



**LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT RULES
AND REGULATIONS HEARING MINUTES AND BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
November 10, 2022, at 2:00pm

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS HEARING

Notice of the Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations was published in the district newspapers and on the district website at www.lrnrd.org

The Lower Republican NRD Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Marlin Murdoch at 2:00pm. Murdoch stated the purpose of the hearing was to accept testimony on modifications and revisions to the LRNRD Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations. Manager Todd Siel read the summary of Key Proposed changes to the Rules and Regulation. Todd Siel then read the written testimony from the NE Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there were no other testimonies.

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

Excused Absence: Matt Harrison

The public hearing adjourned at 2:09pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

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

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 2:10pm. 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.

Excused Absences: Matt Harrison

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Mike Stephens, NRCS, Franklin.

Staff present: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser, Kristen Heft, Travis Fisher.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 10/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 10/22

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 11/22

Key Proposed Changes to the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations

Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations

Comments from the Public: Travis Fisher was introduced to the board. Travis started working as a Technician for the NRD in May.

Matt Harrison arrived at 2:13pm

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the October minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #2 by Brad Wulf seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for October. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

NRCS Staff Report: Mike Stephens, Franklin Co. NRCS gave the NRCS report. Mike reported on EQIP and CSP. A full report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. The NeDNR Annual Forecast Meeting will meet on November 15th to review water conditions throughout the basin and discuss our Integrated Management Plan (IMP) obligations related to compact compliance. NeDNR is stating that a Compact Call Year appears likely for 2023. Also, on November 15th, the Republican River Basin-Wide meeting will provide updates for NeDNR as well as each of the Republican Basin NRDs, on the basin-wide plan goals, NRD programs, and progress reports for conservation projects.

November 8th was Election Day; Troy Fletcher replaces Bill Bose in Sub-district 2. Clark Andrews, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Nelson Trambly and Brad Wulf were all re-elected in their sub-district.

Meter readings by the Technicians are moving along at a swift pace. Approximately 90% of the irrigation meters have been read in the district.

A copy of the report is in the minute book.

Ground Water Management Rules and Regulations: Managers Siel and Simonson reviewed the highlighted key proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations.

Motion #3 Tim Kahrs seconded by David Bartels to approve the LRNRD Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations, effective January 1, 2023. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Rural Water Update: Water Superintendent Jim Zimmerman has been working on pressure issues southeast of Red Cloud. They will start by testing valves to see if that improves the pressure issue. The hydraulic study is going to show mapping of the entire system. The two pumps need to be in good operational condition and are due for replacement or rebuilding. Also, the possibility of having a spare pump available will be analyzed.

Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update: We are patiently waiting for NeDNR to rule on the Motion to Dismiss before the application process moves forward.

Flag Creek: Nick and Todd met with Jim Schneider of Olsson. A test hole and monitoring well on the property will be installed which will then provide information on aquifer properties for the area. Twin Valley Public Power has the materials needed to install any necessary power lines once the site is flagged. Olsson and LRNRD staff will work together to determine the location. Static water level measurements were taken around the area and will be done again in the spring.

NCORPE Update: The NCORPE board of directors met for the regular board meeting in North Platte on October 19th. Bruce McDermott's easement negotiation is in process and is hopefully nearing a conclusion. An appraisal was done, and an offer was extended to McDermott, through his legal counsel. A counteroffer has been made by McDermott and the directors and managers will review the conditions. Jeff Moore, of Aspyr Professional Group PC, has been selected as the new accounting firm for NCORPE. Jeff was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the board. Invenergy joined the meeting virtually to discuss where things stand regarding property analysis and review some of the challenges that they are facing with power transmission. We are approximately 2 years into the 4-year development period of the contract.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):

Olsson continues to work with NRCS on both Turkey and Thompson Creek, finishing up the environmental evaluation aspects, and there are required natural resource surveys. NRD managers took Olsson and NRCS staff on a tour of both watersheds' key areas. Olsson will submit paperwork to NRCS soon.

WaterSMART Grant: The gateway has been ordered. The computer will be set up and then they will determine the best installation process for the meters. McCrometer is hoping to add a local technician who can help with the on-site telemetry configuration of meters.

NARD Annual Conference: NARD has three different by-laws updates: NARD, Risk Pool, and NARD Foundation by-laws. The next legislature session is coming in January.

Other Business: Reminder: Coffee with the NRD meetings will be held in late November and early December. We will distribute flyers, advertise in the local newspapers, and post invitations on social media.

<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

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be December 8th at 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
S:\Board Meeting Information\FY2023 Minutes, Agenda\7 MINUTES 11.10.2022.docx

