



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room,
30 North John, Alma, NE
August 10, 2023, at 6:00pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lnrnd.org. Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 6:00pm. 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: Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Chris Grams, Upland, Nolan Little, TBNRD.

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, 7/23

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 7/23

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 8/23

LRNRD FY2024 DRAFT Budget Breakdown & Summary

FY2024 Platte Republican High Flow Diversion Project Budget

Comments from the public: Engineers Lalit Jha and Mike Placke, with JEO Consulting Group, provided a presentation detailing their experience with NRDs across the state and is a full-service engineering firm.

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Don Duffy to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for July. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

NRCS Staff Report: Shaina Vincent, Acting DC, emailed out the NRCS staff report prior to the meeting. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Manager's Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD Staff Report. The August Managers Retreat will be in Ord on August 28th-30th. A copy is in the minute book.

Subdistrict #4 Vacancy: Two (2) applications for the vacancy in subdistrict #4 were received. Chris Grams and Mike Delka. Grams presented a brief biography of his qualifications.

Motion #3 by David Bartels seconded by Brad Wulf to appoint Chris Grams as LRNRD Director for Subdistrict 4, with Oath of Office being administered at our next regular meeting on September 14th, 2023. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Manager Siel discussed the occupation tax rate with the board and stated that it has been at \$8 per acre since FY2019.

Motion #4 by Don Duffy seconded by Clark Andrews to set the FY2024 Occupation Tax rate at \$8 per acre. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #5 by Brad Wulf seconded by Lee Fintel to approve the Platte Republican High Flow Diversion Project FY2024 budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Manager Todd Siel presented the FY24 Draft LRNRD budget. Todd highlighted several different categories.

Motion #6 by David Bartels seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the FY2024 Draft LRNRD budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #7 by Lee Fintel seconded by Troy Fletcher to set the FY2024 Budget Hearing date and time for September 14th, 2023, at 6:30pm. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Variance Request approvals: There were none.

Rural Water Update: The roof on the building in Franklin has been repaired, and we will now finalize the sale with Aurora Coop. We also hope that the pump and motor is delivered this week for the booster station, and we will work to get it installed once we can get everything lined up for the changeover. This should provide additional capacity to assist in keeping up with the heavy demand in the summer months.

Republican River Compact Administration: The RRCA Annual meeting of the 3 states will be held in Burlington, Colorado on August 31. Nick and/or Todd plan to attend. While they don't expect any significant announcements or surprising updates, it is always an interesting meeting with a lot of great information on compact issues.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: The Nebraska Supreme Court hearing will be held on August 29th. Todd and Nick have met with the attorneys to discuss strategy.

Flag Creek Update: Twin Valleys Public Power District installed the 3-phase electric line. Holdrege Electric will be able to get the wells wired up soon. We are working with Olsson to get a test pump timeframe and strategy in place for this fall and winter.

NCORPE: Todd, Nick, Tim, and Don attended the NCORPE quarterly meeting that was held on July 19th. Renewable energy leases were discussed. Lincoln County has a moratorium on permits for any new facilities until they complete their review and possible update of the zoning and permitting regulations. After the meeting, staff and directors went on to the NCORPE headquarters and had lunch and a tour. They were able to see several different things that are going on and finished up at the North Outlet for Twin Platte's water delivery into CNPPID's canal just west of Lake Maloney.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): Olsson is working with the NRCS team to finalize chapters in the plan.

WaterSMART Grant: Staff met with McCrometer representatives on July 18th to go over specifics about the installation and other needs. 100 - 8" meters were delivered on July 19th.

NARD Update: Annual NARD Conference is scheduled for September 25 and 26th in Kearney.

Nex-Tech: The Technology as a Service (TAAS) contract with Nex-Tech expires this fiscal year. Nick and Todd are working to get quotes for IT services before the contract expires.

Manager Siel brought it to everyone's attention that the October board meeting may possibly be a virtual meeting. October is a difficult month with harvest.

Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Brad Wulf to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:38pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Motion #9 by Clark Andrews seconded by Brad Wulf to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:38pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 2.

Other Business: none.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be September 14th, 2023, starting with the LRNRD budget hearing at 6:30pm immediately followed by the monthly board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Secretary

Date