



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
January 12, 2023, 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. Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 2:00pm. The 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: none.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Gale and John Lush.

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

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

Agenda

- LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 12/22
- LRNRD/RWP Treasurer’s Report, 12/22
- LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 1/23
- LRNRD FY2023 Resale Stock and Customer charges

Todd Siel presented the LRNRD Committees and Representatives and indicated where changes needed to be made.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Chairperson, Nelson Trambly nominated Marlin Murdoch. Moved by David Bartels seconded by Tim Kahrs to cease nominations. Marlin Murdoch was selected as Chairperson. All Ayes

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson, Brad Wulf nominated David Bartels. Moved by Tim Kahrs, seconded by Lee Fintel to cease nominations. David Bartels was elected Vice-Chairperson. All Ayes.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Secretary, Clark Andrews nominated Toby tenBensel. Moved by Nelson Trambly seconded by Tim Kahrs to cease nominations. Toby tenBensel was selected as Secretary. All Ayes.

Todd Siel asked for nominations for Treasurer, Brad Wulf nominated Tim Kahrs. Moved by Matt Harrison seconded by David Bartels to cease nominations. Tim Kahrs was elected as Treasurer. All Ayes.

Motion #1 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Matt Harrison to accept the Executive Committee/Officers, Human Resources Committee, Scholarship Committee, LRNRD Project Committee, Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project representatives, Representatives and Alternates as presented. Motion carried. 11 Ayes, Nays 0, Absent 0.

Executive Committee/Officers:

Marlin Murdoch	Chairperson
David Bartels	Vice Chairperson
Toby tenBensel	Secretary
Tim Kahrs	Treasurer

Representatives:

Don Duffy	NARD Representative
Lee Fintel	NARD Alternate
Lynetta Snelling	Trailblazer RC&D Representative
Todd Siel	Trailblazer RC&D Alternate

Nelson Trambly NCORPE Representative
Tim Kahrs NCORPE Alternate

LRNRD Project Committee:

Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel

Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project

Todd Siel, Voting Member, Nick Simonson, Alternate Voting Member

Scholarship Committee:

Mary Goebel, Nick Simonson, Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Brad Wulf

Human Resource Committee:

Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Toby tenBensel to authorize the Lower Republican NRD Board Chairperson, Treasurer and the District's General Manager, Assistant Manager and Administrative Bookkeeper/Assistant to sign/open/close on all LRNRD accounts, LRNRD Rural Water Accounts and the Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project (PRD). Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #3 by Tim Kahrs seconded by David Bartels to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #4 by Brad Wulf seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for December. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

NRCS Staff Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry 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 Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) issued an Order that a Compact Call Year will be in effect for 2023. Coffee with the NRD was a success, with many people commenting how glad they were that the NRD explained what is going on and how the drought is affecting the district and irrigators. The 108th Nebraska Legislative session has begun. We are lucky to keep familiar faces with Senator Murman and keeping Senator Bostelman as the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. We are very pleased to not only have a farmer for a Governor but to have replaced Dan Hughes with Theresa Ibach, another farmer with deep roots in agriculture. NARD Legislative Conference will be held January 23-25 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The Harlan County Reservoir is currently at 72% full. The lake numbers indicate that Harlan is holding 55,378 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year. Lovewell is 68.2% full and Medicine Creek is at 56.4% which are increased levels from December.

Variance Request #315 for Gale, John and Alex Lush was presented to the board, after lengthy discussion it was decided to revisit the variance request at the February board meeting.

Motion #5 by Brad Wulf seconded by Troy Fletcher to table Variance Request #315 for Gale, John and Alex Lush till the February board meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Simonson asked for a motion on the FY2023 Resale Stock and Customer charges that was visited last month

Motion #6 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the FY2023 Resale Stock and Customer Charges. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Rural Water Update: December water sample test results showed positive tests for coliform. A water line break was discovered in the south part of Franklin, south of where the city takes their test. Since that discovery, test results have been negative. There were three (3) bad water tests in a row, that triggered a Level 2 assessment from NDEE. Their representative conducted the assessment on December 20th, and as a result of that Level 2 Assessment, it was pointed out that the current stock tank set up at several locations may be unacceptable. We have roughly 90 stock tank setups but not sure how many are in violation. If we are in violation of the rules regarding stock tank setups, we will need to assess individual locations.

Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update: The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) granted our motion to dismiss all objectors. The deadline for appeals was January 11th. Cozad Ditch Company, Loup Public Power, and three (3) NRDs appealed. NPPD and Audubon did not. The next step will be formulating briefs to address the appeals.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Don Duffy to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 3:38pm to discuss pending litigation. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 4:25pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Nelson Trambly left the meeting at 4:05pm.

Flag Creek: Managers Siel and Simonson contacted suppliers about purchasing a culvert needed for the Flag Creek Project and obtained pricing. We are still waiting to hear back from one of the suppliers for comparison.

Motion # 9 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to purchase a culvert for the Flag Creek project at management discretion. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Olsson prepared a Request for Bid document for selected well drillers. Bids were received from: Holdrege Well Service, \$127,837 Downey Well Service, \$148,578 and Sargent Irrigation, \$138,980.

Discussion centered on the necessity of certain bid items, how the project could be split into different phases, and determining the overall cost for well and pump installation.

Motion #10 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to accept the proposal from Holdrege Well Service for drilling a well and pump installation. Motion failed. Ayes 5 Nays 5, Absent 1 Nelson Trambly.

Brad Wulf left the meeting at 5:07pm.

Motion #11 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Lee Fintel directing management to contact Olsson for clarification on bid items and send out a revised bid sheet for the project. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2 Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

NCORPE Update: The NCORPE board of directors next regular board meeting will be on January 18, 2023, to be held at the LRNRD office in Alma.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): No update.

WaterSMART Grant: Simonson and the LRNRD Field Technicians traveled to Chapman to learn about the installation of the new electronic flow meters. Technicians will conduct site evaluations starting next week.

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

Other Business: None.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be February 9th, 2023, at 2:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

Secretary

Date