



## LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, LRNRD at 2pm

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

#### **Board of Directors Meeting:**

Chairman Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 2:03pm. The chairman provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statute dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall of the board room and on the district website.

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

Agenda 11/23

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 10/23

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 10/23

NRCS Staff Report, 11/23

Excused Absences: Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Directors present at the NRD Office: David Bartels, Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, John Thorburn, TBNRD.

Staff present at LRNRD office: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser.

**Comments from the Public:** None.

**Motion #1 by David Bartels seconded by Chris Grams to approve the October minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.**

**Motion #2 by Matt Harrison seconded by Don Duffy to approve closing the Money Market account, move the balance into the Passbook Savings account at the First State Bank - Alma. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf. Motion carried.**

**Motion #3 by Don Duffy seconded by Matt Harrison to approve closing the Milrose Fund Account at Heritage Bank in Orleans, then move those funds to the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NAPIT). Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf. Motion carried.**

**Motion #4 David Bartels seconded by Don Duffy to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for October. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf. Motion carried.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** The NRCS report was presented by Jerry Kovarik. Jerry reported on Climate-Smart, EQIP, CSP, and the Inflation Reduction Act. EQIP and CSP deadline is November 17, 2023. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. Flow Meter reading is 90% complete. Compared to past years, 2018 was the last year the NRD completed meter readings early. Nick has been diligently working on digitizing certified acres and preparing maps for Longitude 103. NARD Legislative conference is January 22-24. Harlan County Reservoir is 1937.2, approximately 1.5' lower than a year ago. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

The LRNRD FY2023 Audit Report and FY2023 Financial report were presented by Kim Pearson, Dana F. Cole.

**Motion #5 by Matt Harrison seconded by Chris Grams to accept the FY2023 audit report and FY2023 financial report presented by Dana F. Cole & Company LLP, Kim Pearson, CPA. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 0, Absent 5. Clark Andrews, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf. Motion carried.**

**Variance Request approvals:** Staff approved variances were presented to the board.

Matt Harrison left at 3:22pm.

**Rural Water Update:** Water sample test results have shown positive tests for coliform. The system is now required to be chlorinated for 30 days.

**Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA):** 2024 will probably be a Compact Call Year. A positive sign is that Harlan County Lake is at 1937.2', but we will still need significant precipitation this winter and spring to get the lake back in shape for irrigation season. Kansas did call for the Remaining Compact Compliance Volume.

**Platte Republican High Flow Diversion:** The Supreme Court ruling has gotten some intense backlash. Bird groups along the Platte River continue to claim that there is not enough water in the Platte River system. The arguments continue that "target flows" and "environmental accounts" are not enough for them. Governor Pilleen recognizes the need to protect Nebraska's water for our ag users and comply with compact obligations.

**Flag Creek Update:** Holdrege Well Service has the pumps wired and operational. Olsson plans to set up a test pump in the near future.

**NCORPE:** NCORPE staff have installed different variable drives on 2 of the pumps. The transformer will be moved to the outside of the pumphouse in hopes to get better air circulation and avoid overheating.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** There is no update.

**WaterSmart Grant:** Meters are being installed across the district. We have ordered an additional 125 as we have more than 70 of the first 100 installed. While we had originally planned on starting installation last winter, we were held up by the BABA situation. Fortunately, if we can continue to install meters at this pace, we should be caught up to the installation projection by about May. While weather and logistics could cause some delays, we are positive we will get several hundred installed this coming winter and spring.

**NARD Update:** Legislative conference is scheduled for January 22-24, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The conference provides a great opportunity to discuss a wide range of important natural resources issues with other State Senators, NRD directors, state agencies, and many other entities.

**Other Business:** No other updates.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

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Secretary

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Date