



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
December 14th, 2023, LRNRD at 2pm

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at 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 12/23

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 11/23

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/23

NRCS Staff Report, 12/23

Excused Absences: Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present at the LRNRD office: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Sasha Hahn, TBNRD, Garold Ohmstede, Guide Rock.

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

Comments from the Public: Chad Nickel, McCrometer, updated the board on installation of the telemetry enabled meters.

Motion #1 by David Bartels seconded by Chris Grams to approve the November minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0 Absent 2.

Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Troy Fletcher to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for November. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0 Absent 2.

NRCS Staff Report: The NRCS report was presented by Jerry Kovarik. Jerry reported on EQIP and CSP. Fallon Ross is the new Natural Resource Specialist in Red Cloud, starting in mid-January. Dan Bauman retires on December 29th. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. Harlan County Lake is approximately 10,000-acre feet below last year's level. Kansas did call for their remaining compact compliance volume of water. The 1,860 acre-feet of water was released from Harry Strunk Lake and credited to Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District in Harlan County Lake. Meter readings are 99.99% complete. The district-wide water usage average will be available soon. JEO wants to meet with the LRNRD in regard to a dam northwest of Red Cloud.

LRNRD Retirement Program: Since 2006 the LRNRD Retirement for the employees has been 5.5% of their salary. The LRNRD employer portion has been 6.0% of the employee salary. During the NARD board meeting it was proposed to raise each of the amounts by 1%. A vote will be taken at the January board meeting.

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

Rural Water Update: Rural Water system was treated with chlorine for over 30 days and sampled each of those days. A minimum reading of 0.20 mg/L was required for each of those 30 days, due to a coliform hit in October. Per NDEE Rules and Regulations, we are out of compliance with our livestock hookups and changes will have to be made to submerged inlets in livestock tanks. We continue to work with EPA and NDEE on the expansion project – adding the Village of Riverton to the system.

Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA): The Annual Forecast Meeting was held on November 15th, 2023. This coming year will be a Compact Call Year. Follow up meetings will center on possible management actions in 2024.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: The renter of the PRD property was approved for an EQIP contract. Plans are to install some cross fencing and add some livestock tanks.

Flag Creek Update: Staff have been organizing the materials needed for conducting a 3-day pump test at the Flag Creek site. 10" irrigation pipe has been moved onto the property and will be installed, along with flow meters, in the next few weeks.

NCORPE: none

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):

The Turkey Creek application has been submitted to the state office for review, then sent on to the national watershed office in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Thompson Creek application will follow. These applications will then be in the approval review phase with the National Watershed team at NRCS.

WaterSmart Grant: Nick will prepare a resolution for the next grant. There is a third funding pool that is up to \$5 million and would accelerate the installation process. Staff will be talking with McCrometer about the upcoming grant opportunity. The new telemetry enabled flow meters are being installed across the district. We are awaiting the arrival of an additional 125 meters.

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: Nebraska Farm Bureau came out with a policy stance of not changing the current property tax funding for NRD's.

Motion #3 by Clark Andrews seconded by Don Duffy to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 4:02pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0 Absent 2.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 4:45pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0 Absent 2.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on January 11th, 2024, at 2pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Secretary

Date