuss the effect the Compact Call designation would have on the operations at NCORPE. We need to make sure that if we are going to pump, we need to be cognizant of the resolution that was signed in 2018 and make sure we are making the best use of the augmentation water. Harlan County Lake levels point towards a Compact Call designation in 2023.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): Monday, October 17th, the LRNRD is meeting with NRCS and Olsson to do a site visit in both watersheds. The purpose is to allow NRCS to see the locations of the alternative sites we have chosen to move forward with and also review the sites of the alternatives that we did not select. We have no additional information on our Flag Creek proposal that was sent to Little Rock.

WaterSMART Grant: We fully executed the Grant and have funding in the account. Nick meets with McCrometer on Monday afternoon to go over items that we will be acquiring for the first phase of the grant.

NARD Annual Conference: Todd, Nick, Shirlee, Mary, Kristi and Lynetta all attended all or portions of the Annual Conference at the end of September. Former director Roger Nelson also attended the NARD Annual Conference. There was a significant focus on water quality and the more efficient use of fertilizer, specifically nitrogen, to reduce the impairment of our groundwater. There was also a lot of discussion about the ongoing drought that has affected the entire state in 2022. On a brighter note, Kristi and Shirlee received recognition for their 30 years of service to the NRD and Lynetta was honored for 20 years of service. The resolution regarding the NARD’s support of sustainable agriculture failed by 5 votes.

Other Business: The technicians have read an estimated 800 meters.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be November 10th at 2:00pm, immediately following the Ground Water Rules and Regulations public hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11am.

Secretary

Date