



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,  
30 North John, Alma, NE  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 2:00pm

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). Vice Chairperson Bill Bose called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 2:04pm. The vice chairperson provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statute dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster.

Excused Absences: Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Nelson Trambly.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Bill Bose, Don Duffy, Matt Harrison Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Jerry Kovarik, Aaron Herring and Spencer Moore, NRCS.

Present via Zoom: Karen Labenz, Dana F. Cole

Staff present: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser, Travis Fisher and Dave Bantam.

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 11/22

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/22

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 12/22

FY2022 Audit Report and FY2022 Financial Report

2023 Pickup Bids

Bid Proposals for monitoring wells

TBNRD Resolution – Wildfires – Water Usage

**Comments from the Public:** None.

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

**Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**Motion #2 by David Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for November. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik, Harlan County, gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP and CSP. Jerry complimented the NRD staff on the informational "Coffee with the NRD" meetings. A full report is in the minute book.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. Meter readings are roughly 99.9% read throughout the district. Managers Siel and Simonson have been presenting "Coffee with the NRD" informational meetings throughout the district. These meetings are updating producers on what is happening in the LRNRD. A copy of the report is in the minute book.

The LRNRD FY2022 Audit Report and FY2022 Financial report were presented via zoom by Karen Labenz, Dana F. Cole.

**Motion #3 Brad Wulf seconded by Clark Andrews to accept the FY2022 audit report and FY2022 financial report presented by Dana F. Cole & Company LLP, Karen Labenz, CPA. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

Manager Todd Siel presented the board with two (2) bids for a 2023 Chevy Pickup. Only two of the three dealerships contacted submitted proposals: Tripe Motor - Alma, and Alexander Motors - Superior.

**Motion #4 by David Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to accept the 2023 pickup bid from Tripe Motor. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**Rural Water Update:** Water sample test results have shown positive tests for coliform. The system has been chlorinated for nine (9) straight days. NDEE will conduct a Level 2 assessment on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** No update.

**Flag Creek:** Manager Simonson said they are working on the monitoring well site, which will assist in determining the hydrologic conditions in the area. We are also working with Twin Valley PPD to bring in three phase electrical to the site. Bids for constructing a monitoring well on the Flag Creek project were received from: Holdrege Well Service, Sargent Irrigation Co. and Downey Drilling, Inc. - Holdrege Well Service submitted the lowest bid.

**Motion #5 by David Bartels seconded by Don Duffy to accept the bid from Holdrege Well Service to drill a test hole and monitoring well in the SE ¼ of Section 35-4-19. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**NCORPE Update:** The NCORPE board of directors next regular board meeting will be on January 18, 2023, to be held at the LRNRD office. Legal counsel for Bruce McDermott has indicated they agree with the terms and conditions of the easement negotiation counteroffer. A final agreement will be drafted and presented to both parties for signatures. NCORPE staff are working on ways to cool the well houses more efficiently in summer.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** Olsson and NRCS are working to finish up the chapters and the environmental evaluation aspects, and the required natural resource surveys, so they can submit paperwork to National Watershed Management Center.

**WaterSMART Grant:** The gateway and server will be installed soon, while we continue discussions with McCrometer on the process of installing the meters.

**NARD Update:** NARD Legislative Conference will be held January 23-25, 2023.

**Other Business:** Manager Siel reminded the board that January is when we have Oath of Office for those directors re-elected and newly elected to the board, along with election of board officers for 2023.

Bill Bose was recognized for his 16 years of service to the LRNRD Board of Director's. Manager Siel presented him with a NARD 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary buck knife

Manager Siel presented a resolution that TBNRD is preparing for submission to NeDNR and the Republican River Compact Commission. This resolution addresses water use needed for wildfire response and recovery and asks the compact commission to consider accounting for usage needed for this purpose.

Resale Stock and Customer Charges were presented to the board for consideration.

LRNRD Managers received an information request from Mike Delka. Manager Siel prepared a response letter.

Managers Siel and Simonson discussed well and acre movements. There have been several inquiries regarding variance requests that involve moving a well along with the certified irrigated acres. Manager Siel reminded the board that our revised Ground Water Management Rules and Regulations become effective on January 1, 2023, and we modified certain areas of the rules that address variance requests. The transfer of certified irrigated acres will still be considered in a similar way, after January 1<sup>st</sup>, but the movement of wells will be a different consideration as a result of the rules modifications.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14pm.

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Secretary

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Date