



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:30pm

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). Vice Chairperson David Bartels called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 1:32pm. The vice 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: Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Brad Wulf.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Toby tenBensel.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Quinn Barnas, NRCS, John Thorburn, 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, 3/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 3/24

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 4/24

**Comments from the Public:** none.

**Motion #1 by Troy Fletcher seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the March minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Don Duffy to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, CSP and RCPP. A full report is in the minute book.

Quinn Barnas, Furnas County NRCS, told the board the Furnas County NRCS office is now fully staffed. Having a full staff helps process the EQIP, CSP, RCPP applications.

**Water Jamboree:** Our annual event for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grader students will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The event is held at Harlan County Reservoir and provides an outstanding educational experience for students located in the Lower Republican NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, and north central Kansas. We will again be utilizing Camp Joy as one of the activity sites, along with Gremlin Cove Campground. We plan to have about 300 students, along with over 75 adult volunteers, participating in the festival.

**Alma FFA:** Alma FFA students Isaiah Neal, Nolan Pfiel, Karsten Bradley, and Wyatt Robison will be attending the National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma. Alma FFA teacher Ben Robison spoke to the board asking for a donation to help cover expenses.

**Motion #3 by Matt Harrison seconded by Lee Fintel to approve donating \$1,000 to the Alma FFA team for expenses incurred at the National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 4.**

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. They reported on the RRCA Forecast, Static Water Levels (SWL), NCORPE, Water Jamboree, WaterSmart Grant, Legislative Session, and Lake Levels. A complete copy of the report is in the minute book.

The LRNRD sponsors ACE camp and NE Youth Range Camp. This year the LRNRD received four (4) ACE Camp applications and will fund all 4 of the applicants.

**LRNRD Scholarship \$1,000 Recipients:** Samuel Gruwell, Kayla Rupe, Hunter Perks, and alternate Cayce Barry.

**Variance Request approvals:** Nick Simonson discussed several variance requests with the board. Berrick Hersh, Kerwin Choquette, David and Peggy Lienemann, Bill and Kristie Bunger, Paul and Margaret Horwart, Mike and Jodi Taylor, Geraldine Fisher Estate (Anthony Fisher) and the Wentling Family Farms, LLC (Kaleb Huxoll).

**Rural Water Update:** The Regionalization Expansion Project for Rural Water has been approved by the EPA. We will continue to work with NDEE and the Mid-West Assistance Program (MAP) to finalize agreements and solicit engineering firms for the project. More details to come!

**Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA):** Harry Strunk has been releasing 27 CFS consistently for a couple of weeks. This has helped to keep water flowing down the river to Harlan County Lake. We are still in conversations with NeDNR, and other Republican Basin NRDs, regarding possible actions that may be warranted for this year.

**Platte Republican High Flow Diversion:** The next meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>, in Holdrege, at Tri-Basin NRD.

**Flag Creek Update:** Olsson gathered the data necessary to develop the regional sub-model. Once we receive information back from Olsson, we will know the limitations of the wells and be able to start developing the next phase of the project.

**NCORPE:** The next NCORPE meeting will be at the LRNRD office on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10am.

Tri-Basin Manager John Thorburn, spoke to the board about Lake McConaughy dam inspections conducted by CNPPID. John remarked that the recent inspections determined that the existing riprap lacks proper coverage over a much larger area of the dam, than just the areas where damage is apparent. A full dam refacing will eventually be required at some point. The existing slope protection consists of large granite rocks and concrete.

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

**WaterSmart Grant:** In March, 250 meters were ordered, and we have received 86 of those meters. Chad is back to installing meters, and we hope to get a good portion of these installed yet this spring.

**NARD Update:** The next NARD board of directors meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> in McCook. The Republican River Basin NRDs - Upper, Middle, Lower Republican, and Tri-Basin, will lead the group on a two-day tour that will highlight several projects across the region.

**Other Business:** Matt Harrison wanted to revisit the recent change to the board meeting time. Discussion was held and it was decided that the May 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be held at 7pm and then further discussion will take place after that.

**Motion #4 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to change the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, board meeting time to 7pm. Motion carried. Ayes 6 Nays 1 Clark Andrews, Absent 4.**

**Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 2:52pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0 Absent 4.**

**Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 3:37pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0 Absent 4.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37pm.

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Secretary

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Date