



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
February 8th, 2024, at 2pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.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: none.

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

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Nolan Little, TBNRD, Chelsea Erickson, KS-DWR, Stockton, KS.

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, 1/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 1/24

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 2/24

Comments from the Public: Chelsea Erickson, KS DWR, announced that the annual Compact meeting will be August 29th, at the Colby Events Center in Colby, Kansas.

Motion #1 by Lee Fintel seconded by Don Duffy to approve the January minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0, Absent 0.

NRCS Staff Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, CSP and updates on the Franklin Field Office Staffing and New Service Center. A full report is in the minute book.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. 2023 ground water usage was an average of 7.69" across the district. The new telemetry flow meters continue to be installed. Weather Stations have been ordered and will be installed this coming year. A complete copy of the report is in the minute book.

Red Cloud Dam: The City of Red Cloud is planning to move forward on repairing the dam located to the northwest of the city. They will continue to search for additional funding and are hoping to apply for a Water Sustainability Fund grant.

Variance Request approvals: Nick continues to work on several variance/contiguous requests.

Rural Water Update: Leaks were fixed in Guide Rock and Inavale.

Republican River Compact Administration (RCA): Craig Scott with BOR presented fairly accurate numbers last month for the Bostwick's irrigation supply. The current projection is an irrigation supply of 103,200 AF with about 63,000 AF for KBID and 40,000 AF for NBID. If the moisture continues, we will see those numbers adjusted upwards as the spring progresses.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: We keep in contact with DNR about the final public hearing. Once legal counsel can schedule the hearing, there will be more information.

Flag Creek Update: We are closer to getting a pump test done. Just waiting on the ground conditions to firm up since it's been soft because of the precipitation received.

NCORPE: Troy Fletcher and Nick Simonson attended the NCORPE meeting. Twin Platte NRD (TPNRD) has had approximately 5,600 AF on their pumping plan each year, that is used for their obligations in the Platte River Basin. In the past, they had received a monthly requirement from DNR, and the amount pumped depended upon conditions for the Platte River. It appears that in the future, TPNRD plans to pump 5,600 AF every year. NCORPE staff are working on the industrial meters and fixing wells. They are installing new VFD's and moving the transformer to the outside of the pump house, so they don't overheat. The next NCORPE meeting will be at the LRNRD office on Wednesday, April 17th, at 10am.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): There will be a request for an extension to finish all the requirements. We will write a programmatic agreement that says we will do the cultural resource surveys during the design and engineering phase.

Longitude 103: Nick gave a brief demonstration on the capabilities of the new app from Longitude 103.

WaterSmart Grant: Nick is working on the next grant application for meters. He will be working on specific budget numbers as we may not have enough match to complete all the meters in the district in this application. Eight (8) weather stations were ordered that will be used along the irrigation canals and will work in conjunction with the Rubicon Gates installed by FCID and NBID.

NARD Update: Legislative conference was January 22-24, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. We appreciate the directors that made the time to come to the conference, as this is when the Senators take the time to hear how the legislation affects you directly. There are always lots of informational sessions packed in a few days. While we didn't have any bills introduced that require excessive consideration there are several we are tracking for different reasons.

Don Duffy and Todd Siel attended the NARD board meeting on January 24, after the conclusion of the conference. Changes were discussed about the 414(h) retirement program. The NARD is asking each NRD to consider increasing both the employee and employer contributions by 1%. Thus, the employee's contribution would go from 5.5% to 6.5% and the employer contribution would go from 6.0 % to 7.0%. Discussion will be held at the managers meeting and the NARD board meeting held in March.

Other Business: A discussion was held on changing the board meeting time.

Motion #3 by Don Duffy seconded by Clark Andrews to approve changing the board meeting time to 1:30pm year-round. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 3, Absent 0.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Lee Fintel to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 3:58pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0 Absent 0.

Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 4:30pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 11 Nays 0 Absent 0.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on March 14th, 2024, at 1:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Secretary

Date