



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
January 11th, 2024, LRNRD at 2pm

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lnrnd.org.

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 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: Don Duffy.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Nate Munter, TBNRD, Jack Russell, MRNRD.

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

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 12/23

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer’s Report, 12/23

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 1/24

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

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to accept the Executive Committee/Officers. Motion carried. 10 Ayes, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Executive Committee/Officers:

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

Motion #2 by Chris Grams seconded by David Bartels to accept Human Resources Committee, Scholarship Committee, LRNRD Project Committee, Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project representatives, Representatives and Alternates as presented. Motion carried 10 Ayes, Nays 0, Absent 1.

Representatives:

Don Duffy	NARD Representative
Lee Fintel	NARD Alternate
Todd Siel	Trailblazer RC&D Representative
Lynetta Snelling	Trailblazer RC&D Alternate
Tim Kahrs	NCORPE Representative
Troy Fletcher	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 #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Troy Fletcher 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 10 Nays 0, Absent 1.

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #4 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10 Nays 0, Absent 1.

Motion #5 by David Bartels seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports for December. Motion carried. Ayes 10 Nays 0, Absent 1.

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. It is official 2024 will be a Compact Call year. The 108th Legislative session started on January 3rd. There are currently 289 bills or resolutions introduced but Agriculture and Natural Resources have little activity. Office staff are currently printing the 2023 Allocation Sheets. A complete copy of the report is in the minute book.

Red Cloud Dam: The City of Red Cloud contacted the NRD because of an altered dam used for flood control in the NW corner of the city. It no longer meets DNR specification and needs repaired. JEO was contracted for engineering design work. Since the dam is designated as a "Significant Hazard" structure, either a reinforced concrete pipe or concrete encased HDPE pipe are needed. The NRD was asked if monetary funds were available since the City is not able to fund the entire project. The City did receive a Community Block Fund grant of about \$200,000 and have set aside some of their own money for the project.

Variance Request approvals: Nick has several different variance requests he is working on. They are all in house approval.

Rural Water Update: A major leak was finally discovered and fixed in an abandoned building in Guide Rock.

Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA): It is official, 2024 will be a Compact Call Year. No final irrigation supply numbers are available at this time, but tentative numbers indicate we will have an estimated amount of 103,000 acre-feet available for both Kansas and Nebraska Bostwick IDs.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: The renter of the PRD property was approved for EQIP funding through the NRCS. The renter will be installing a cross-fence, along with a well and tank. This should improve the grazing, which could help with cedar control.

Flag Creek Update: As soon as the weather cooperates, Olsson's will be out and run a pump test.

NCORPE: Next meeting January 17th in North Platte.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): Still waiting for plan approval.

WaterSmart Grant: Chad will continue to install meters as weather allows. We will also be submitting our second application for meters by February 22. There will be discussion with McCrometer to ensure that everyone is committed to the size of grant we choose to apply for. Nick discussed that a resolution to commit to the project financially is needed.

Motion #6 by Brad Wulf seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the resolution to authorize grant submission. Motion carried. Ayes 10 Nays 0, Absent 1.

NARD Update: Legislative conference is January 22-24, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Conference provides the 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: Open discussion was held changing the time of board meetings, this item will be tabled until the February board meeting.

Motion #3 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 3:38pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 10 Nays 0 Absent 1.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 4:55pm 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 February 8th, 2024, at 2pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
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