



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
April 13, 2023, at 7:00pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org. Vice Chairperson David Bartels called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00pm. 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: Marlin Murdoch, Brad Wulf.

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

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Callie Minnick, Red Cloud.

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

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 3/23

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 3/23

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 4/23

Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Troy Fletcher to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for March. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.

NRCS Staff Report: Jerry Kovarik reported on EQIP, CSP, RCPP. Jerry said that Lizette A. Canales-Gutierrez, a student at Texas A&M, will be a third-party intern this summer. A full report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report.

Water Jamboree: This is the 30th Anniversary of the Water Jamboree. It will be held April 25 & 26 near Harlan County Reservoir. Approximately 500 Students and 75 adult volunteers will participate in the event this year.

Recycling Events: Hazardous Household Water Recycling (HHW) is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023. We have also been awarded grants from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE) for Tire Recycling in 2023. These events provide a way for individuals to dispose of used tires at no cost and are a joint effort with the LRNRD, Supervisors and Commissioners of Harlan, Franklin, and Webster Counties, and local communities.

There will be three locations within our district that will host collections:

HHW Recycling: Red Cloud – Saturday, April 22nd 8:00-10:00 AM; Franklin – Saturday, April 22nd 11:00-1:00 PM; Alma – Saturday, April 22nd 2:00-4:00 PM.

Tire Recycling: Guide Rock – Tuesday, August 29th 8:00-12:00; Hildreth – Tuesday, September 19th 8:00-12:00; Alma – Tuesday, September 19th 8:00-12:00.

LRNRD Scholarship Recipients Callie Minnick thanked the board for the \$1,000 scholarship she received and spoke of her future plans. Ryan Brugh and Chase Bunger also received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Harlan County Reservoir is currently 75.8% full. The lake continues to fill but still needs some significant moisture before long to stay ahead of evaporation and other losses. The lake numbers indicate that Harlan is holding 60,992 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year. The reported precipitation total at the Corps office for March was 0.27" and was 0.33" at the NRD office.

Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property – Staff Committee Variance Approvals:**Double BJ Farms – Contiguous Acre Trade; Reiher Family Trust – Contiguous Acre Trade; Todd Kral - Contiguous Acre Trade; Zeigler Farms – Contiguous Acre Trade.****Variance Request – David and Darcy Johnson:** Staff worked through a solution with David and Darcy Johnson on acres irrigated without a transfer request. A contiguous acre trade was completed, moving some of the NRD certified acres from gravity irrigated fields to pivot irrigated fields. It was agreed that 4.6 acres would be permanently decertified as a result of the acre trade.**Motion #3 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to approve David and Darcy Johnson’s variance request. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.****Rural Water Update:** Manager Siel commented that usage has been higher than normal and suspects a leak somewhere in the system, even though dry conditions are also a contributing factor. Staff will be checking for any issues across the system. Steve McNulty, NDEE, informed the NRD of a grant program through the EPA for disadvantaged communities. Steve feels this would be an excellent opportunity for us to expand our current rural water system.Aurora Cooperative submitted the highest bid of \$72,000 for the purchase of the Rural Water building, located at 867 20th Avenue, Franklin, NE. A total of seven bidders submitted proposals.**Motion #4 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Lee Fintel to accept the high bid of \$72,000 for the Rural Water building, located at 867 20th Avenue, Franklin, NE from Aurora Cooperative and to authorize our General Manager(s) to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2.****Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project (PRD) Update:** The PRD board met in March. Tri-Basin brought up the possibility of selling a portion of the PRD property, but legal counsel, Attorney Jeff Cox, did not believe this would be prudent at this point and there could also possibly be liability issues.**Flag Creek Update:** The monitoring well was drilled last month. The well drilling cost was less than anticipated since the well depth was slightly less expected. Simonson spoke with Joe Keller, Holdrege Well Service, pertaining to the status of the augmentation well and billing for NeDNR reimbursement. Static Water Level (SWL) measurements were taken on 24 wells to check recharge on surrounding wells. Twin Valleys Public Power District will install a 3 phase electric line in June. Discussion was held on drilling the second well at the same time. Staff will work with Olsson and NeDNR to determine feasibility.**NCORPE Update:** The next scheduled NCORPE meeting will be April 19th in Alma.**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** The request for extension was received.**WaterSMART Grant:** No update.**NARD Update:** The next NRD managers’ meeting is scheduled for June 6-7th and the NARD board meeting will be June 11-12th.**Other Business:** Simonson discussed the dry weather conditions and the potential fire hazards while planting trees. The board discussed the need for caution and utilizing good judgment.**Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Nelson Trambly to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:28pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations and Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried.****Motion #6 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.**The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be May 11th, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
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